

SHAFT BEFORE CLUBFACE

BY MICHAEL HEBRON, PGA MASTER PROFESSIONAL

HERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT many questions about inconsistent golf could be satisfied with accurate insights about the principle of shaft before clubface through impact. For some golfers these insights may not be conspicuous, but nevertheless they are profound in their consequences for a powerful on-line ball flight.

What happens through impact is fundamental to consistency and if the shaft of a golf club (any club) is not traveling through impact before the clubface, there is a good chance golfers will not be happy with the results of their swing. There are some short game and other specialty shots that are exceptions to this principle of shaft before clubface; when letting the clubface pass the shaft will be the most efficient way to play the shot at



a swing that has the same pace of swing from start to finish.

Shaft before club head, is a fundamental that often gets overlooked by golfers who are focusing on how to move their bodies.

I have found it more useful to focus on what you want to do with the golf club's shaft, head and face (which depends on the shot at hand), than focusing on how to move one's body. By finding your own best way of keeping the club-

face behind the shaft, and avoiding tips from your well-meaning friends about how to move your body (tips that are always changing), you can accomplish several fundamentals of consistent golf.

Note: Golf clubs are designed for correct impact alignments. In golf swings that apply force to the ball

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hand. But swinging the shaft of a golf club through impact before the clubface, answers many questions about inconsistent ball flight from fairways and tees.

Some golfers may not realize that golf club shafts are designed on angles that come up from the ground angled forward of the clubface. The shaft is designed to be leaning forward, with the grip end in front of the clubface. For most shots in golf, golfers should be swinging the club through *impact-shaft before clubface!* It may help improve inconsistencies to focus more on pulling the entire shaft (all 34" to 44" depending on the club) through impact, than focusing on the club head.

Other visualizations that my help golfers accomplish the all-important principle of shaft before clubface through impact are:

- Have the feeling that your hands, your right shoulder, and the club shaft are all traveling down plane through impact at the same pace or rate of motion.
- Try replacing the often-used swing thought of "one and two" with the feeling of a long one count. Try feeling

efficiently, the shaft does not swing past the left arm or left wrist joint through impact. The shaft goes in line with the left arm through impact (not past it); when the principle of shaft before clubface is being applied. 0

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