



Golf Health and Fitness Tips

Bring Balance Back Into Your Swing

Good balance is an essential ingredient to a consistent and accurate golf swing. Golfers with poor balance typically swing with excessive lateral movement (lateral sway) and/or incomplete weight transfer (reverse pivoting) during either the backswing or follow-through.

Single Leg Balance Drill

A simple way to improve your balance is by practicing the *Single Leg Balance Drill*. To perform this exercise, simply stand on a flat, firm surface and place a club shaft along your spine to help achieve a straight back posture to balance on. Lift one foot off the floor by flexing the hip and knee to 90 degrees and attempt to balance on one leg for up to 30 seconds. Then, switch feet and repeat the balance drill on the other foot. Continue balancing on one foot at a time for 10-20 repetitions. Once you have mastered this drill with your eyes open, then advance your balance skills by practicing the same exercise with your eyes closed.

Balance Beam Swing Drill

To integrate your improving balance with your golf swing, try the *Balance Beam Swing Drill*. To begin this drill, take no more than a wedge, stand with one foot behind the other on a 4-inch by 6-inch wood balance beam and assume your normal posture at address. Practice 10-20 slow, partial back and forward swings while maintaining your balance on the beam. Then, reverse your foot position and repeat the drill. When you have mastered your ability to balance on the beam with partial swings and shorter clubs, advance to fuller swings. You can then challenge yourself more by progressing to longer clubs and attempt to perform the drill with your eyes closed.

Improving your balance with the Single Leg Balance Drill and the Single Leg Swing Balance Drill can help you achieve dramatic increases in your golf swing accuracy, consistency, and control. Make certain, however, that before you attempt these suggested drills, that you first consult with your local PGA professional as well as your golf-specific fitness specialist to make sure that you are performing the proper, golf-specific and customized exercises that will help you stay healthy while reaching your optimal swing performance goals.

If you have questions about this article or want to find out more about how a **Body Balance for Performance**® customized fitness training program can help your game, please call 800-473-6211 or visit www.fitgolf.com.