

Good club selection can make the difference between a birdie and a bogey, and that starts at the tee box. Many beginning golfers immediately opt for their driver, hoping to beat any poor aiming tendencies with a little extra distance. This can be a mistake in many cases.

As the great golfer Ben Hogan once said, "This is a game of misses. The guy who misses the best is going to win." Even the very best professional golfers miss their targets, and the key is deciphering which way is the better miss. From the tee, usually there is one side of the fairway with more difficult hazards; you can improve your chances of having a better next shot by shifting the aim away from that side.

The better miss aim also applies to greens. When selecting a club for a par-3 tee shot, many golfers will choose a club that can shoot to the distance of the hole location without taking into account where the better putt will be. For example, if the hole is located on the front of the green, it could be better to choose a longer club that will allow you to overshoot the hole and make a better putting line for your next shot.

Making a better choice on the tee box can shave strokes off your game and lead to frustration while playing through the course.