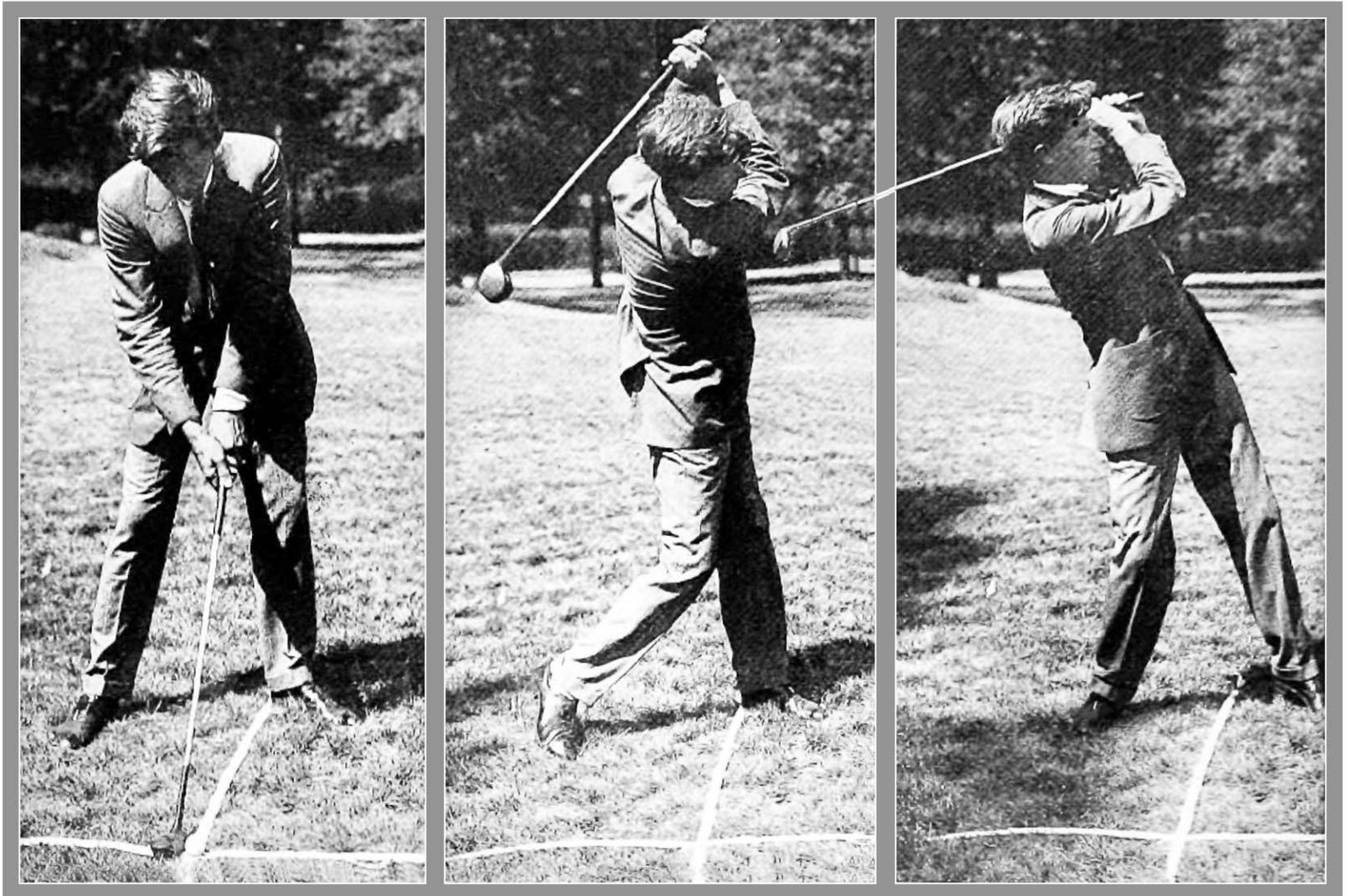


How Is Your Slice?

Suggestions for Corrections That May Enable You to Eliminate This Trouble Maker.

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Interesting snapshots bearing on the slice. Left: stance and grip for an intentional slice. Note ball well forward, left shoulder raised and unusually firm grip with right hand. Center: finish of stroke indicating that the hands were brought through ahead of the club, bringing the club head across the ball. Right: picturing a falling away from the ball, a fault sure to cause a slice

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YOU can understand how the average golfer feels about the slice when he knows that any one of twenty things may be causing it. He is generally so helpless that he gives up in despair, aims the ball for the left of the course and hopes it doesn't go out of bounds to the right.

The mere fact that he is aiming way to the left and standing for a slice is going to make the slice certain. It is one of the surest ways in the world to slice, with the left foot well back and the shoulders lined up in a slanting direction. It is a fine thing to make a study of the slice, to learn how to play one deliberately, for then you have a much better chance to avoid slicing when you want a straight ball.

I am going to take up here only some of the most obvious faults, or the most common ones, that cause slicing. In every case the club head is pulled across the ball, but many things can cause this result. It may be that the left hand is not over far enough, or it may be that the right hand is gripping too tightly.

These are two faults that one sees almost every round. So I suggest that one of the first things to try out is to turn the left hand a trifle more over the shaft of the club and to

ease up just a little with the grip of the right.

Another common fault is not turning the body and the left knee enough on the back swing. In place of this pivoting too many golfers pull away from the ball on the back swing. This nearly always forces them to pull across the ball on the down swing. It is necessary to correct slicing to see the knee and body turn far enough to prevent this pulling away.

A Few Cures

VERY often, also, slicing is caused by lifting the club in too upright a manner from the ball with the arms too stiff. To break up this fault start the club head back on a line inside the ball, on an arc inside the line running through the ball towards the green. Don't let the club head get outside of this line.

In addition to this, keep the club head nearer the ground as it starts back, swinging it in a circle around the right foot. Be sure that the elbows are not too far from the body, with the left arm straight and the right elbow held compactly in.

A big fault just here is the lifting of the

left shoulder instead of turning it to the left, if anything a trifle dropped. That left shoulder must not come up. Let it come around and a trifle on the downward side.

Be sure here that the weight is not all on the right foot. This is one of the most common of faults and almost forces a slice. The left foot must carry its share of the weight, not quite half of it, but at least a distinct pressure from the inside of the left big toe.

Then we come to the fault of standing too far back of the ball. When this happens it is hard to get the club head in at the right time and the hands are generally too far ahead of the swing. When the hands set in front of the swing as the ball is being struck, you can look for a big slice nineteen times out of twenty.

If you are slicing I would suggest that you try a square stance, possible with the left foot just a little in advance of the right, and be sure not to throw the club head out too soon on the down swing. Let it come around with the turn of the body.

Another common cause for slicing is not breaking the wrists as the ball is being hit.
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The right wrist snapping in here with the left wrist firm gets the club head in at the right time. In the same manner, many players make the mistake of pulling away just as they hit the ball. Let the club head go through.

If these remedies fail to work, be careful to see that you are not straightening up and looking up. Many golfers get down to the ball in the right way and then straighten up just as they are swinging through. If the head is lifted, the body is almost sure to be lifted with it, and when the body comes up a bad slice or a topped ball is a certainty.

Left Arm Action

IF the left arm is bent too soon, in the act of straightening out as the ball is being hit, there is a strong tendency to pull across the ball in order to get the club head back in place. Golfers who bend their left arms badly on the backswing are invariably chronic slicers. With the left arm bent the hands and club are drawn in and then, when the downswing starts, both are thrown too far out.

The golfer to improve must study his game carefully and if he is slicing he can soon find out which one of these many faults he is committing. He can see—

1. That his left hand is over.
2. That his right hand isn't gripping too tightly.
3. That his back swing is starting inside the ball, close to the ground.
4. That he is using the square stance, not too far back from the ball.
5. That his left shoulder is being held in place, turned in on the back swing.
6. That the weight isn't all on his right foot.
7. That he isn't hitting too soon, getting the hands in too quickly.
8. That he isn't too far away from the ball.
9. That he isn't lifting his head.