

Foreword

All the information, tips and pointers found in this book are things I have learned in 20 + years of competitive disc golf at many levels; from Amateur to Professional. Some of you may already know them, some you may not. Regardless, the aim of this blog is to help the reader become a better tournament disc golfer. Whatever your motivation, there are plenty of useful things in here. The key to all of them rests on your tournament *mindset*. My mindset for many years was not good. I was constantly angry and made life miserable for my competitors. Call it a character flaw; but over the years I have worked very hard to contain this side of my personality and have had some success. I am by no means a role model of any kind and I'm still struggling to keep the game in its proper context. It is my hope that the reader can learn from my mistakes and be a better disc golfer.

Winning Disc Golf, One Man's Observations

Disc golf is one of the most interesting and fun games ever created. Thousands of local and professional tournaments are held each year. Tens of thousands of people are lured to these events to test their skills against others. But what does it take to be successful? Raw skill? Hours of practice? Luck? The answer is not that simple. Many people have the raw skill but cannot translate it into good scores on tournament day. Others spend countless hours practicing only to see average to below average scores when the heat is on. Luck can only carry you so far, and certainly not through an entire round. So what can you do?

Practice is the first step to winning disc golf. Play as many rounds as you can. Very few can practice whenever they want, so put some thought into when you can practice.

So how do you practice? My opinion is to practice *playing* disc golf, not so much practicing driving or approaching (putting is another story). Obviously, if you're having trouble in these areas, then by all means practice them. If you are looking to improve your tourney results, try to play as many competitive events as you can. Pressure and nerves are the main opponents of any disc golfer. The best way to overcome these obstacles is to meet them head on. If you immerse yourself in competition it will eventually become second nature.

Putting is everything! Let me say that again, *putting is everything!* A good putt will overcome a bad drive or approach most of the time. Try to set aside 30 minutes a day for putting practice. There are many putting practice routines. I like to take 4 putters that are as close as possible to the main putter I use in competition and pick random spots from 20 to 50 feet and try to go through my competition routine with each putt. Obviously, it is difficult to make all 4 from the longer stations, so I like to count the putts I make as birdies and take all 4 putters to the spot of the miss that ended up furthest from the basket and pretend those are par putts. Each miss from that spot is a bogie. Try to eliminate bogies in the putting practice and it will translate to the course.

Early in my career I was plagued by birdie putts that turned into bogies because I was too aggressive. This is easily corrected. I developed an approach for fixing this by putting high and right and throwing just hard enough to get the disc to the basket. If you make it, great; if you miss, it usually stays close. This is not always

the case though. If you have a steep slope, it could roll, so pay attention to terrain. Obviously, this is not a technique used by the great putters of our day, they tend to be much more aggressive and direct. What my technique does is build your confidence by eliminating mistakes that come from overly aggressive putts. As your game progresses, along with your confidence, it will be easier to be more aggressive when putting.

The key is to make the time for putting practice. It is not that hard to arrive early for a round and spend 30 minutes putting. If you own a basket, practice in your yard. If possible, bring the basket into the house and work on short putts inside. Whatever the situation, be sure to make the time for putting practice. Remember the old golf adage, "Drive for show, and putt for dough!" Truer words have never been spoken.

It is also good to have a consistent putting routine. I'm sure almost every good player in the world has a pre-putt routine. It doesn't have to be anything special, it is simply something that will take your mind off of any pressure or jitters you may be feeling. Come up with a little phrase to remind yourself of keys to good putts that you can repeat to yourself before each putt such as, "Relaxed putts go in" or "Give it the effort it deserves". Whatever you come up with, stick with it and do not deviate regardless of the length or ease of the putt. *Never take a putt for granted.* I have seen numerous instances of players missing short putts because they did not give it the attention it deserves. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of putting. For all my successes, I could have been even more successful if I were a better putter. Good drives and upshots can mask an average putter, but sooner or later it will bite you in the butt. 30 minutes a day will make a big difference.

As I stated earlier, in order to get better in tourneys you need to practice as if you were in a tourney. Don't throw extra shots or take mulligan's if you are playing a casual round. When you arrive at the course, you have a decision to make. Ask yourself, "Do I play a complete round or do I practice certain holes that are giving me trouble and work on finding the correct discs to use on specific holes?" Generally, most players are playing with somebody else and they end up just playing the round without taking extra time to work on details. There is no substitute for quality practice time. Consider creating a practice schedule that may look something like this:

Monday – 1:00 pm – Practice putting at lunch (30 min)

5:30 pm - Play a detail oriented round alone. Work on trouble spots on the course and do not keep score. Mondays are good for by yourself rounds because most serious golfers do not seem to play on Mondays after work since they just played in a tourney the day or weekend before.

Tuesday - 1:00 pm – Practice putting at lunch (30 min)

5:30 pm - Play with friends competitively or in a singles or doubles league.

Wednesday – 1:00 pm – Practice putting at lunch (30 min)

5:30 pm - Practice if you like or just take an evening off.

Thursday - 1:00 pm – Practice putting at lunch (30 min)

5:30 pm - Play a competitive round at the course you may be playing on the weekend. Keep score but as you play consider alternate options on particularly troublesome holes.

Friday - 1:00 pm – Reward yourself with a good lunch, maybe Mexican or pizza (my faves).

5:30 pm - Return to the upcoming tourney course and play alone, working on the ideas you may have come up with on Thursday evening. Fridays are also a good night to play alone as most folks have plans on Friday nights with family or friends and will not want to play disc golf.

Saturday – Its go time. Relax, have fun, and know that the time you've spent during the week will pay off.

Sunday - Finish strong and collect your rewards for a good week of practice.

It is completely understandable if you are unable to practice putting during your lunch. It is also understandable that most of your free time could be dominated by family or other important aspects of life. If this is the case, try to set aside 30 minutes at home or before playing practice rounds. The repetition that putting practice affords will help you be more consistent in your release.

Ok, that all sounds good, right? But what if you didn't seem to notice any difference in your game? Nothing happens overnight, stick to your practice schedule and do not get discouraged. If you stick to a plan for getting better, you will improve.

Arguably the most important aspect of winning disc golf is your mindset. What are you thinking while you're playing? I have often felt like I could shave 5 strokes off of every round if I could just turn my brain off. This is impossible. No matter how hard you try, you are human and your brain does not have an on-off switch. So what do you do? For starters, do not take it too seriously; after all it's just a game. Intensity has its place at times but the more relaxed you are the better quality of shots you will produce. Have you ever noticed when you are practicing putting that your percentage of made putts is much higher than when you are in a competitive round? The reason is because when you are practicing you really don't worry about missing putts because you know it's just practice. The trick is to bring that mindset into your competitive rounds. While still giving maximum effort, you must find a way to be un-caring about mistakes and bad breaks that will always happen during a tourney round. Consider the -12 round you shot on Tuesday evening that turned into a -2 round on Saturday in the monthly tourney. The difference? On Tuesday you were relaxed and on Saturday you were worried about playing up to your potential. Trust me, if you can shoot -12 on Tuesday, you can shoot -12 on Saturday as well. The only difference is the word *tournament*. This word can spell doom for many good golfers. They heap loads of pressure on themselves and do not remember to relax and enjoy the round. Remember, disc golf is a fun sport and you have *fun* when you play it. If that were not the case, you would not be playing it. In order for your abilities to fully mature you must not leave the fun out. When the game becomes inordinately frustrating, take a week off and do something else. In my experience in ball golf, I usually play better after a long break because I tend to forget my bad habits. Keep the fun in the game and you will notice a difference.

During play, stay focused, and try to remember that you are doing this for enjoyment. Also remember that everyone you are competing against is going to have bad shots and bad holes as well. Rarely will a person

have a mistake free round, so don't be discouraged when bad things happen. The person who can best deal with adversity will be the one who will emerge on top. Let everyone else make mistakes and get mad. A lot of times, players will get mad because they know they can do better. The only way to see more good shots is to control your emotions on the course. Trust me, I have had some serious meltdowns in the past and after each one I have looked back and saw that I wasted multiple shots griping and complaining about a bad kick or spit out putt. Controlling your temper on the course is a must. Nothing good can come from kicking your bag or launching into a curse filled tirade. Once again, I must confess to the worst of temper driven offenses. It has only taken me 15 years or so to figure out that this is not the way to success! It also gives you a bad reputation and ruins everyone else's good time.

So, you're ready to head to the tourney. Preparation on tournament day is crucial as well. Carefully consider the weather before leaving home. If there is a chance of rain, bring the appropriate gear; umbrella, water-proof boots or socks, a hat, plastic bag for scorecards, Birdie Bag© or some comparable rosin bag, extra shirts and socks, plenty of towels, and anything else you may think of. If it's going to be hot, bring a cooler full of water; don't rely on free water at the tourney. If the course has few trees, consider an umbrella for shade. If it is cold bring cold weather gear such as an extra lightweight jacket or gloves and headgear. Hot Hands© are an excellent cold weather means of keeping your hands warm. Two packets placed inside a loose fitting, light weight glove will produce plenty of warmth for your hands. Do not underestimate the value of a warm throwing hand. In cold weather, it is also smart to wear several layers of loose fitting clothes such as Under Armour© (ok, I know Under Armour© is supposed to fit tight so just buy a size or two bigger) or Starter© brand long sleeve shirts and bottoms. This will allow for warmth as well as flexibility. This also comes from experience. I have competed in an annual winter points series in Virginia for years and have played in some brutally cold and snowy weather. Using the above described equipment, I have never been uncomfortable in those conditions.

Upon arrival at your tourney, take care of any registrations as quickly as possible. TD's love it when players pre-register and it makes more time for warming up. Don't forget the ace pool; you never know when good fortune will strike and if no one aces, it may come down to a CTP for the money.

Tourney warm-ups are very important; you don't want to be on the first tee without adequate time to loosen up. There are many different warm up routines and you are free to choose which ever you want, just make sure that you get at least 20 putts, 10 approaches and 10 drives. Start out with short putts to get the feel of making putts. You don't want to start out at 50 feet and miss every putt. This is not confidence inspiring. Make a few and then move back some. Also try to practice different types of putts such as straddle, turnovers and hyzers. You never know when the need for one of these putts will pop up during play. Most players rush out and start playing holes to warm up. This has its good and bad points. The good is you are usually with buddies and it is fun. It also may be that you want to get some last minute practice on a particularly testy hole. The bad can be this: how many times have you played a hole in warm ups and birdied it easily only to miss that hole in the round? This gets back to the putting mind game. In practice you are looser mentally because you know it doesn't count. When the horn blows to start the event, suddenly everything changes. One way I have found is to fix this is to find an open area and just warm up without actually playing any holes. If no open areas are available, consider warming up from the long tees or make up some new tee areas. The point is to get loose without wasting any good shots in warm-ups. If this approach seems superstitious to you then disregard it. I

have found however, that it seems to work for me. Regardless of which warm-up style you choose, make sure you get loose before the 2 minute warning. This is especially critical if the weather is cold. Your body will need more time to warm up.

“Two minutes!!!!” Once the tourney begins, try to focus on having fun. What is more fun than disc golf? Playing disc golf well. Some keys to playing well are:

1. Expect to encounter difficulty and set your mind to deal with trouble calmly. Say you start out pretty good with a couple of quick birdies. Immediately your mind will say “Oh yeah, it’s going to be a good day”. On the next tee, you inexplicably yank your drive deep into trouble. This is a big turning point in your round. How you deal with this will determine much about your final outcome. You look at the options from your lie and see two possibilities; a very tight forehand roller that, if thrown perfectly, will get you to the basket with a chance to save par. The other option is to pitch out a little backwards to a position in the fairway where an up and down will be pretty easy. Greed kills. Take the smart play and get the easy bogie. Obviously, the decision is yours and you will have to live with the results. Consider the odds of pulling off the roller. If it has to be a perfect shot, odds are you won’t pull it off. Now think about how mad you will be if you try the roller and it hits a limb that you did not see and you end up with a double bogie or worse. Both your early birdies are gone and you are not happy. Hang on to what you can and then begin the process of stacking up some more birdies. What you have to consider is, when you let go of the bad drive, you lost the ability to get a par, so take your medicine and move on.

2. Forget about your mistakes. Everyone you are competing against will make mistakes and they may not deal with it as well as you. Remember it is a long round and a long tournament. There will be momentum swings all over the place. Remain steady and remember that you are in the tournament for enjoyment, right? As I stated before, if you didn’t have fun playing disc golf you wouldn’t be playing; so enjoy it, smile, and let everyone else meltdown while you remain calm and gain strokes on them.

3. Don’t think about what the score is. Focus rather on making sure that a quality effort is put into each shot. If you get caught up in trying to keep up with the other scores in your group you will lose focus on *your* game. Don’t worry about where you stack up compared to your group or the field; know that in the end you will be fine if you cut down on distractions.

4. Be a good sport. Encourage your fellow golfers when they have a good shot and keep quiet when you mess up. I know the latter is hard to do; I have been the worst offender many times. Keeping a calm demeanor is such a key to shaving strokes that I cannot over-emphasize it. In order to be able to do this, *you must not care if you mess up*. Nobody’s perfect, we all make mistakes. Your mind has to be prepared for these instances so that you can respond to the foul up with the attitude of “Oh well, no big deal. I’ll just get it back on the next hole, and if I don’t, it’s all good; I’m playing disc golf on a beautiful course when I could be working, sick or stuck in traffic”.

5. Pay attention to what’s going on in your group. There are many instances where someone’s disc may land in an area in which a ruling may be needed and your opinion may be required. If you are not paying attention, someone may receive an incorrect ruling. I am fully aware that some may not want to watch their

opponent's shots so that they feel less pressure to match the shot if it's a good one. Understand that what they do is out of your hands. If they shank their drive, hit a tree, and kick back to the fairway there is nothing you can do about it. All you can do is give *your* shot the focus it deserves. While it's easy to feel like you are competing against them, in reality you are competing against the course (I know, that is so cliché). Regardless, it is true. Don't sweat what they do, take care of your own game and let the chips fall where they may.

6. Do your best and NEVER give up. No matter how bad things may get or how far behind you may *think* you are never quit on a round. Many times you may feel as though you are having a bad round when in reality, the course is whipping everybody. If you give up, you have no chance of salvaging the round. In the end you may find that if you had kept trying you could have finished much higher than you thought. I once came from 5 strokes back with 7 holes to play. Crazy things can happen, never give up!

7. Don't take unnecessary risks. Stick to your game plan. Don't try for tiny alleys that might result in a birdie when it is not a route that you have ever tried before. The purpose of the solo practice rounds is to create a plan for attacking the course. Don't let someone in your group influence you into trying a risky route just because they pulled it off. If you have decided to play it safe on a hole, stick to that plan. The reason you decided to play it safe in the first place is because after careful consideration you have decided that, for whatever reason, it fits your game. A game plan is useless and a waste of your practice time if you ignore it.

8. Pay attention where you walk. This may seem trivial to most but I believe it is another key to success. Usually, the ground is dry and this is a moot point but occasionally you have wet conditions where mud is everywhere. I am constantly amazed at the tracks I see in muddy areas where with just a little detour this can be avoided. Your feet are critical to your stability on the tee. No one wants to slip on a tee, so pay attention to your feet in bad weather. If the tees are natural, consider cleats. I know cleats are uncomfortable but I feel they are invaluable on natural turf. The proper choice of footwear is very important. Give it the attention it deserves.

9. Know how to handle long delays. Professional events can be crowded and very slow. Multiple group back-ups are common. In some instances, it can be 20 or 30 minutes between shots. If this is the case, you can lose focus. Usually, when a hole backs up it is because it is a hole that is long, blind, or very difficult. If it is a hole that might need a spotter to help speed play, take the initiative and go spot. When your time comes, you will be looser than your buds back on the tee, who have just been sitting there chatting and not keeping loose.

10. Be willing to adjust. As stated in #9, some events can be slow. A lot of people like to move at a fairly quick pace when they play. In pro events, this is generally not the case. You can have delays on every hole at times. Being able to adjust to any circumstance will help you overcome things that may drive others crazy. The bigger the event, the more time players will take in preparation for their next shot. Keep yourself focused on your objective. Think about your next shot or the disc you will be using. Don't fall into the impatience trap. Be cool. If you haven't figured it out by now, let me spell it out for you; **success comes from being mentally prepared for any circumstance no matter how unfair or stupid it may seem.** Tournaments are a war of attrition. You have to survive every pitfall and blunder that will come along, and believe me, they WILL come along. How you react to them is the key. Being mentally strong will make a huge difference in your final score.

When the round is over, make sure you check your score before leaving the group. Do not put your score in the hands of someone else because you are too lazy to check it. After all you have been through during the round; you owe it to yourself to make sure the score that is turned in is correct. No one wants a two stroke penalty. It is very easy to incorrectly add a scorecard, I know because I have handed out way too many penalty strokes over the years. Don't let this happen to you.

At lunch, don't overeat. I know that most of the time your breakfast is long gone by the time you finish your round and all you can think about is what you're going to eat. It doesn't take as much as you would think to provide plenty of energy for your next round. The last thing you need when you step up on the tee to start the second round is to feel bloated from too much lunch. When your body digests food it has to use energy and that takes away from your reserves. Consider high protein alternatives.

Warm-ups before the second round are just as crucial as before the morning round. Don't skimp just because you have already played a round and feel ready to go. Go through the same routine if at all possible. Careful consideration of your lunch timing is the best way to insure you have adequate time to warm up before the round starts. This means planning what you will eat and whether or not to bring your own lunch as opposed to going out to get something. Both are perfectly reasonable options but remember if you go with someone else, you are at their mercy. Once at a tourney in Charlotte, some friends and I went to McDonalds® for lunch. Everything was fine and we were right on schedule when I noticed a big problem....my keys were locked in my car! If I were alone, it would have been just my problem but since I had others with me it was now their problem too! I had jeopardized everyone's tournament and if we couldn't get back in time, we all would be DQ'd. I ran from store to store looking for a clothes hanger. I finally found one and when we got back to the tourney we arrived just minutes before the two minute warning. Everyone made it to their hole but had no time for any practice. Granted, this is not very common but it can happen, so plan your lunch beforehand.

The last round of a tourney, be it the second, third, or fourth is a very important round. You want to finish strong but so many times it seems like it goes the other way. Here again we get back to the mindset. Desire is a difficult emotion to contain. We want to do well and that desire can add undue pressure. Leading up to the event, you have spent hours practicing (hopefully) and have a good idea of what it will take to succeed. Now, you have to be confident in your abilities. If you had no ability you would probably not be in the tourney. You have ability, you know how to play smart, and you are in control of your emotions; now just go out and have fun. Do your best, remember all the things you have learned in your practice sessions and mental preparations, and know that your ability will shine through if you simply relax and enjoy the day. Don't get caught up in the "I'm in the lead group, I've got to do well or I'll look like a loser" philosophy. Embrace the moment and enjoy the fact that you have a chance to win. I am well aware that a person's first time in a lead group situation is a little different. I am also aware of how a person's game can suddenly and completely fall apart in that situation. You have to remember that you have *earned* the right to play among the leaders. Now go out and show your stuff! If the bottom falls out, remain calm. It is so easy to give up hope when unexplainable shots come out of your hand. It also may seem like the roll-away's and spit outs will never end but don't give up hope! Remember tip #6, **Do your best and NEVER give up**. Mindset, mindset, mindset! You cannot care if bad things happen. This is so crucial to pulling yourself out of a hole. A positive attitude in the face of extreme duress will pay huge

dividends, maybe not as often as you would like, but it will pay off. Regardless of the outcome, the experience of being there is worth the time you put in practicing and if you can do it once, you can do it again.

Playoffs

The scores are in. You are in a playoff. This can be a very stressful thing. Don't let it be; embrace it. You have played well enough to get in the playoff; there is no reason why that good play will not continue. Even if you crumbled a little down the stretch and let someone back in, be confident that the overall body of work you put in will carry you through. Many people think that the momentum of the last few holes or the lack thereof will carry over into the playoff. Don't fall for that. Playoffs are your chance to shine. When the teeing order is determined, always tee first if possible. Take the initiative and put the pressure squarely on your opponent(s). Many times one good drive is all you need to win. If you lace a clean drive down the fairway and put yourself in good position for either a birdie or an easy approach, your rival will tense up a little. Playoffs are essentially match play, so try to keep the pressure on. If the roles are reversed and you tee last, be confident regardless of what your opponent may do. Remind yourself that it wasn't luck that got you there, it was skill. What can be more fun than having a chance to win! All your practice, thought, and preparation will make the difference.

When all is said and done and the awards have been presented, take time to review with pen and paper. Write down your scores on each hole and take notes on positive and negative aspects of your tourney. Looking back is a great way to plan for the future. Learn from your mistakes. Build on your successes. When the tourney results are posted online; look at each division's results not just your own. See how other people fared. You may find that you played better than you thought. Compare your score to the top division. This will give you some idea of where you stand as far as your goals are concerned. And don't be afraid to set some lofty goals.

Outside the ropes

Playing disc golf is one thing, being a respected member of the disc golf community is another. If you love the game, give something back. Be involved in your local club, show up at work days and club meetings, and help out when you can.

Simple tips

Don't hyzer putt at a basket on a downhill lie. Roll-aways are very common. Try to match the angle of the ground.

Low putts almost always roll away. Make sure your putt is high enough to clear the rim.

Headwinds will turn a disc over.

Tailwinds will make a disc fly more stable.

Uphill shots will fly more stable.

Downhill shots will fly less stable.

Learn to drive short holes with a putter. Putters are easier to control once you learn how to throw them and in many instances will go farther than you may think.

Keep your pockets empty. There is no need to have change and keys clanging around when you're throwing.

Leave your phone in the car or keep it on silent. This will eliminate distractions and possible courtesy violations.

Tips for tournament directors

The sponsorship drive for any event needs to begin at least 2 months before the event (some tournaments begin their sponsorship drive immediately after the previous year's event ends). Organize your club or group to determine what local businesses may potentially profit from the out-of-towners that will come to your event. Consider local disc distributors and retailers, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, etc. Your local chamber of commerce would be another good contact to make as they are very interested in events that bring tourism to the area. Also encourage club members to approach their employers for possible sponsorships.

Sponsorships are a key to running a successful event which will help bring competitors back next year. If you can cover all tournament expenses with sponsorship cash, you can give 100% of the entry fees back in the payout (which players really like). Try to convince your potential sponsors that added cash to the purse will increase the attendance. Tracking down potential sponsors can be a full time job so create a sponsorship team to organize sponsorship efforts and schedule days and times to approach potential sponsors.

Checklist for TD's

1. Determine date of event. Look closely at the PDGA schedule and eliminate potential conflicts with tournaments already scheduled. Also check your local and regional schedule for conflicts. Don't forget any personal commitments as well.
2. Make contact with the park or private owner to confirm the dates and availability of the venue.
3. Once a date is set, fill out and turn in PDGA sanctioning agreement. Send check for sanctioning to PDGA.
4. Decide on players packs (discs, shirts etc.). Always do this at least 3 weeks from the event to allow plenty of time for custom disc stamping, shirt embossing and such.
5. Order trophies as soon as possible. Some divisions may or may not be available depending on the number of potential participants. Don't forget that trophies can be recycled. If you buy a trophy for a division that does not materialize, remove the plaque and have a new plaque engraved for next year.
6. Be sure to order discs for Am payout and club fundraising. This should also be done at least 3 weeks out.
7. Make sure you have plenty of scorecards and scoreboard cards and any other printing you may need such as player info sheets, course maps and hole positions used in the event.
8. Purchase an air horn for two minute warnings, round starts and weather alerts.
9. Consider any weather related needs such as water for the players on the course, etc.
10. Have plenty of Sharpies® on hand. Also have plastic Ziploc® baggies for player scorecards and CTP's. Also get some small flags to mark any temp tees, bee's nests, drop zones, areas of relief or anything else applicable.

11. Encourage pre-registration. Try to find a sponsor who will donate some prize for pre-registering. Having your field set before the start is a great advantage to a TD because you can have your payout completed before anyone throws a shot. Obviously, this doesn't happen very often but any pre-registrations will at least save you time on Saturday morning.
12. Take the time to write out your player's meeting thoughts. It is easy to assume that you know everything you should say but regardless of how good your memory is something will be forgotten. If you have a sheet in front of you, chances are you won't forget anything.
13. Set your schedule and stick to it. If you want to have a player's meeting at 9:30, make sure you have closed late registration by 9:00. This will give you 30 minutes to handle anything that might come up. Be sure to use the air horn to get player's attention when you are ready to have the player's meeting. The only person who can keep the tourney on schedule is YOU. Budget your time beforehand and set your tourney schedule based on plenty of thought. Player's love a tourney that is on schedule. No one likes to wait around for a TD who is wasting time with trivial stuff that should have been dealt with earlier.
14. Know your weather. Be aware of any weather related problems that might pop up.
15. In between rounds can be a very critical time. If it is a one day tourney, this is the time to get your payout calculated. Have an assistant who is willing to handle scoring so you can focus on payout. Don't expect to have a good lunch because time is pressing. Hopefully, someone will have mercy on you and get you something to eat.
16. Calculating payout is not as hard as people think. First you must count competitors per division. Example: 10 players in Pro Open paid \$50 each. $50 \times 10 = 500$. Subtract any fees from the 500 or add any added cash set aside for that division. Take that total to the PDGA payout calculating sheet and do the math. If you have a laptop, you can enter the numbers into the PDGA report form and it will calculate the payout for you. Whatever method you use be sure to double check your results for accuracy.
17. Post your payout for viewing by competitors. Payout needs to be posted before the second round in a two round event or before the third round in a two day event. Be sure to post it where it can be easily seen and be sure that it is written clearly if printing is not available.
18. Scoring is the most important aspect of directing a tournament. Be sure to check every scorecard for accuracy. Ask for volunteers to help with this. Be careful to correctly log scores on the right person's scoreboard card. This may seem like a dumb thing to point out but this mistake happens a lot. Double check all math. Sometimes it is easy to fly through what may seem like easy math because you are in a hurry. Make sure all scores are added and posted correctly. It is embarrassing for a player to come up to you and say, "Hey, my score is wrong". Scoring is not algebra so get it right the first time.
19. Paying out prizes is the grand finale of your event. Do not get in a hurry organizing payout. If you spent your time wisely between rounds, you have your numbers in hand. Now collect your discs and organize the stacks for each place paid out in each division. Vouchers are a great way to speed up payout but it will require you to hang around later and help folks get what they want. Pros are paid in cash so organize your cash or write out checks. Don't forget about ties. Reconcile all ties before you finalize payout. Ties for first place will require a playoff. Ties in any other spot will split the available prizes evenly between all tied competitors. Do not allow playoffs for any positions except first place. If two guys tie for third and they want a playoff to decide who gets what, let them do that after the event is over. Don't get in a hurry handing out prizes; mistakes here will cause big problems. Consider this scenario: You give out the wrong prize to the wrong finisher. He gets in his car and leaves. Three

positions later you discover your mistake. Player 1 is gone and Player 2 is looking to you to make it right. Many times TD's in this position will give out extra prizes to fix the problem. This usually works but it also causes your club to give out more discs or merchandise than they needed to. Always have a hard copy of all divisions and their payout handy. If you get in a hurry, it is easy to make mistakes. Be very organized and mistakes will be minimized.

20. Don't delay in turning in your scores for online posting. Players love to be able to see their results online as soon as possible.
21. Don't put off finishing the PDGA report form. Do it that night if at all possible. The longer you put it off, the harder it will be to remember details.

Wow, that's a lot of information to digest. This is by no means all the things that a TD needs to know but it is a great place to start.