

Strategy and Tournament Preparation

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-Tournament preparation

Script a round based on the scorecard: Have a player hit the exact shots in order that they would occur on the golf course they are playing next. This forces them to think through each shot they may face on the upcoming round. Tour players do this often with devices like Trackman which allow them to input yardages to hit they may face on a particular course.

-Use Google Earth to make your own yardage books and/or strategy guide

A relatively new age approach to strategy is using Google Earth to get an aerial view of an upcoming course. Google Earth has a “measure distance” feature which will allow a player to measure how far hazards are or actual widths of fairways at a particular distance.



-On Course Thinking

Strategy A: Playing to a yardage/every hole is a par 3: A strategy I adopted as a player was turning every hole into a par 3 in my mind. For example most people consider a 150 yard par 3 a fairly easy hole. I would strategize my tee shots on holes to get to 150 yards out on difficult par 4's. Since most courses have more Par 4's than Par 3's and 5's, how you play the Par 4's greatly impacts your scores.

Strategy B: Golf in the last decade has seen an increase in statisticians who bring a “MoneyBall” approach to the game. What some of them have discovered is most golfers typically do better the closer they get to the green. This is often the “bomb and gouge” strategy you see from players like Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson. Although the stats can show an advantage to this style, I think a players comfort level has to be taken into consideration for this strategy. You don’t want to go against your instincts on the course.

-Think Box/ Play Box

Golf is a game of strategy and commitment to that strategy. You have to be able to decide on a shot and execute that shot. You have a “think” box before you hit the shot at hand, and then a “play” box when you play the shot. Too many times players get over a shot and are indecisive with their strategy and the results are typically poor. It’s better to be committed to a strategy 100% and accept the outcome, than to be indecisive and non-committed.

