

## ***Matching putters to your game...***

For golfers of all ages and abilities, putters represent the most creative and personal pieces of equipment in their bags. Since there is no exact or correct way to putt the ball in the hole, putters now-a-days come in all shapes and sizes.

So when you are selecting one remember to keep a few things in mind. First try to get one that feels good in your hand with respect to good weight and balance.

Also make sure that it is appealing to your eye so you feel comfortable with it. After all, this club can become your best friend if you pick one you really like.

### ***Types of Putters***

#### **Blade**

Blade clubs (also known as "Bullseye" type) are among the first and oldest designs of putters that are still used by many golfers today. They tend to be very narrow from front to back. This type of club has the best feel when you are putting with it because of its simple flat design which gives the golfer a lot of feedback in terms of the way the ball has been struck. However, it is less forgiving on off centre hits than other types. The shaft of this club enters the head of the putter right in the middle so you are looking right down at the ball. It is becoming less common among golfers these days, even the low handicappers.

#### **Mallets**

These clubs are generally in the shape of a half moon and have a large rounded head. This larger head, with its deeper front/back depth, allows the weight to be distributed more evenly throughout the entire mass of the club. Because of this weight distribution it is said that it allows the golfer to have more consistency on off centre hits.

## **Perimeter Weighted**

Perimeter weighting allows the club to have a more forgiving design. The weight in this type of club is distributed to the outside edges on both ends. This allows the club to have a much larger sweet spot on the face of the club because of the weight being pushed to the outside. This stabilizes mishits of balls when putting, and allows more room for error. Both blade type putters ("Anser" style) and mallets can be perimeter weighted.

## **Offset**

This is a club where the putter head is set back slightly from the shaft of the club. This helps to put the golfers' hands slightly in front of, or more level, with the ball. It also helps to get the ball rolling sooner and increases top spin on the ball.

## **Insert**

This is an extremely lightweight composite that is inserted into the face of the club. It is a softer material than the rest of the putter construction, that helps define the club's sweet spot, and gives the club a softer feel to the player. Many insert types are now used – aluminium, polymers and softer steel inserts are common.

## **Conventional**

These are the most common length clubs used by golfers. They are approximately 32-36 inches in length. You use your own natural swinging motion with your arms to move this putter.

## **Belly**

This type of is becoming increasingly more popular among players. It is approximately 39-43 inches in length. You take the end of the putter and put it into your belly button area and then swing the club back to front. This helps to stabilize the stroke so that less parts are active in the swing. In essence, it is a conventional putter (although usually with a heavier head) with an extended length that requires essentially the same putting grip and stroke as if using a conventional length putter.

### **Long or Broom Handle**

These clubs are also very popular. They are approximately 45 inches and up in length. Golfers stabilize this club by pressing its top against their chests or resting it on their chins, so that it swings like a pendulum back and forth through the ball. However, it requires a different gripping technique (split hand) and therefore gives a TOTALLY different feel to putting.