

Brad Faxon on Putting
Faxon Shares the Key to Best Putting in PGA History
By Tim Cotroneo



Would playing 18 holes without a three-putt green sound good to you? Now think really big. How about 18 consecutive rounds of golf without a three-putt? In 2000, Brad Faxon played 327 PGA tournament holes without a single three-putt green.

Faxon led the PGA Tour in Putting Average in 1996, 1999, and 2000 when he set the single-season record with only 1.704 putts per green in regulation. In case you think Faxon had a temporary hot run, keep in mind he ranked 13th in putting in 2005 at the age of 44. What Faxon believes to be the key to his remarkable putting success may surprise you.

Yes, Faxon works on grip, stance, and tempo. What this 8-time PGA Tour winner feels is *most important* for consistently great putting is adhering to one's routine. "If I'm true to my routine on every single putt, then I'm not too hard on myself if the putt doesn't go in. If I've followed through on what I'm trying to achieve with each new putt, then I'll have a great chance for success," Faxon said.

Holing Every Putt

Faxon doesn't lag putts, even the long ones. Faxon tries to hole every putt, every time, no matter the circumstance. Part of this Rhode Island player's go-for-broke approach is that Faxon doesn't place more importance on one putt over another. Faxon believes a putt is a putt, no more, no less. It doesn't matter if it's a snaking twenty-footer for birdie, or a downhill five-foot putt for bogey. Faxon takes the emotion out of putting by approaching each stroke with equal importance and following his routine.

Faxon is somewhat adverse to the word “fundamentals” when it comes to the putting equation. “There are so many variations to how we can achieve putting success that I’m reluctant to say that one aspect of putting is fundamental to getting it right. Look at the grip. We have the overlap, reverse overlap, cross-handed, and the claw. Any one of those could work for you,” Faxon said.



There are significant aspects of the putting process that Faxon sees in all the great putters. “I feel like you have to be relaxed. When I putt, my triceps are really soft. The forearms match the shaft. I think the best putters backswing and follow through are equal. By comparison, I see a lot

of amateurs doing just the opposite with short backswings and a long follow through," Faxon said.

Sharing What He Knows

For decades Faxon's putting expertise has been recognized throughout the PGA tour. This legacy is still true as he competes on the Champions Tour. Faxon gladly shares what he knows and often feels like a proud papa when his tips translate into victories for fellow pros. In the past year, Faxon's counsel on putting has contributed to victories and lower scores for players like Sergio Garcia and Justin Rose.

The 51-year-old Faxon loves watching the great's of the game putt and he'll even mimic their styles during the course of a round. More than once during a PGA tour event, Faxon visualized himself putting like Ray Floyd, Ben Crenshaw, or Tom Watson. Faxon bounces the idea that an amateur observe a PGA player whose body style or rhythm is comparable to his or her own, and then take what they like about that player's routine and incorporate it into their game. At crunch time, Faxon sticks with what has worked for him throughout his round and his career. "I would say that players second guess themselves more as the round progresses. Later in a round a player places self-imposed pressure on himself or herself. Stick with your routine and believe it in it," Faxon said.

Routine has helped mold Brad Faxon into one of the greatest putters of all-time. For you, following a routine could mean draining more putts and going 18 holes without a three-putt. Suddenly your improved golf game could feel anything but routine.

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