

Hit a Crisp Chip

by Suzy Whaley



I have a tendency to flub my chips when the rough is thick. I can't seem to get the clubhead through the grass. Can you help? —Masumi Masamitsu, Honolulu

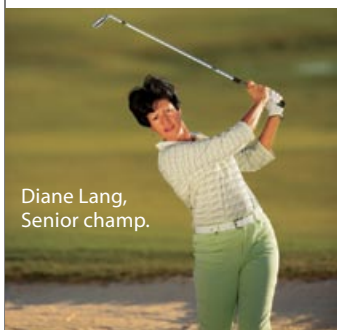


A: A tough lie can make you tense up, not just in the full swing but in the short game as well. Tightness in your forearms and shoulders may cause you to drag the clubhead away from the ball, where it can easily get snagged by the grass. This is a recipe for poor contact, because you need to generate more clubhead speed, not less, to escape this lie cleanly.

The next time you face a similar chip, try hovering the clubhead at address so the bottom edge is grazing the top blades of grass. Not only will this relax your body, but it will allow you to swing more freely so the clubhead doesn't get slowed by the grass. Keep your left arm extended and moving through impact. If it stops, the right hand will take over and you'll wind up stabbing at the ball. Relax your arms and swing the clubhead through the grass at a firm, crisp pace; you'll say good-bye to those flubs forever. ●

Suzy Whaley is a teaching professional at the TPC at River Highlands in Cromwell, Conn., and a GFW Top 50 Teacher.

GFW SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MUST-WATCH EVENTS



Diane Lang, Senior champ.

SEPTEMBER 8–10

John Q. Hammons Hotel Classic presented by SemGroup

CEDAR RIDGE CC
TULSA, OKLA.

Defending champ Annika Sorenstam goes for her fourth straight victory here; last year she beat rookie of the year Paula Creamer by one stroke. Airs live on The Golf Channel Fri. to Sun.

SEPTEMBER 21–24

Longs Drugs Challenge

BLACKHAWK CC
DANVILLE, CALIF.

Nicole Perrot (below, right) became the LPGA Tour's first Chilean-born winner when she triumphed here in 2005. She'll have to beat hot-hitting Juli Inkster, who has won here twice. Airs live on The Golf Channel.

SEPTEMBER 22–24

Ryder Cup

THE K CLUB
STRAFFAN, COUNTY KILDARE,
IRELAND

Captain Tom Lehman and his all-star U.S. team—led by Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Jim Furyk—are 0–2 in 21st-century Ryder Cups. The pressure's on, boys. Watch the drama on NBC and the USA network.

OCTOBER 5–8

Corona Morelia Championship

TRES MARIAS RESIDENTIAL GC
MORELIA, MICHOACAN, MEXICO

Guadalajaranative Lorena Ochoa—who has a foundation to help Mexican children learn the game—looks to bolster her position as the tour's leading money-winner with a piece of the \$1 million purse and her first LPGA victory in her home country. For real-time scoring, go to lpga.com.

OCTOBER 7–12

USGA Senior Women's Amateur

SEA ISLAND GC
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA.

Last year's surprise winner, Jamaican-born Diane Lang (left) of Weston, Fla., defeated the legendary Carol Semple Thompson in

an epic final. For real-time scoring, go to seniorwam.org.

OCTOBER 12–15

Samsung World Championship

BIGHORN GC
PALM DESERT, CALIF.

The LPGA Tour's top 20 players, including Sorenstam, Karrie Webb and Michelle Wie, compete for the largest first-place purse in the event's 26-year history: \$875,000. If Sorenstam wins, she'll set a record for most victories in a single event: six. Airs on The Golf Channel Thurs. and Fri.; Sat. and Sun. on NBC.



CHILE'S COOL Santiago's own Nicole Perrot won her first title in 2005.