

## Star drill:

Pick a hole on your practice green that is on a gradual slope and place 5 tees in a star pattern, as shown below, each 3 feet from the hole (a standard putter length). Putt a ball from next to each tee around the star until you can make 10 in a row. This drill is designed to simulate the pressure faced on the course and to build confidence in each of the types of important short putts that you will face. It is important that you develop an effective pre-shot routine for these putts and use it on every attempt.

When you become very confident at 3 feet, move the tees to 4 feet and eventually 5 feet. It is not advisable to move beyond 5 feet as it will prove frustrating and difficult to build positive images.

A reasonable goal from 4 feet is 9 of 10 and 8 of 10 from 5 feet. As you improve, you can set higher goals.

I call this drill the Star Drill because if you work at it, it will make you a star.

| % putts holed | PGA Tour | 0-5 Hdcp | 6-10 Hdcp | 11-15 Hdcp | 16-25 Hdcp |
|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 1 – 3 feet    | 99%      | 94%      | 94%       | 93%        | 87%        |
| 4 – 5 feet    | 86%      | 70%      | 68%       | 64%%       | 62%        |

Putting is approximately 40% of the game for players at every handicap level and arguably the most important scoring skill in golf. Further, it is a skill at which every golfer, regardless of size or strength, can become proficient.

There are actually two distinct skills in putting:

1. Distance control – the ability to lag the ball close to the hole
2. Accuracy – the ability to make short putts

While each of these skills is important, the latter is the most important to effective scoring. The critical short putt range is from five feet and closer to the hole. Putts in this distance separate players at every level of the game because the more skilled players make a higher percentage of them. Further, they are distances that all golfers face frequently in every round. Finally, if we become proficient at these critical short putts, the distance control skill becomes that much easier.