

Getting ready for golf season

By Cory Gentes
Special to The IFP



From the
Ground Up



This is the first of a series of golf tips that will cover a variety of topics that we encounter in our golf game. This first tip will be on making sure your equipment is ready for the season.

Before we get started with our initial tip, I would like to congratulate Jordan Spieth on his incredible win at the Masters. We are going to hear a lot more from this young professional in the years to come. Spieth used a SuperStroke Flatso grip on his putter to drain a record 28 birdies at Augusta National.

The first component you want to check with your equipment is the grips. Worn or slippery grips can cause you to over grip the club, causing tension in the forearms and shoulders.

This tension can cause an improper release of the golf club through impact, which results in inconsistent contact and a loss of power.

Washing your grips with a mild soap and water solution and then rinsing them thoroughly will bring back some of the tackiness to the grip.

If your grips are too far gone, then there are a few questions to ask when you bring them to get re-gripped. First, make sure the salesperson fits the grip to your hand. An improper grip size can cause many different swing flaws. Too large a grip

and you won't be able to release the club properly, while an undersized grip will cause over gripping of the club.

Secondly, there are many styles of grips available to the consumer so ask some questions. There are oversized grips available for golfers with arthritis. There are cord grips for those people whose hands perspire and need some extra grip. There are also many different colours of grips for the style conscious.

After checking the grips you should take a look at the golf club shaft for any signs of damage. A dent in a steel shaft or fraying in graphite shafts can mean a weak spot in that shaft and it could break and become a hazard to yourself or those playing with you.

Lastly, you should check the club head for any nicks that may cause injury and also that the epoxy still forms a solid bond between club head and golf shaft. Your local professional can help you with any club questions you may have.

Cory Gentes is a 14-year PGA of Canada Teaching Professional and the Director of Instruction at The Old Pro Driving Range.



Tri-County title for bantam AA Thunder

For the second year in a row, the Halton Hills bantam AA Thunder captured the Tri-County championship by defeating the Orangeville Flyers three games to one in the best-of-5 final series.

Team members, front, from left, are: Zack Kearney, Spencer McPherson. Second row: Braydon Sloan, Stefan Moneyppenny, Jackson Gates, Jeevan Kapila, Cameron Cherwaiko. Third row: Trainer Janet McPherson, assistant coach Bryan Knebel, Alexander Quinn, Liam Burgoyne, Gavin Thomson, Justin Loginov, assistant coach Joel Gates, Justin Knebel, Jacob Sutcliffe, coach Adam Moneyppenny (coach), trainer Trevor Cherwaiko. Back row: Matthew McDonough, Braden O'Connell, Andy Melo. Absent from photo: Aidan Tannahill, Matthew Czekajlo.

Submitted photo

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I am planning to move into a retirement home. How do I know what I can afford?

Affordability is a major concern for many. Keep in mind that the cost of retirement homes usually includes all meals, utilities and many services. You will no longer have to pay for hydro, heating costs, groceries, services such as meals on wheels, and help in the home and yard. Municipal taxes on your home will no longer be part of your budget and there will probably be a difference in your house insurance.

The first step, therefore, is to calculate all available resources. If you live in your own home, get the expert advice of a professional to appraise its value. (If you have lived in your home for any length of time, you may be very pleasantly surprised.) The next step is to determine a monthly budget and if needed, enlist the help of family members or a professional such as your bank advisor.

There are many residences from which to choose with many options available. You may be very pleasantly surprised at what you can afford.

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Q: I've put an offer in on a home - now what should I do?

A: If your offer is accepted and you waive any conditions that are included in the agreement, you will need to get ready for the purchase of the home. Here are a few key things you can prepare in advance:

1. **Home Insurance** - You or your agent will need to send your lawyer a "binder letter" confirming that the property (your soon to be new home) has insurance. Without it, we can't close the deal!

2. **Financing** - How will you buy the property? Usually, you will arrange a mortgage to cover your purchase and it would be best for you to get a commitment letter from your lender before you make an offer. Also keep in mind that a mortgage won't usually cover the full purchase price of the home, so you will need to have some savings or other credit that you can use to cover the full cost of the purchase.

3. **Closing Costs** - Closing costs are all the additional fees and expenses that are added to your purchase price. This includes things like legal fees, title insurance (different from home insurance), and land transfer tax. Also keep in mind that if you are a first time home buyer, you may be eligible for a first time home buyer tax credit.

You will also want to go over how you will take title to the property, title insurance, property taxes, and any other particular questions you have with your lawyer.