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# Introduction

This book is not for those people who are looking to make it rich in a short amount of time, but it is about knowledge and discipline.

The Smarter You Play, the Luckier You’ll Be.

~Mark Pilarski

Gambling is all about discipline. Why do you think so many people lose thousands of dollars when they visit Las Vegas? It’s because they are not researching, practicing and gambling on a regular basis. To be a successful gambler, whether you are gambling at a poker table or on a golf match, you have to have discipline and you have to do your research. Many people lose at the tables in Vegas, but even more people lose on sports in Vegas and through their bookies. In fact, it is estimated that 98% of sports gamblers are losing. That leaves only about 2% of the sports gambling population to be professionals who are actually making money. Why is this? It’s because the bet with their hearts and they lack the discipline that is necessary to subjectively look at a game and make a good choice. Too many gamblers are swayed by their own personal emotions involving a team or a team’s players.

My eBook is going to show you how you can become a professional golf gambler and how to see your personal feelings for the players in the match. Here you will learn about what it takes to be a professional gambler and how to actually make money instead of it lose it.

# Chapter 1

## The Basics of Sports Betting



Just about any sport can be wagered on. Of course, some of the most popular include college football, professional football, basketball and baseball. Many people bet purely for entertainment. Having a bet on the game serves to make the whole thing just a little more interesting and can even turn a defensive game into one that has a certain amount of excitement in it as well. The majority of these people are going to lose the bets they make. Actually, about 98% of these bettors are going to lose their wagers and for simple reasons:

* They bet with their heart
* They don’t research
* They have no discipline

Because of this a lot of money is lost on sports gambling each year. A study by the US Congress on the impact of gambling found that there is an estimated $380 billion spent per year on sports betting in the US alone and that’s only how much is reported. It is estimated that $378 billion is wagered illegally through bookies and offshore sportsbooks. This makes sports betting the hands down most popular form of gambling in the US. If you look at the world as a whole, trillions of dollars are bet on other sports such as cricket, soccer, rugby, horseracing and Formula 1 auto racing.

Sports betting is also the reason that TV ratings for sporting events have jumped drastically since the 80s. It makes a lot of sense when you think about. If it’s on TV, people bet on it. If it’s not, they usually don’t. This is because people want to see how their team is doing and whether or not they are going to win. NFL, NBA and NCAA sports all have excellent ratings because people bet on them. The ratings for the WNBA are virtually non-existent because people don’t bet on those games.

Money won is twice as sweet as money earned.

~From the movie “The Color of Money”

On the other end of the spectrum, sports betting is an investment. This is the difference between the weekend entertainment bettor and the professional gambler. For the professional, gambling is an excellent way to get a return on their investment. If they have a good betting system and discipline, they will easily make a 15-25% return per month. That’s a lot more than what you would make back if you were to put that money in a savings account. There is no bank that can guarantee the type of return you could make if you were to invest it with them. The key to making sports gambling a good investment is that you have to win, but when you’re gambling, you are also looking at a 50% chance of losing.

### Your Bankroll

The most important thing that you need to do when you are going to bet on sports is to establish your bankroll. This is the money that you can afford to lose and to gamble with. This should be money that you don’t need for anything else, so don’t use your rent or cable bill money for that matter because you’re going to want to watch the game, right?

You can break your bankroll down anyway you like; you just want to be sure that the money you use is not needed for anything else. You also want to be sure that you have enough to bet on each game you want to bet on. A lot of discipline comes into play here as well. You want to be smart about how you choose to bet. You also don’t want to bet any more than what you have in your bankroll, unless you can afford to spend the money. Remember, there is a 50% chance that you will lose this money so you don’t want to put yourself in a jam by losing money you need.

### Sportsbooks and Bookies

Most betting is done through a sportsbook or bookie. Legal sports bookmakers are located in areas where betting and gambling is legal, such as Las Vegas. In areas where sports betting is illegal, most bets are placed through “bookies” or on the Internet through offshore sportsbooks. The bookmaker will earn a commission on a bet depending on the amount that is wagered. This commission is also known as “juice” or “vigorish,” “vig” for short. A common example is that if you bet $100 and lose, you owe $110. The $10 is the commission that you pay to the bookie when you pay him for your loss.

Many people believe that the bookmakers adjust the spreads or odds so that they are able to get the same amount of money on both sides of the game. In actuality, the bookmakers will attempt to maximize their bottom line. This means that they will “shade” the line. They will set the line higher on the team that is being bet on the most. This is because the betting public tends to bet on the favorite and there are several uneducated gamblers who appear during the big games and events, such as the Super Bowl.

Bookmakers will be careful not to move the line too much or to make it too unrealistic. This is because they have to honor the spread. So, if there were a lot of people who bet on a line that was set at 3.5 and a lot of people who bet on it the line later when it raised to 4.5 and the team won by 6, then the bookmaker would have to pay on both lines.

### Different Types of Bets

Bookmakers will usually take two types of wagers on the winner. These are:

* Straight-Up or Money Line Bets
* Point Spreads

Money lines are used to set odds on sports such as soccer, baseball, hockey and boxing. In Europe and Asia, bookmakers will use straight-up odds on these sports, such as 2-1 favorites. In the US, bookmakers use money lines that are quoted in terms of how much money required to win $100 on a favorite. The amount that is won in a bet is the amount that is over and above the initial bet. For example, if a person were to win $200 on a bet of $100, the person would actually collect $300 because it is $200 plus the initial bet of $100.

In sports such as basketball and football, rather than the money line being used, the point spread is used. A point spread will require the bettor to risk $110 to win $100. The $10 is the commission you would pay to the bookie. Bettors who bet on the favorite win only if they are able to “cover the spread” or if the favorite wins by a specific margin.

Overs and unders are another popular bet. These bets involve predicting whether or not the combined total score will be over or under a specific number. For example, if you were to bet on football and the over and under was 55, you could bet whether or not you think it will go over or under 55. These point spreads often involve half a point to help reduce the number of pushes that occur, such as 55.5.

There are several other different types of bets that are options as well. One popular bet is the parlay. The parlay allows multiple bets up to 12 and will reward the bettor with a large payout. The better can include four different wagers in a four-team parlay. The player is betting that all four bets will win, so if any of the bets fail to cover then the bettor loses the parlay. If all four win, then the bettor will receive a very large payout than if the bets were to be placed independently of each other.

Proposition bets are wagers that have a specific outcome. This would be a bet such as guessing how many goals will be made in a hockey game. Or you could bet on whether or not a hitter in a baseball game will accumulate more hits than another player on the opposite team. These bets are also very popular during the Super Bowl, where there are a variety of proposition bets to choose from.

Run line, puck line or goal line bets are other options. These are offered as alternatives to a money line or a straight-up bet in sports such as baseball, hockey or soccer. These bets have fixed point spreads that offer higher payouts for the favorites and a low one for the underdog.

Futures wagers are bets that predict a future accomplishment. An example is if you were to bet on which team will win the Super Bowl in the upcoming season. These bets often have high odds that are expressed as ratios.

Arbitrage betting is when a bet is placed on each outcome with two different sportsbooks. This is done to ensure that the bettor makes a profit one way or the other. Arbitrage betting is often performed by researching the odds with different sportsbooks and then placing bets on both outcomes of a game. For example, a bettor might bet a sum of money on the favorite with one bookie and the underdog with another bookie. These types of bets often involve large sums of money.

### Enjoying Gambling

Gambling can be a lot of fun if you go about it properly and if you don’t allow it to take over your life. There is a lot of sheer excitement involved when you win a bet and a huge adrenaline rush when your money is on the line. It makes it even more fun if you can boast to your friends about how you picked the game right and they were wrong.

Whatever you do, don’t let gambling rule your life. It won’t take long until you allow it to have a negative impact on your life, which can ultimately end up with you being in a financial rut and despair. If you lose your job, wife or your bank account then betting is no longer fun nor is it worth it.

The second thing you need to ensure is that you don’t bet more than you can afford. This is where a good bankroll and bankroll management plan comes into play. It’s very important that you stick to your bankroll and that you don’t dig yourself into a financial hole by betting money that you couldn’t afford to lose. Betting is a form of entertainment, so be sure that you have the entertainment funds available.

Don’t try to be too smart, but don’t be too dumb either. A lot of this has to do with common sense and a good deal of research as well. The more you leave your bets to chance, the more likely you are going to be in that group of 98% who are losing their money and not with the 2% who are winning money. Gambling involves a lot of research. It’s like doing research on a company that you are considering purchasing stock for. You wouldn’t just go out and purchase stock on some Joe Blow’s company that you have no information about. The same is true in sports betting. You’re not going to go and bet on a team if you don’t have any idea about the records and statistics of the team or their opponent. The same is true when it comes to betting on golf. You’re not going to go bet on the next Tiger Woods without doing some research on the kid first. The less you leave to chance the better your odds will be.

Whatever you do, don’t let your heart and emotions take over. You just simply cannot win when the only reason you are betting on a team or player is because you like them. When you bet with your heart you are leaving your bet up to chance and we already know that is the best way to lose and not to win.

### Choosing a Good Sportsbook

There are at least 500 sportsbooks on the Internet. You may also know a few bookies in your town as well. It’s always best to do a little research on a company before you bet a lot of money with them. If you do choose to bet with a local bookie, be sure to ask around and find out if they are reputable. You wouldn’t want to bet with someone who is going to skip town because they can’t afford to pay their players.

If you are looking at Internet sportsbooks, then you want to be sure that you look at the larger and bigger name sportsbooks. These sportsbooks tend to be the easiest to work with and they offer better customer service as well. You want to be able to ensure your money is safe, you want to get paid quickly and you want to know that they have good odds as well.

There are a lot of scams out there in the sportsbook world as well. Sports betting can be hard enough and it only makes it harder on you if someone runs off with your bankroll never to be found again. To keep you money from disappearing on the Internet somewhere you will want to watch out for signs that a sportsbook may be a fraud. You also want to be sure that you are only betting with the best. Because of this you only want to bet with a sportsbook who has been online for at least five years. If they can make it past their five year mark, then they are probably doing pretty good. However, with that being said, anything can be printed on the Internet, so you never know if a company is lying or not.

Sportsbooks who suddenly offer bonuses that are double or triple their norm are probably having problems. These types of bonuses are just too good to be true and it probably means they are in trouble. Other signs that they are in trouble may include reduced juice, low rollovers and other offers that are too good to be true.

A sudden increase in prices is also another sign that the sportsbook is in trouble. Sportsbooks who have had to pay out more than they can afford will often raise their prices as they try to bail themselves out. This is not the only reason that they might raise their prices, but it is a common one.

A sportsbook who makes cold calls to your home is a sign of trouble. Not only are they annoying, but they are trying to scrape up some more players. This usually means that they are not very well established and you should probably just steer clear. It’s also a bad sign if the sportsbook you currently use starts to make cold calls as well.

There’s not a lot of regulation in offshore sportsbooks, so you want to keep your wits about you at all times and always look out for signs that the sportsbook you are using doesn’t seem quite right. If you think something is up, get your money out and move along.

# Chapter 2

## The Basics of Golf Betting

Golf betting is a little different and you have several different options to choose from when it comes to wagering on a game. Here you will find a breakdown of each type of bet as well as examples that will show you how to use the bet and what you are betting on when you make these bets.

### Outright Bet

This bet is the most simple golf bet and is usually expressed as O/R. This bet is an outright bet that a player will when the entire tournament. The odds are expressed in a fraction such as 14/5 or 14-5. If you were to bet on the player who was favored at these odds, you win $14 for every $5 you bet. There are usually specific odds on the top 30 to 50 players in a tournament.

### Betting to Win

Another common bet in golf is the “Betting to Win” wager. Golf has numerous tournaments that take place throughout the year, so the “Betting to Win” wager is one that offers a gambler numerous opportunities to win. Many of the well-known competitors at a tournament such as PGA tournament will be listed. Those who are not listed will be given collective odds in the form of the “field,” which is another option that you have when it comes to betting on golf.

### The Field

The field is essentially a group of entrants in a golf tournament who are not individually listed to win a tournament. These players are typically considered longshots and are grouped together. A bettor will win a field bet if any of the longshots win the tournament. This bet is a common bet for bettors who do not have a good “feel” on a particular player, so they choose to bet the field. If there are five or six players in the tournament who are consistent contenders, then the field bet will most likely have higher odds, as the odds are better that one of those players will win the tournament. Because major upsets occur frequently in golf, the field bet is often a good bet as you have the advantage of having multiple player who can win you the bet should an upset occur.

### Betting on a Place Finish

This is a bet that can vary between bookmakers. What they count as a place and the proportion of odds that you will receive will vary and you may need to look at several bookmakers before you settle. Place finishes may vary from the first three places to the first six places in a golf tournament. It will be the same proportion of odds whether the player finishes second or sixth.

An example of this would be if you bet $1 on a player to finish in particular “place” at 20-1 odds. If the player does finishes in that place, you win a proportion of the 20-1 odds and you get your original bet back. If the proportion is 1/4, you odds are 1/4x20-1=5-1. This means that you would win $5 for ever $1 that you had bet.

### Betting Each Way

This bet is a combination between “Betting to Win” and “Betting to Place Finish.” The bettor pays the same stake for each part of the bet. Say that you bet $1 each way for a player at 10-1 odds. This means you win $10 for the win and an additional $2.50 for the place. If the player does not win, but does place you lose the “Betting to Win” bet, but win the “Betting to Place Finish” bet.

### Match-Ups

 The favorites in a golf match may range from -110 to over 2-1 (-220). An example would be if Phil Mickelson were favored over Ernie Els. The odds may appear like this:

Phil Mickelson -150

Ernie Els +120

This is called a 30-cent line because there is a 20 point difference between the pair. If you were going to bet on Phil Mickelson, you would have to wager $150 to win $100 and if you like Els, you would bet $100 to win $120. This is pretty much the same as if you were betting on baseball. The match-up is a hypothetical head-to-head match between players that are competing in a tournament. The winner would be the person who finishes higher on the leaderboard. In a tournament, there are 72-hole match bets or 4 rounds. There are options to wager on single matches, or 18-hole matches. After the 2nd round of a tournament there is a “cut” and in a full field of 150 players, such as in the PGA tour, there are approximately 70 players who will make the cut and will continue to play. If the player makes the cut and the opponent in the match-up you bet on misses the cut, then you win your wager. If the player was to be disqualified or withdraws after teeing off on the 1st hole, then the winner of the match-up is the player that completed the most holes.

### Spread Betting

Spread betting in golf is a great bet that will help to improve your odds of winning and making a profit. Plus, it keeps the excitement of the match going all the way to the end of the last hole of the tournament. If you’re a sit on your edge of the seat kind of guy or gal, then you are going to like the spread bet.

Spread betting is a great for the gambler who likes to bet on probability. This type of bet can be likened to playing the stock market, as you are essentially buying and selling bets depending on how you think a particular player will do in the tournament. This best is unlike fixed-odds betting because you do not have any idea of how much you will win or lose on the bet, as what you win or lose depends on how well the player does, or how badly.

Before a tournament begins, each player will be assigned a spread that is based on where the bookmakers believe the player will finish in the tournament. Let’s take Tiger Woods as an example. He may be assigned 12 to 15. If you choose to sell, then you are betting on Woods finishing higher than 12th. If you buy, you are betting that he will finish lower than 15th. You then choose your stake. You will win or lose your stake for every position that you are right or wrong on. If we say that Woods ends up finishing 2nd and you had sold at 12, you would win 10 times your stake. Now, say Woods ended up finishing 20th; you would then lose 8 times your stake. Most bookies will offer a cut off point at 50.

You choose to spread bet in golf, the first rule is to not let your emotions get the better of you. If you pick out a player you think will win, you will not necessarily win your bet. The prices will also be a reflection as to the chances that the players have at winning. Remember, there are some players who continually perform well and are very consistent. There are several players who have a poor win record, but they consistently perform well. They tend to always be in contention, even if they never win the tournament.

### Two Ball Bet & Three Ball Bet

The two ball bet is when you place a wager on whether one player will outscore another player over one round. The three ball bet whether one player will outscore another two nominated players over one round. This type of bet has been likened to turning the golf match into a tennis match where players are attempting to prove who is best. When you bet on a three-ball, there are three prices offered to you and the dead-heat rules will apply in the match if two or more players end up with the same score. With two ball, the bookies will offer three prices, as a tie between the two players is also priced.

These types of bets make it easier to bet on golf. Instead of trying to pick a winner out of 100 players, you are able to pick a winner out of two or three players. By focusing on fewer players, you have fewer players to research and therefore have a better shot at winning your bet.

The best time to place this is bet is during one of the four Major tournaments and the two-stroke play World Golf Championship events.

When betting a two or three ball bet, there are several steps you will want to take before you place the actual bet. Begin by always checking course and current form. You will also want to understand what each player’s goals are for that tournament and on that particular day. Not all players are going to be going for the win, but just to place in the money. For example, Phil Mickelson has a reputation for not caring where he finishes in a tournament if he is not going to win and can be opposable in the last two rounds if he is out of contention for the tournament. If that is the situation, then you are going to want to know this before you place your bet. Next, study the round-by-round statistics for the players that you are considering betting on. You will also want to keep assessing their goals throughout the tournament day.

Don’t forget that with any bet you need to some research. Visit <http://www.pgatour.com/r/stats/>

For up-to-date statistics on golf’s most popular players.

### Group Betting

This bet is when the bookmaker has a group of players and provides odds on them beating the rest of the group. Your bet is who will be the winner out of the group.

### Combination Bet

This bet is similar to that of a parlay in football betting. A combination bet is a combination of two or more of the golf bets. You will have to win all of your bets in order to win the combination. The value of this bet is equal to all of the individual odds when multiplied together.

### What Can You Bet On?

There are two very popular golf betting tournaments. These are the Masters and The U.S. Open. These are two PGA golf tournaments and golf betting during these tournaments can be excellent. The Masters is often considered to be the crown jewel of golf betting. This tournament tends to draw more attention than the U.S. Open, but the U.S. Open is very popular in its own right because it is considered to be the United States Championship.

These two tournaments are also popular because they bring some of the most popular golfers such as Phil Mickelson and, of course, Tiger Woods. The U.S. Open is also considered to be one of the hardest tournaments to win. The course is often difficult and can be very challenging to golfers and for the gamblers who are looking to bet on them. This is because the key to winning the U.S. Open is accuracy and putting, and these are going to be on the forefront of your mind when betting on the tournament.

This is not always the case in other PGA tournaments and the Masters, PGA Championship and the British Open are often considered to be somewhat easier than the U.S. Open. However, with any PGA tournament, you have a few options when it comes to the actual betting aspect of the game. You have the option to bet on whom will win the entire tournament or you can bet on matchups between players.

When you are betting on a major PGA tournament you have a lot of options when it comes to handicapping. There are going to be several players who have competed over several years and their statistics are going to be available to you. These types of large tournaments make it easier for you to handicap and therefore easier to bet on.

If you are looking at betting on these types of large tournaments, it’s also a good idea to consider the matchups. These are set by the sportsbooks and bookmakers. They offer you a way to narrow down a bet because there are so many good contenders in these events and they are often easier to pick rather than choosing an outright winner. You may also want to consider two and three balls because then you have these players hypothetically competing against each other.

Also, if you are looking at betting on an event such as the U.S. Open, be sure to know the course well. In the U.S. Open it’s easy to end up in the rough, so you will want to pick those players who are able to keep their ball on the fairway. Ending up in the rough at the U.S. Open tends to spell disaster for those players. If you don’t know the courses well, then you aren’t going to know where most players get in trouble and you won’t know which features to look for in particular players at specific courses.

# Chapter 3

## Professional Golf Betting

“When we play, we must realize, before anything else, that we are out to make money.”   
David Sklansky

Many bettors are losers. Why? Because they allow their emotions to get the best of them and they lack discipline. These bettors are those individuals who choose to place bets on their favorite players and on those players that the media gives a lot of attention to. The professional gambler does not do this. The professional gambler is disciplined, does his own research and chooses only to go with a player he has researched thoroughly and has a good “feel” for. The professional gambler may choose to go with picks from another individual such as me, but all in all will use his own research combined with those picks to make his decision.

### Leave the Heart Behind

Golf may be a difficult sport to play, but the chances of winning a bet on golf are considerably better. Golf is a somewhat a very predictable game. There are also several statistics that are associated with golf, which makes it easier on the gambler when choosing his bets. You do not necessarily always want to know about putting and driving accuracy, but the starting odds for tournament players.

Tiger Woods does not win every golf tournament, but it is just publicized in way that it appears that he does. Because of this, you will not see a whole lot of people betting on Tiger Woods if they are not betting with their hearts. There are three rules that you can use when you choosing players that you want to bet on and that will assist you in leaving your heart behind and encourage you to use only statistics and research to make your bets:

1. Identify the players who tend to place in the Top 15 of the week for current and course form. You will want to the players that have a goof form in their swing and have played well on the course of the tournament. You will also want to keep in mind that you may have a more difficult time evaluating new players, especially if they do not have a past record on a course. Remember, winning a tournament means the player is great, but placing high means these players are very good.
2. Identify the Top 3 players and look at the two players in this group who have made at least two cuts in the last 8 weeks.
3. Identify the Top 3 players based on course form and who have made at least 2 cuts in the past 5 years at the course.

If you find these players, it will be easier for you to find your needle in a haystack of 100 players who are playing in a tournament. You are essentially find golfers who are playing decent golf and at the same time you are keeping your emotions and heart out of your bets.

### Points to Remember

When betting on any spectator sport that receives a lot of coverage on the news and sports channels, you are better off not listening to any of it. It is advisable that you stay away from the public’s favorite golfers as it is the quickest way to let your “feel” be obstructed from thoughts that the public will put into your head. This leads you to betting on a player who has a high public profile, but may not necessarily be the best contender for the tournament. It is essentially like betting on your favorite player just because you like him and when you know he is not necessarily going to win the tournament.

Research is always important, no matter what type of sport you are betting on. When researching golf, be sure to research the player’s history and how he performs on particular courses. Tournaments are often played at the same location each year, so you should be able to find good information on a player and how well he or she performs on each course. You will also be able to get a good idea of a particular player’s strengths and weaknesses. This allows you to determine which players have issues on particular holes or if there is a particular course that they seemed to excel on.

If you are a PGA fan, then you should have a good feel when it comes to those tournaments. You will also have a good idea of which players are likely to excel and turn out. You will always want to trust your own insights, but be sure not to let you heart get in the way.

Other factors that come into play are going to be things such as the weather and injuries. Many players may have minor injuries but will continue to play. The problem is that these minor injuries may influence how well they will play, so you want to keep your eyes and ears open when it comes to situations such as those. If the player is feeling weak, then they’re play is not likely to be as good as it is when they are feeling strong and heavy. You can also search several sports websites that should have important information such as this. Also, the more you learn about a player and where they are most comfortable playing then you are going to have greater insight as to which parts of the country they are going to play better in. Always keep your ears open for weather forecasts in a particular area as well.

If you are betting on particular tournaments, then you want to be sure to research the tournament as well. Get to know the tournament and who plays them. Get to know the courses as well and find out which players are the regular contenders in those areas. The more you know about the tournament as a whole, the better educated your wagers will be, which means you are increasing your chances of picking winners.

### Picking Winners Can Be Difficult

Picking winners of an entire golf tournament can be difficult. This is why many golf odds and tips will look very attractive to you, especially if you are searching for something that looks like a good bet. If you see odds such as 10-1, these may look very attractive and will often be a part of their golf tips. This is where you may consider looking at other betting options such as the matchup bet. The matchup bet will allow you to look at two players and decide which one you think is a better bet. These types of bets are popular in the big tournaments such as the PGA tournaments.

The Only Difference between a Winner and a Loser is Character

~Nick the Greek

Betting on PGA tournaments can help you to take some of the guesswork out of betting on golf, as you are able to do some handicapping on the PGA as you would be able to do on sports such as football and basketball. If you are looking at these major tournaments you will be able to look at their past performance in the tournament for the past several years or however many years they have been playing in the tournament. Every player has their strengths and weaknesses and because these tournaments are held at the same courses each year, you are able to gain even better insight on their particular strengths and weaknesses on those specific courses. This allows you to have a better idea of who will place where in these tournaments because you have this history to go off of. At the same time, you are being subjective in your bets and you are not betting with your heart, but with the discipline it takes to do this type of research and make these types of good bets.

At the same time, you want to look at a golfer’s current history. How have they been playing in their past few games? If a golfer’s recent play has been poor, then you are not going to want to take a chance on them at a tournament. Because each game is dependent on a player’s individual abilities and not on his team’s abilities, as it is each for his own on the golf course and because of this, you are going to see more upsets in terms of golf tournament winners. And, with this in mind, you may even consider a field bet. The diversity of the players and their abilities often makes it difficult for you to choose and outright winner and in this situation you don’t want to forget about the matchup bet and how it may make it easier for you to make a bet on a particular tournament.

### You Have to Watch It to Bet It

You wouldn’t bet on football if you didn’t know how the game is played, who the good teams are and who the good players are. The same is true for golf and it becomes even easier each year as more and more golf is televised. The art of golf betting has become increasingly easier and more widespread because many national and international tournaments are being televised across the world. There are also a number of online gambling sites that are offering odds and spreads online for these tournaments because wagering on golf has become so popular.

By watching golf tournaments you are not only able to understand the game of golf better but to learn about the players and how the react to situations on the course. You are also able to learn about different courses and the areas that tend to cause the most problems to players.

### Know Your Courses

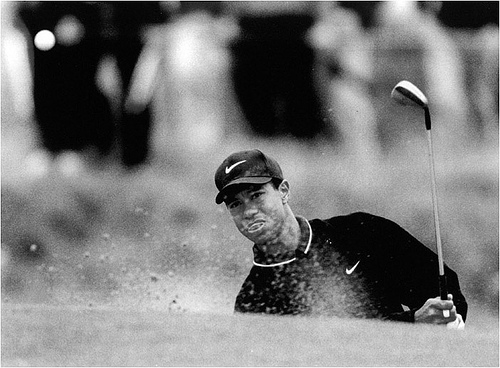
The most prestigious golfing tournaments are the four “Majors.” If you are already into golf then you already know this. These four tournaments are:

* U.S. Masters
* U.S. Open
* British Open
* U.S. PGA

These four are often noted as being the “Grand Slam” and Jack Nicklaus has the most major wins at 18. These four tournaments are the most popular when it comes to betting and they are all played on different courses. Even if there are the same contenders at these courses, the different courses make the game more challenging to bet on.

The British Open is played on firm sand-based turf and the main hazards on the course are the elements. In the U.S., the courses are different. The U.S. Open and the U.S. PGA have very rough and well-protected areas. As stated before, if a golfer doesn’t stay on the fairway then they are going to find themselves in trouble. The U.S. Masters is played on the same course each year. The Augusta National Club has almost no rough and the outcome of the tournament depends heavily on their putting skills and strategy.

#### Betting on the U.S. Masters

The U.S. Masters is held annually at the August National Club. The U.S. Masters Championship is an incredibly popular golfing event for players and bettors alike. Professional golf gamblers know that choosing their favorite player is not the way to go when it comes to the Masters. There are other criteria that you will need to consider and at the same time, you want to remember that there is always the chance for upsets.

When you are betting on the Masters it’s important to remember that each player is on their own in the Masters. Their performance can be affected by a number of different factors and there are always going to be surprises in the Masters. If you are considering waiting to see who wins the warm-up for the Masters, you are going to want to realize that that none of the winners of the warm-up have gone on to win the Masters in the same year they won the warm-up. Gamblers who are considering betting on the Masters can bet on a number of things such as who is going to win the entire tournament, the number of hole in ones and two ball matches. You may also bet on Bets to Place as well.

#### The U.S. Open

The U.S. Open is always riddled with excitement. There is often a favorites list that is worth checking and will allow you to see which players are expected to be successful. It is important to realize that a good performance last year does not necessarily mean that that player will be successful this year and you need to look at the player’s recent form in recent tournaments.

There are a whole range of opportunities for you to bet on when it comes to the U.S. Open. It is not unusual to see different odds and betting options with different sportsbooks and bookmakers. Two ball and three ball bets are very popular in the U.S. Open as well.

The U.S. Open is held on a variety of courses, which offers a greater challenge to golf gamblers. Unlike the Masters, which is held at the same course each year, you have to do some research on the course that the U.S. Open is being held at. This event is one of the most popular on the golfing calendar each year, simply because of the surprises that are to be found and the players are often under an unusual degree of mental pressure and is often held on a very challenging course.

#### The British Open

The British Open Consists of four days of stroke play golf. It also attracts some of the world’s best players, making it an exciting game to bet on. Previous winners of the British Open include Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Steve Ballesteros and Arnold Palmer. Your bets on the British Open are going to want to include a lot of research. You not only want to consider the player’s form, but you want to consider their performances on links courses. The ability to control the ball in strong winds is also going to be important, which means you are going to need to do some research on the players and the types of courses they usually play on and excel at. The weather conditions also tend to change over the four days of the tournament, which means you need to know how they react to changing weather conditions as well. The players who have been playing on well manicured courses for most of their life are going to be at a disadvantage. Those players who have played on rough links with a sea wind blowing in strong are going to react better to those conditions. This means that the British and Irish players usually have the advantage.

#### The U.S. PGA Championship

The U.S. PGA Championship can be a challenge to bet on. There are always surprises and the winner is often an unknown player. Are you thinking field bet? Well, you certainly should be, as there are often longshots who make their way up from the bottom. Because of the surprises, you will often find that checking form and things of that matter are not going to be something you want to spend a lot of time researching. Many people have commented that the reason for this is due to some of the major players consider this to be a minor Major and the big guys tend to not take the tournament not as seriously as they should.

On the flip side of things, the tournament can be very exciting for those people who have a wager on it. This also means that the tournament is also attractive to novice gamblers as they stand a better chance of winning.

#### The Ryder Cup

The Ryder Cup was not on our list of the four most popular tournaments, but I am including it here because it is a popular betting opportunity. The Ryder Cup is a three-day golf tournament that consists of team play between an American and European team. These two teams are made up of top golfers.

In this tournament, you do have the option of betting on individual players. The main thing you will want to do if you are is to research their form in previous tournaments. Betting on foursomes and four-ball matches are also popular and very challenging. These bets depend on the players who have been chosen for pairing and then how well they work together in the match.

Many sportsbooks and bookmakers will also offer you the chance to bet on the players who are qualifying for the Ryder Cup and you can do this well in advance. The Ryder Cup is held on alternate years so you are able to bet on the match well in advance, even the year before.

# Chapter 4

## The Basics of a Professional

Depend on the rabbit's foot if you will, but remember it didn't work for the rabbit.  ~R.E. Shay

Today’s professional golf gamblers are a unique breed of people. These people are not like anything you may have seen on television screaming at you about different picks you should take. No, in fact, they do the wide majority of their research on their own and if they do take the advice of others on picks, it is from people that they know and trust. That is why so many of my clients have stuck with me as long as they have.

The real professional gambler will spend plenty of time on their research as well. One of the worst things you can do as a gambler is bet with your heart. This is something that may sound redundant, but you can’t forget it. It is extremely important that you keep this at the forefront of your mind as you listen to commentators on the news and on the sports networks. It is very easy to be swayed by the comments of these individuals as they can be very influential. It is true that all great professional sports gamblers receive their information from somewhere, but there are very few who take those comments to heart and act on them. There are very few people who actually win when they listen to those people on the television. It’s also important to remember while you’re listening to these people that you remember they do not have any money on the game; like you will.

The average sports bettor is an uninformed individual. The professional sports bettor is an informed individual. The average bettor will bet only from emotion and intuition. This person does very little research and this is not who you will be as a professional golf gambler. You will be well informed and you will do a lot of research.

### Is There an Easier Way?

Many gamblers like the fact that they have a million different options to choose from when it comes to betting. The problem is that so many options also mean that you have that many more options to lose. Remember, you want to be in the 2% of winners and not that group of 98% losers. That means you need discipline and most importantly, you need focus.

Successful gamblers focus on one sport and one facet of the sport. As you have learned in this eBook, there are many methods for betting and winning, or losing, whichever way you want to look at it. But if you focus on one area you are able to increase your odds of winning and joining that elite 2% of people who are winning.