

Turn The Clubface For Buried-Lie Shots

By Mark Ingebrigtsen, PGA Professional, Shreveport, La.

When most players walk up to the green and see their ball buried in the sand, they automatically think the worst will happen. Here is a tip to help you get out of this problem and get your ball close to the hole.

In a normal bunker shot, you want to play the ball forward in your stance, open your clubface and your stance, and slide the club under the ball with a good follow-through. However, the buried-lie shot is totally different. For this shot, play the ball in the middle of your stance, put more weight on your target side (80/20) and place your hands slightly in front of the ball. This will help to position your body and shoulders for a descending angle to the ball.

Now, turn the clubface in about 35 to 45 degrees. It may look wrong, but this is the secret to success. The swing should be very upright with an early wrist set. Also, remember to pick a spot behind the ball and make an aggressive swing. However, there should be no follow-through on this swing. The energy of the swing should be in a descending blow to the sand. The sand actually will open the clubface and pop the ball high into the air with very little spin, allowing the ball to land much softer than your typical buried-lie shot that comes out with a lot of overspin. It will take some practice to trust this clubface position, but it will get you out of the worst buried lie and close to the hole. **GI**

