



## Talking in the 19th Hole

**DRIVER.** The driver is one of the most important clubs in a player's bag. A good driver puts the player in an offensive position to attack the green. On the contrary, a bad driver puts him on the defensive, where he will have to make a recovery shot.

To achieve better results with the driver, we will emphasize the details that are adjusted in the address and the stroke:

- The address:
  - Make the practice swings in the air without touching the grass.
  - The base of the driver head flat on the ground.
  - The normal or slightly stronger grip (hands rotated to the right).
  - The pressure on the grip must be light to guarantee a free swing, and with enough speed, a pressure of 3 or 4 is recommended.
  - The column is tilted away from the target.
  - The lateral weight distribution is slightly more loaded towards the right leg in a ratio of 60% on the right and 40% on the left. It is easier to coil behind the ball.
  - Arms relaxed.
  - The right shoulder is lower than the left.
  - The hands are placed in line with the ball or slightly behind; never in front, this would cause hitting the ball with a downward swing.
  - The stance with the heels open to a level slightly outside the end of the shoulders.
  - The stance is wider than for any other club because the swing with the driver is longer, wider, and on the downswing faster.
  - The wide stance is the foundation for generating power.
  - The wide stance is the base that gives the necessary stability to resist the body's rotation.
  - The wide stance helps to extend the lower part of the swing and to hit the ball with a sweeping action.
  - A wider stance encourages the head to be further behind the ball, making it easier to load on the right side on the backswing.
  - The alignment of the body, especially the shoulders, parallel to the target line.
  - The ball is played in line with the left heel or one inch inside the left heel. This position promotes hitting the ball in the upswing when the clubhead travels upward and from within the target line.
- The stroke:
  - Keep the takeaway low, wide and slow.
  - Rotate the shoulders, achieving a wider but balanced turn.
  - Rotate the left shoulder behind the ball and below the chin.
  - In the backswing, create a good torsion between the upper part of the body and the lower part.
  - At the top of the backswing, the club's shaft is almost parallel to the ground.

- In the forward swing, the sequence of movements is vital. The sequence starts from the ground. The lower part is the one that directs the sequence.
- Drivers are designed to hit the ball with a slight upward arc.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eBciukh\\_B0&list=PLsYr1uC75ERiFzGDiyQ2\\_nhs3-oOrp-xV&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eBciukh_B0&list=PLsYr1uC75ERiFzGDiyQ2_nhs3-oOrp-xV&index=3)
- Through the impact, the head is traveling parallel to the ground or slightly upward. This increases flight and distance and also produces less backspin. This gives the maximum carry and roll
- Do not touch the ground with the driver's head on impact, much less do divot.
- Staying behind the ball through impact. The head and trunk must be kept behind the original position of the ball to create maximum power.
- Release and follow-through is with arms extended.
- The termination is in balance.
- Swing at 80/85% of maximum speed.
  - ✓ Promotes making solid contact consistently.



- ✓ More likely to hit the sweet spot.
- ✓ It keeps the swing under control.
- ✓ Promotes good timing.
- ✓ It reduces tension in the body and allows the muscles of the hands and arms to work faster.
- ✓ The club worked better because the bending and torque properties of the shafts perform better when they are not being balanced with such strong and violent swings.

To be able to hit the driver efficiently, enough speed is needed. If the player has a swing with speed less than 85 miles per hour, he will obtain better results with a three wood, since it has more loft, which will make the ball stay more time in the air and you get more distance, plus a three wood produces fewer side effects. A quick and easy way to hit straighter and longer with the driver is to use a driver with more loft and a more flexible shaft.

Put these details to the test in your driver's address and stroke. For best results, consult your local pro.  
**FORE.**

Mateo Melgar Ochoa – Golf Pro  
[www.handy.golf](http://www.handy.golf)  
[www.youtube.com/jugargolf](http://www.youtube.com/jugargolf)  
[mateomelgar1969@hotmail.com](mailto:mateomelgar1969@hotmail.com)