

Green-reading skill drill

Finding the fall line

This drill focuses on finding the fall line, the straight downhill direction in which water would flow due to gravity.

If you walk in a circle around the hole, the fall line position is the point of highest elevation.

Goal

- To reduce your “fall line error”, the amount by which you misread the fall line.

Rules

- Pick a hole on your practice green, or out on the course.
- Before you have seen any putts roll to the hole, read the green to estimate where a 6-foot putt will roll straight downhill into the hole.
- Place a coin to mark the location you have identified as the fall line 6-feet from the hole.
- Stroke a putt from just in front of the coin straight to the hole.
- If the putt rolls on a straight line into the hole, you have correctly identified the fall line.
- If the putt breaks either way, putt from a slightly different starting position until you locate the fall line.

Scoring

- When you find the true fall line, measure the distance between the coin, which is your initial fall line estimate, and the true fall line. This distance is your fall line error.
- If the putt rolls on a straight line into the hole the first time, you have correctly identified the fall line and your score is zero.

Variations

- Use different holes on the practice green and/or on the course.
- Instead of using an actual hole, you can use a tee-peg as a target/hole.