

greens and shoot lower scores. Isn't that our goal? There are four lies you can face when your ball is in the fairway: Downhill/uphill and side hill ball below your feet/side hill ball above your feet. I have grouped these as they are the exact opposite of one another. If you know how to hit a downhill lie, you will know how to hit an uphill lie.



Downhill Lie

When confronted with an uneven lie, the first thing you should always do is determine the distance to your target. In making your club selection, you will want to choose a shorter club with more loft, as the ball will fly lower and travel farther than normal.

Play the ball position toward your uphill foot (for right-handed golfers, this will be your right foot). In order to determine how far back the ball position should be, take a practice swing near the ball and watch where the club soles out to the ground. The ball position should be placed where the divot begins.

your front foot. Match your shoulders, hips and knees with the angle of the slope. They should be parallel with the



ground. Adjust your alignment to aim left of your target. The ball flight will move to the right because of the downhill lie and ball position.

Use the wrists on the backswing to bring the club up the angle of the hill. The follow-through will be low with the slope of the hill. If there is any weight transfer you will follow through as if you are walking down the hill.

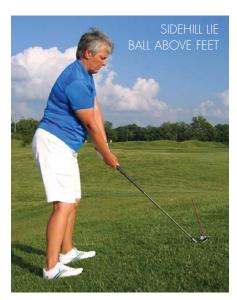


Uphill Lie

Determine the distance to your target. For the uphill lie, you will want to choose a longer club with less loft. Because of the slope, the ball will fly higher and travel shorter than normal.

Play the ball position toward your uphill foot. To determine how far forward the ball position should be, take a practice swing under similar conditions and watch where the club starts to hit the ground. The ball position should be placed where the divot begins.

Because weight transfer is so difficult Next, put the majority of your weight on with this shot, turn your front toe to the outside of your heel. Pointing your foot to a ten o'clock position will help you with any weight transfer.



As with the downhill lie, match your shoulders, hips and knees with the angle of the slope. They should be parallel with the hill. The right shoulder, hip and knee will be lower than the left shoulder, hip and knee. Your weight will be on your back foot. Do not lean to your front leg and attempt to level yourself. This will cause you to swing into the hill.

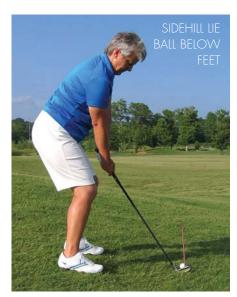
Swing with the slope of the hill. If you have any weight transfer with this shot, it should be minimal. This shot also promotes the ball moving more left of your target, so adjust your alignment at setup accordingly.



Sidehill Lie Ball Above Feet

As with uphill and downhill lies, begin by determining the distance to your target. In making your club selection you will want to choose a shorter club with more loft as the ball will fly lower and travel farther than normal.

Next, place the ball in the normal position for the club you have selected. The hill will not affect your ball position as you make this shot. Because your club will sole to the ground with the heel of



the club lower than the toe of the club, the ball will draw right to left. Be sure to aim right of your target.

Stand taller and closer than normal to the ball because of the slope. Grip down on the club for more control.

Take a 3/4 swing while keeping your shoulders level

with the ground. To get a feel of what it will be like when hitting this shot, take a practice swing making contact with the ground in a similar position as the ball lies.



Sidehill Lie Ball Below Feet

Once you determine the distance to your target, select a longer club with less loft as the ball will fly higher and travel shorter than normal. You want a longer club because the ball is farther away from you.

Next, place the ball in the normal position for the club you have selected. The hill will not affect your ball position as you make this shot. Because the club will sole to the ground with the toe of the club lower than the heel of the club, the ball will slice from left to right. Be sure to aim left of your target.

Widen your stance and lower your center of gravity by bending your knees more than normal for this shot. Bending your knees instead of from your waist will help keep you in balance. Stay level throughout your swing. Because of the lower than normal setup, you may not be able to follow through as well. The longer club can help you lay up to the green. But because of the added loft produced by the lie of this shot, you may not be able to reach the green from the fairway.

Hopefully these tips will help you get successfully from the fairway to the green. See you on the course! •

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