


Watch & Learn

RICKIE FOWLER'S one-of-a-kind swing is a lesson in the power of letting go *Analysis by Top 100 Teacher Dan Pasquariello*

RICKIE FOWLER



Born: 12/13/1988
 Anaheim, Calif.
Residence:
 Las Vegas, Nev.
Turned pro: 2009
World Ranking: 25
PGA Tour wins: 0
PGA Tour Top 10s: 9
Career earnings:
 \$3.4 million

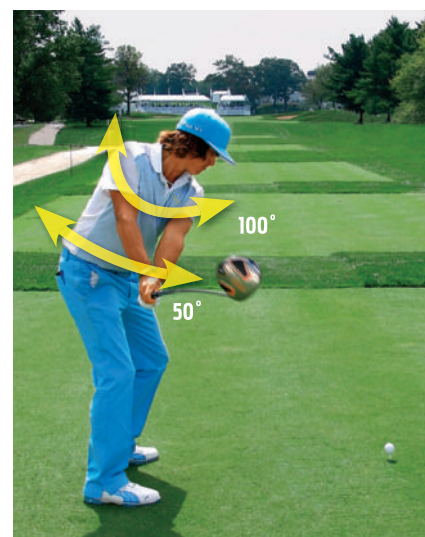


Rickie stands tall with a straight back (no bulges or curves) and a slight tilt from his hips. He looks like he can pounce in any direction with his weight evenly balanced.

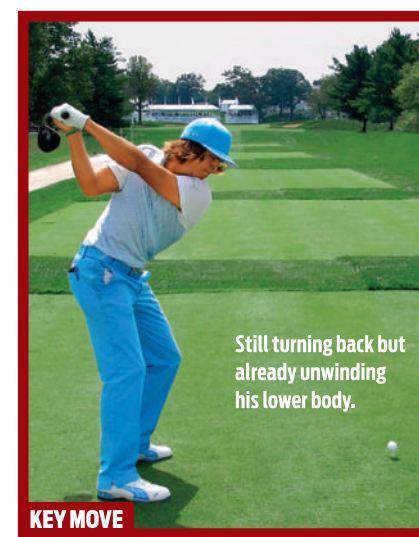


KEY MOVE

Fowler rotates his shoulders close to 100 degrees while turning his hips 50 degrees. You can also see that he has a good amount of knee turn. But even with all of this rotation, Fowler remains in complete control of the club. One of his best moves that you can copy is that he keeps the butt end of the club close to his right thigh, with the clubhead outside his hands.



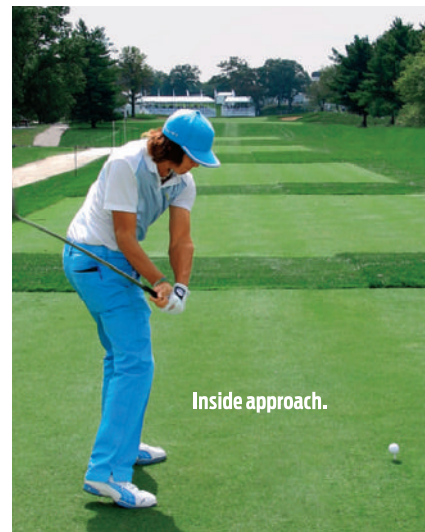
Fowler hinges his wrists fully. Doing this while continuing to turn his shoulders sets the club on a solid backswing plane. As he reaches the top you can see how he's turned his left shoulder all the way behind the ball. That's good, but what's more impressive is that he's already unwinding his lower body (check the gap between his knees).



KEY MOVE



Is this Rickie Fowler or Sergio Garcia in a wig? Just like El Niño, Fowler clears his left side from the ground up and drops the club into a shallow angle of approach.



Inside approach.

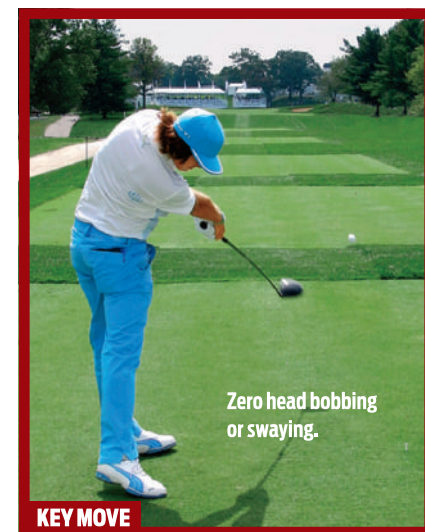
Because he maintains his spine angle and leads his downswing with the butt of the club, Fowler can swing into impact at full throttle without fear of cutting across the ball.



You want perfection? This is it. Fowler swings from the inside and then down the line better than anyone on Tour. His impact reminds me of a young Johnny Miller, who had a similar free-swinging approach. What's best about it is that it's happening at breakneck speed. No worries and no regrets. Sometimes it's helpful to throw caution to the wind and simply go after the ball.



KEY MOVE



KEY MOVE



Trace back over the last 10 frames and look at Fowler's head. Yes, that's a nice blue cap he has on, but notice how it hasn't moved out of position. It rotates a bit back and through, but it never bobs, ducks or weaves. It's steady, which creates a swing center that Fowler can turn back and through around without losing balance or falling off plane.



Take note of the high finish with the upper body turned completely toward the target, and the fact that his side bend matches his original spine angle. Perfection.

28'10"
 Fowler's average approach-shot proximity to the pin*

**From fairway lies; T5th on 2010 PGA Tour*