

How to Play - Ram Golf Putting Report Card

The game requires putts from distances out from the hole of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 feet. On the practice green, find a quiet hole and set a line of seven tee pegs out from the hole at 1-foot intervals from 2 feet to 8 feet. At 2 feet, the player putts for a maximum of 10 points. The maximum points are gained by sinking two 5-point putts in a row and gaining 5 points for each sink, or if there is a miss, switching to trying to sink two putts in-a-row on an all-or-nothing basis for 5 recovery points. At all stations past 2 feet, the player has the opportunity to make a maximum of 15 points. (This way, all station maximums add to 100 points for the game.) This time the first series has three 5-point putts in-a-row, and the recovery of 5 points requires sinking three in-a-row on an all-or-nothing basis.

In the first series of 5-point putts, the player accumulates points as long as he or she continues to sink putts in a row. (This series is NOT all-or-nothing.) A miss of any 5-point putt automatically switches the player to the recovery series for 5 points. The player completes all available putts and then advances to the next station.

This game addresses a critical range in putting. Most golfers are able to sink 95% or better of 2-foot putts, but only 50% or less a mere four feet later at the 6-foot range, and the make-percentage declines even further out to the 8-foot range to about 30%. That's a drop-off of nearly two-thirds of all putting skill over six short feet. Outside this range, the decline continues, but at a much more moderate rate.

This is a good game for idle putting practice or even for a pre-game warm-up session. If you want to try three or four tests in a row, you'll probably need about one hour. The game readily lends itself to solo or competitive practice, and can be played indoors at any time of day or season of the year. It's quick enough that you can strive for improvement over a handful of games in a single session. If you can get your "report card" up to the "B" level or better on a consistent basis, it will surely translate into greater confidence on the course and lower scores for the real game. Conquer this critical range and make yourself proud of your short putting skills!