

BREAK 100/90/80

HOW TO PLAY THE DRAW

↘ The draw is a soft, controlled right-to-left shot for the right-handed golfer. With its ability to add yardage and cut through a breeze, it's a valuable shot for any golfer to have... but how you set about achieving it depends on your skill level. Let's look at the most effective ways to develop a draw for three different levels of player... and left-handers, please swap lefts and rights.



YOUR COACH



ADRIAN FRYER
solidgolf.co.uk
Fellow of the PGA, based
at Liverpool Golf Centre
liverpoolgolf
centre.co.uk



↘ If you want to hit a successful draw, you'll need to set the club's impact aim and swing path slightly at odds with each other:

- The club must swing to the right of your ball-target line.
- The clubface must be slightly closed to this path.

Let's take a closer look at these two vital elements.

1. Clubface: Closed to the path

To help encourage the face to be a little closed to the swing

path at impact, 'strengthen' your grip. In practice this means turning your lead hand a little more on top of the handle and your trail hand more underneath it. Tee pegs in your thumb/index finger Vs should face away from the target. This hold encourages the face to rotate... just what you need for this shot.

2. Swing path: Set right of the target

Your body alignment is the key influencer for the swing's path. So at set-up, angle yourself to set your feet,

knees, hips and shoulders perhaps 20 yards right of your target line. A club across your shoulders can help you picture and set this 'shut' stance.

3. Downswing: Match the shafts

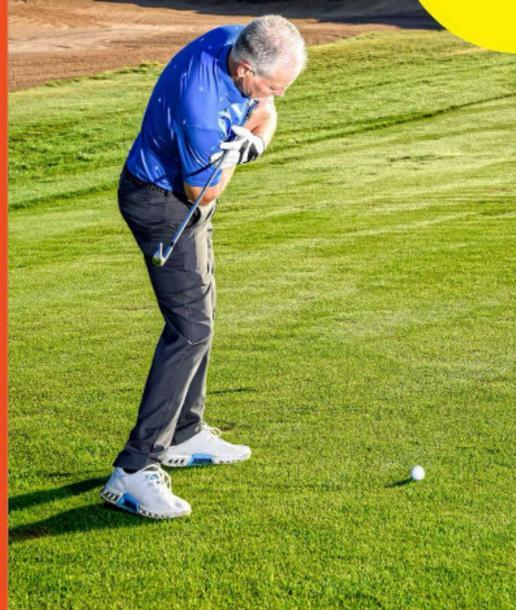
Of course in competition you won't be allowed to throw alignment sticks down... but in practice, picture your clubshaft matching the rightward path-guide stick as it swings through horizontal. This will help you deliver the club on that vital in-to-out path.

4. Throughswing: Touch forearms

Your strong grip alone may be enough to help the club rotate to face slightly closed to the rightward swing path. But chronic slicers, used to leaving the clubface open, may need a little extra help. A great thought is to touch forearms as you swing through, the trail one wrapping over the lead. This should ensure you find enough rotation to get the ball spinning right to left; as you work on this shot, you'll feel how aggressively you need to make this move.



BREAK 90
Develop a
'tilt' release



The technique detailed for the 100-shooter can work for all abilities, but as skill level rises, we want to refine the motion to gain more control over the shape and the shot. In practice, for the would-be 80-shooter this means keeping the strong grip intact but learning to control the path through a blend of alignment and a backward tilting of the upper body. Let me explain how this works... and how you can achieve it.

1. Tilt... and path

Our swing path is affected by the way we angle our upper body. The more upright – the higher the trail shoulder – we are, the more we will tend to swing 'over the top', or out-to-in. But as we lean back to drop that trail shoulder, the more we angle our delivery to swing from in-to-out, right of the ball/target line.

2. Set-up: Shirt buttons behind ball

We can use this torso tilt to give us the controlled, regulated in-to-out path we need to harness the draw shot. So at set-up, play the ball centrally in your stance for a mid/lofted iron and lean away from the target, dropping that trail shoulder and moving your shirt buttons behind the ball. As you do this, aim your feet, hips and shoulders slightly right of target. Remember, we are creating a rightward path through a blend of spine tilt and alignment.

Throughswing: Face faces grass

Experiment with spine tilt, gaining a feel for how much you need to affect swing path. But at the same time, don't forget we need the clubface just a little closed to the path at impact. On exit, develop the feeling of rotating the clubhead until the face looks down at the grass. Practise to develop your feel for how this intention ties in with shot shape.

BREAK 80
Draw
through path



For the elite golfer, the draw – and for that matter the face – is actually a fairly subtle shot. Yes, the core ingredients of the face being slightly closed to a rightward path are still in evidence... but with the feel and skill to control these elements, these players use only a gently rightward path, a virtually square face brushing slightly outward through the ball at the point of contact. Would-be 70-shooters need to be thinking more in these terms, developing the softest draw where the ball falls back to the left in the second part of its journey. Here are two thoughts that will help...

1. Strike the inside of the ball

In this image, the two yellow sticks frame the ball-target line with the red stick representing the ideal attack path. As you can see, it leads not squarely to the back of the ball but to a point just inside that. For the advanced player, a simple shift of intention to strike the inside of the ball and not the back of it can help find the ideal, subtle in-to-out impact swing path.

2. Path, face, target

Better players should practise the draw with three lines in place:
1. The target line.
2. The swingpath line – which of course aims right of the target line.
3. The impact clubface aim – shown here in white. This line pretty much bisects the other two, pointing right of the target but left of the swing path.
Hitting shots with these three markers in place is the best way to develop the impact conditions that lead to that soft draw. To hit the draw out on the course, picture this hitting station and brush that face outwards, across the ball.

