

# Three keys to lowering your score

By Cory Gentes  
Special to The IFP



**From the Ground Up**



In the end, the Players Championship at The TPC Sawgrass delivered some timely drama in the first-ever three-hole aggregate playoff, which was eventually won by fan favourite Rickie Fowler with a birdie on the tricky 17th.

So you have played a few games and the swing is coming around, but you are having a hard time scoring. Don't worry, the season is young and a little practice on the short game will go a long way. The three areas to key on are putting, chipping and pitching the ball.

One fundamental that will help you with all three shots is alignment. By making sure that you are lined up to your target you can minimize inconsistent contact, which leads to poor direction and distance control.

If alignment is off you can manipulate

the club with the hands too much through impact resulting in fat and thin shots and/or pushes and pulls. On all three of these shots the shoulders should turn the club back and through with the hands remaining passive at the point of contact.

A good habit to get into when practicing is to lay a club down on the ground pointing to your target. This will act as a guide to help you with alignment.

Take note of where your body (i.e. your shoulders, hips and feet) is aligned. The goal is to have good square contact with the club-face for a more predictable result.

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



**MURR TOURNEY CHIPS IN:** Part of the fun at the Paul Murr Memorial Golf Tournament is taking part in the putting contest. After completing their Monday morning round, the foursome consisting of (from left) Pauline Russell of Rockwood, Annette Lewis from Eden Mills, Acton's Marie Zions and Lynn Lafrance take their best shots. The 31st-annual event is one of the largest fundraising tournaments in the area with both morning and afternoon rounds, drawing a few hundred golfers. Photo by Eamonn Maher

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