

Chip Ridley Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is one that involves as much Coaching as Teaching. I believe that the game is played on a field, a course, a court, just like most sports. How often does Roy Williams or Nick Saban refer to minute details for the reasons their team won National Championships, rather they talk about executing under pressure and sticking to certain principles that allow their teams to perform well. Golf is no different. Analytics and technique has dominated this sport for so long, allowing players to begin hitting shots on the range or in practice rounds but rarely being able to execute in crunch time, whether it be a club event, local event, amateur event, or major championship.

Coaching refers to getting students to understand what they do well, how they do it, and how to best trust their abilities under pressure. Coaching also refers to an understanding of the game itself. No team has won a championship without knowing how the game is played, an understanding of time and situation, or at the very least who their opponent is.

However, no one can play this game without proper fundamentals, a clear mind, and correct body mechanics. When it comes to the minutia of the game, body awareness, shaft lean, and science is what I teach the most. I try to get my students to play the game scientifically, from the green all the way back to the tee, rather than by art. Gone are the days where the swing must look a certain way to be effective. Just ask Bubba Watson or Dustin Johnson.

Athleticism, Confidence, and Commitment are the core of how I accomplish my philosophy. Take a player and get them to take proper fundamentals, swing athletically, have immense confidence in their abilities, and commit under any circumstances and Ill take that player against any carbon copy robot any day.