

Matching drivers to your game...

"A properly fitted driver will only improve your game."

The driver is the most electrifying club in the bag, not only because it hits the ball the further than the other clubs, but also because watching the golf ball in flight has a more gratifying feeling (or thrill) than most other things in sport.

Driving the ball well helps set up the golfers' scoring shots into the green. It can make the difference of hitting your approach shot from the deep rough or from the middle of the fairway.

It is imperative that you find a club that you like, and fits your ability and swing type. However, there are so many different kinds of club combinations available to the golfer today that it can really be confusing for most.

With the proceeding information, I will show you how it can be made easier for you as a golfer to find the proper type of driver combination for you and your game.

Choosing the right grip

One of the most important and most underrated pieces of golf equipment is the grip. This is the only thing that golfers come in contact with during their swings. There are a few things to remember when you're thinking about grips. The size and weight, and its feel and tactile qualities.

The size of your grip will depend on the size of your hands, the bigger your hands are, the thicker the size of the grip you'll need. The weight depends mainly on your swing speed and swingweight preferences. A lighter grip will generally increase the weight of the club head which is good for players with higher, stronger speeds. A heavier grip will generally make the clubhead feel lighter, thus favoring the slower swingers.

The feel of the grip is also important because it must not irritate your hands, and control the vibrations from contact with the ball and ground. Some grips have perforated surfaces made into different designs, others are wrap-style with ridges that circle down the club.

Choosing the right shaft

Steel vs Graphite

Steel shafts are usually preferred by better players for a few reasons. Steel shafts tend to be heavier than graphite shafts and this can affect the speed the player swings the golf club. The better players are usually able to produce enough swing speed to not have to worry about the weight of the club. The steel shafts will also produce more feedback to the golfers hands when the ball is struck at impact allowing them to "feel" how the shot was hit and to help them make any corrections should there be a need.

Graphite shafts are usually lighter than steel shafts and thus allow slower swinging players to increase their swing speed. This is a big advantage for beginners, ladies, and senior players, helping them to hit the ball further with their drivers. Graphite also is more forgiving with regard to vibrations to the players hands when a poor shot is struck. You don't feel as much of a sting from a slightly mishit shot.

The length of the shaft is also important. You should try to swing a driver with the longest shaft possible that you can still adequately control. A longer shaft creates a longer swing arc and speed, which can translate into longer shots, however it also makes it harder to hit consistently in the centre of the face.

The weight of the shaft is similar to the grip issue, by means of a lighter shaft is generally better for a mid to high handicapper because it allows him/her to swing the club easier and generate more swing speed.

Choosing the right club head

Steel

Steel clubheads will usually be smaller in size (up to 200 cubic centimeters) because they have a heavier weight to them. They will also have a more traditional look and feel to them which makes them less intimidating than their other titanium counterparts. Because they are mainly made of stainless steel they are typically less expensive.

Titanium

When you get into the titanium clubheads you will tend to see a lot of the bigger and oversize golf drivers. They are lighter in weight and larger in size. This metal allows the clubmakers to make the sweet spot larger, therefore making the club more forgiving for off centre hits. This technology generally makes these clubs a little more expensive.

Loft

The loft of the club face is also a very important factor in picking the proper driver. It can affect how high and how far the ball will fly. Lofts on golf drivers vary from 5 to 12 degrees. Lower lofted drivers are harder to control, harder to launch the ball into the air, harder to hit straighter but they tend to get a little more roll distance. On the other hand, the higher lofted drivers are easier to hit, easier to launch the ball into the air, easier to hit consistently straighter while not giving up to much distance.

I recommend higher lofted golf drivers (10.5 to 14 degrees) to the mid-high handicappers and beginners. And the lower lofted golf drivers (8 to 10 degrees) to the lower handicapped and more experienced players with higher swing speeds.