

Days of Thunder

Spring is here and the rumble of the thunder, the pellets of rain, and the 'whack' of a golf swing have arrived. This is when you and I meet. Our informal introduction begins today but will hopefully soon become a part of your reading plans in Fore Oklahoma. I am here to help take that 'whack' into a 'whoosh' specifically for the women and children. Spring days of thunder will not only come from the sky but hopefully will bring a new rumble to your game, one that will help you strike the ball like lightning.

Background facts: Shannon Dowdy; Female, 29; Graduate of Oral Roberts University Women's Golf Team '93-'96 with B.S. in Business and B.S. in Sports Management; began teaching private lessons in '98 and eventually found my way to the LPGA Teaching and Club Division Certification; Head Teaching Professional at Clary Fields Golf Club for 3 years, and at Tee Town Golf Ranch since November. My passion has been teaching private lessons to men, women and children. I am currently scheduled for 10+ clinics for adults and kids this summer and attempting LPGA Qualifying School this winter. You are welcome to call and seek advice on instruction or ask any questions that you may need answered.

Ladies and KIDS, that's right, you heard me. I'm here for you, to provide the best advice and pro tips you need for your specific needs. First the women, young, old, flexible or just plain stiff, you can play good golf; it's not an impossible task. My days of teaching have brought light that most women learn better when it's in a KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid). Yes, sure there are those who have advanced to a high level playing skills and can understand our golf pro jargon, but 90% of you ladies need it presented in small bite size tips that you can apply quickly. And how about those times when you are unsure of what to remember from your lesson, too much going inside your head, too many things to memorize? At times it seems overwhelming, but don't let that discourage you. We women have the tendency to worry for others, for the kids, for this and for that, but in golf just let it go. Apply one thing at a time and when you get that down, move onto the next. It would be just as if you are spring cleaning the house, finish dusting the blinds, then you can move onto the mantle. It's the same with golf. Learn one move at a time and then forget about it. We have smart muscles, that muscle memory will soon 'set' just like a good cake. I'm certainly not Martha Stewart, but I do find it's easier for you to understand golf if I relate part of it to our daily lives. So keep that tip close by your side and remember: one step at a time in learning the swing soon you will strike it like a pro.

Shannon Dowdy
LPGA Teaching Professional
918-698-2369 or call Clary Fields Golf Club / Tee Town Golf Ranch

Flip-Flops and Flares

KIDS? Are you out there? Do you also want to learn this game? It does not matter if you are you a good player already or someone who has never held a golf club, It's a fun game, ask mom or dad about it and that you would like to at least try it. There are three types of junior golf: Pee-Wee's (7 yrs and under) Juniors (8 to 12 yrs) and Teens. If you need to get involved in golf but unsure where to start, try a clinic first. To be around others also learning the game is fun and allows you to meet new friends. After a few good clinics you should be a good gauge whether your junior will like the game. Most clinics will be specific to age and level of play. They usually begin after school in May and last all summer. Even novice junior players can benefit from clinics as instructors review rules, etiquette and tricky shots that may be useful to your junior.

Whether you're a teenager and wear low riders, chinos, flares, or flip-flops, don't hesitate to still be you and play golf. Golf can be as fun as reading, sports, shopping or hanging out with the friends. If you would like to hit the driving range ask someone at the range to help you with the grip, stance and set-up so you can get on a good start. If you really had a good time and want to try it again, seek some professional help to speed up your learning and help make the game easier. Remember: You can be yourself without compromising your fashion, however you might try tennis shoes for your first time out, our golf fashion experts haven't made flip-flops with soft spikes yet. Maybe soon, get out there and try it this spring. Let me know how it goes, I look forward to seeing you on the tee.

Shannon D.