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YOUR GAME PLAY SMARTER JIM MURPHY

Sugar Land, Texas (Top 100 since 2003)

HIT EVERY TARGET EVERY TIME

Want straighter shots? Swing the clubhead to the left, not down the line.

winging the clubhead toward the target after impact seems logical.

After all, that's where the ball needs to go. But it's the wrong move: Forcing the clubhead down the target line in your through-swing (photo, below) is a surefire way to hit a slice, because when you steer the clubhead toward the target, the face stays open through impact.





Watch a video of this lesson

Aim at Two Targets

There are two targets for every shot: [1] where you want the ball to end up, and [2] where you want the clubhead to go after impact. Since the path of your swing is basically a tilted circle, the clubhead target is considerably *left* of the ball target.

Here's how to hit both: Stand behind the ball and picture the target line in your mind. Then pick an object or a spot about 20 yards to the left of the ball target—that's your club target. Hit the clubhead target when you swing and you'll notice that your arms stay close to your chest as you turn through the ball (photo, above). This allows the clubface to release correctly and remain square to the path. The result is a straighter, more powerful shot that might even draw a bit.