

Pitching

Pitch shots are short game strokes played around the green beyond the distance where a chipping swing can be used, and often from the rough around the green as well. This is not a lob shot where the ball elevates high in the air and stops quickly, but a shot of higher trajectory than a chip that lands on the green and rolls a shorter distance to the hole than a chip. To play this shot successfully requires a precise swing that closely resembles a shortened version of your full swing with a lofted club. Here is one of the many ways you can play this shot:

- 1) Select a lofted club (usually a sand or gap wedge) that can elevate the ball safely on the green and roll the approximate distance to the hole
- 2) Create good posture with a straight back tilted forward from the hips, narrow and open your stance a little, place more of your weight on your forward leg, and make sure you keep your hips, shoulders and forearms parallel to the target line at address.
- 3) Move your hands an inch or two down on the grip for control and use your normal full swing grip.
- 4) Staying in your posture and keeping your weight distributed slightly on the forward leg, swing the club proportionately for the length of the shot.

For a short shot take a short swing with just a little wrist cock, and for a longer shot make a fuller swing with more shoulder turn, arm swing and wrist cock. As the club swings make sure your elbows are spaced close together, and pointing or level with the ground at waist height on the back swing and follow through.