# FIRST SWING

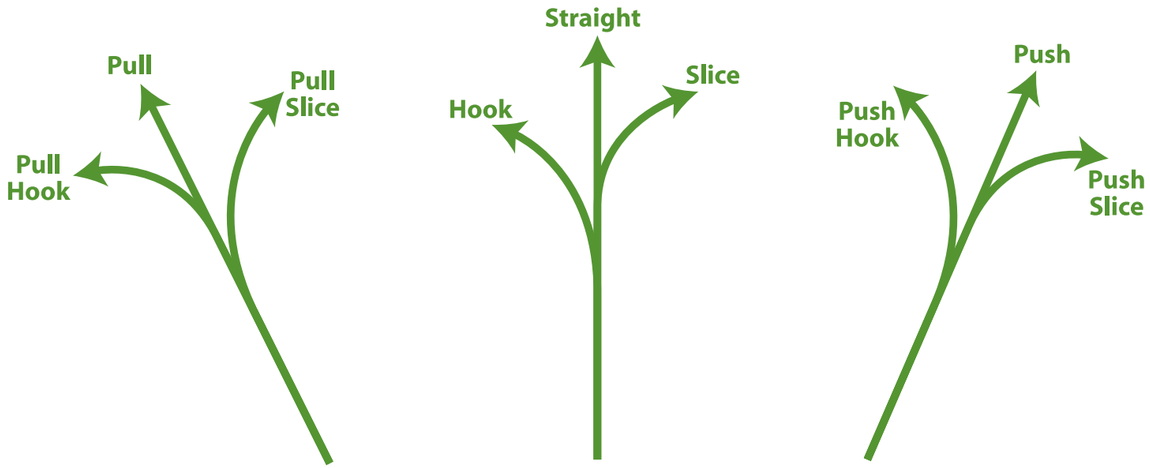
GOLFER'S GUIDE

CHAPTER 5

# Ball Flight Laws

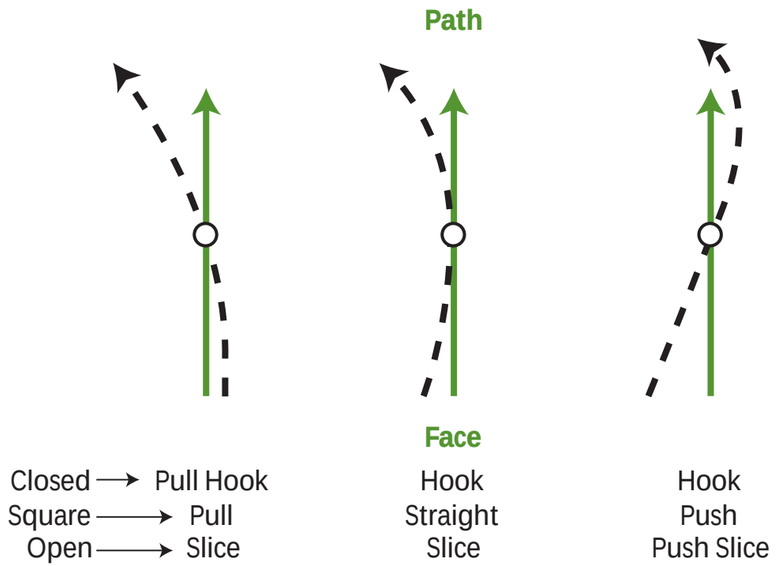
*Every golfer will find it helpful to know why the golf ball flies as it does. The ball flight laws are based on the principles of physics.*

Nine possible flight directions may occur. These directions are determined by the club path, clubface position and ball velocity. The ball may fly in three directions – right, straight or left – with three-clubface positions – open, square or closed. The combinations of these factors determine the initial direction and curvature of the ball in flight.




# Direction - The path of the swing

The direction of the ball's flight is caused by the direction of the club, with respect to the target line, as it moves through the ball. It's like throwing a ball at a target, the hand (in the case of a thrown ball) should point to the target at the release of the ball. The ball travels in the direction it is released. This concept applies to golf. For a right-handed golfer, if a shot goes to the left (a pull) the club was moving along a path that traveled to the left at impact. If the shot traveled right (push), the swing path was traveling right at impact.








# Curve - The position of the clubface at impact

The position of the clubface at impact determines whether the ball flies straight in the air. For a right-handed golfer, an open clubface produces a curve to the right (slice) and a closed clubface produces a shot that curves to the left (hook).