

# **Yardage Gaps in Your Golf Bag**

**Why having the correct clubs are essential to improving your game**

## **-Introduction**

If you read my article “Breaking 100” you know that I am a believer in the idea that you can lower your golf scores without improving your swing. In my last article I talked about lowering your scores by better course management. In this article, we will go over how to lower your scores by having the correct clubs in your bag.

Having the correct clubs in your bag is not only important for having the correct fit, but also to have the correct gap between each club. Golf is hard enough as it is, so let's dive into how we can make it a little easier, just by examining your golf bag.

## **-Yardage Gapping Explained**

Yardage Gapping is identifying the difference in distance between each club in your club. Ideally, you want to have 10-15 yards of difference between each club. If you hit your 7-iron 160, then your 6-iron should go about 170, and an 8-iron should go 150. The first thing you should note is that it will never be perfect, and that's okay. The important thing to understand with that is where you should focus on yardage gapping the most, and where it is okay to not be in the 10–15 yard range.

## **-Why Yardage Gapping is Important**

Yardage Gapping is important because we want to cover a wide range of yardages with a stock swing. When you are hitting a shot on the course and identify the distance you are from your target, you want to feel comfortable with the club you hit. Whether that is a pitching wedge from 130 yards, or a 5 iron from 180 yards you want to have a swing for whatever distance you come across when we are out on the course.

You can do this by assessing what clubs you have in your bag, and if they are right for you. For example, if your pitching wedge has 48 degrees loft, and you have a sand wedge that has 50 degrees loft, it is time to make a change. 2 degrees difference in clubs isn't enough for you to cover the wide range of yardages you see out on the course. Instead, look at putting a 52- or 54-degree wedge in your bag to go along with your pitching wedge, and then a 56- or 58-degree wedge to match those. This would get us about 4-6 degrees different in 3 wedges, resulting in approximately 10-15 yards difference in how far you hit each club.

If you hit your 48-degree pitching wedge 130, it is safe to assume that a 52 is going to go approximately 120, and a 56 is going to go approximately 110. This would be considered a good yardage gap in your wedges. If you only have 2 degrees difference in loft between each club, you may have 2 or 3 clubs that all go the same distance. When you find yourself just short or long of that distance you are required to make swings at 30, 50, or 70% of your comfortable full swing. If yardage gapping is correct in this scenario, you have 3 clubs that

you can full swing and all go different distances making it easier to manage on course and result in better shots hit during your round.

### **-It won't be perfect**

As I stated above, your yardage gapping most likely won't all be a consistent difference between each club. In my experience with teaching, I see that it becomes a little more inconsistent with hybrids and woods. The reason that is okay is because these longer clubs aren't always used for specific distances as much as they are used for laying up on long holes and used as an alternative for a driver to achieve a straighter shot. When they are used for distance specific shots, ideally, we would want to have a club for every number, but these longer clubs are going to be in the range of 210-270 yards and we are far more likely to have shots from 120 yards and in rather than over 210. This is why it is important to keep your focus on yardage gapping more on your wedges, than your long game.

### **-Conclusion**

You want to have the correct clubs in our bag to make the game as easy as possible. The importance of choosing the right clubs to play is a key component to shooting lower scores. Finding the yardage gaps in your bag will help you better understand your game and where you need to focus.



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