



Playing in Windy Conditions

Paul Kelly, Director of Golf, Glendenning Golf Club

Take Enough Club

When playing into a wind, you can almost forget about the yardage. A 130-yard par-3, which may normally be an 8 or 9 iron, could be playing more like 160 yards and require a 5 or 6-iron. I have rarely seen anyone hit over the green when playing into a wind, so ensure you select enough club to begin with.

Position the Ball Behind The Centre Line of Your Body

Rather than thinking about ball position based on your feet, think about it relative to the centre of your sternum. This is the area of your body which your swing pivots around, so keeping the ball slightly behind this imaginary line at address will ensure you de-loft the club and shorten your swing through impact.

Swing With Pace, Not Force

The most important part of this technique is to swing with a smooth pace instead of trying to force the ball through the wind. The harder you hit an iron the more it will spin and the more the wind will affect it. Take more club than you would normally need and make a smooth, controlled swing. As the old saying goes, "When it's breezy, swing easy".

Follow Through Low

A low, long follow through will produce a piercing ball flight. Focus on keeping your hands low through the impact area, as this is easier than focusing on keeping the club head low.

Practice, Practice

Having this shot in your repertoire will pay off almost every day playing in Newfoundland. Take the time to work on this shot and you will save many strokes over the run of a season.