

COLUMN

Golf and Family Life

Compleat Golfer's playing editor is South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen. Apart from providing regular instruction, his monthly column takes you into his world

Balancing life on tour with a young family isn't the easiest thing to do and that's why 2016 has already been different to 2015 and previous years.

Things are really starting to get busy after I opened my season at the Qatar Masters, before playing in the Dubai Desert Classic. This is where things get a little tough off the course.

I'm a real family man and enjoy my time with the family unit. My wife, Nel-Mare, and I have been married for nine years and we have three beautiful daughters. We used to all go on tour together, and this was still the case until August last year. My little one Jana - OK, I suppose I should say she's the 'big one' - started

school in August, so this year it will be a bit different and I'm going to be alone for most of the time.

It's going to be more difficult doing a lot of tournaments in a row. It looks like I'm going to be on my own four weeks out of five, and basically see the family just the one week. I did get a chance to go back to the States from Dubai for five or six days, before I travelled to Malaysia for the Maybank Championship at Royal Selangor. Then it was down to Perth for my first trip to Australia.

There will be weeks when we'll probably take Jana out of school to be with me when I'm travelling and playing. The other two are fine to travel and they aren't in

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the school system yet, but we'll see how it goes. They're still young and adaptable so we'll see if home schooling is an option.

The girls do recognise me on TV when I'm playing and they're at 'home' in the States, but I don't really think golf is their 'go-to' channel! I don't think it's one of the things they watch! But generally, they do their own thing and keep themselves busy. Luckily, they still miss me when I go away and I chat to them every night via Skype. And the oldest one wants to FaceTime me all the time ... it's good to know they want to talk to me at least. ☺



BUNKER PLAY – UPHILL LIE

When you are faced with an uphill lie, it's the same principle as the downhill. On this occasion everything is going to be on your right side. Your weight is going to be on your right side, while your shoulders are going to be pretty level with the bunker sand again. Loft is a big thing here, so the ball is going to pop up in the air. I'm going to take my 54-degree, not my 60. I'm not going to open it that much, because it's going to come out high and the big thing here is that the shoulders are even more important than on a downhill lie. If you're too square in your shoulders, it's going to dig in and you're going to have so much sand to work with - you'll have to hit it so hard just to get it out! So you definitely want your shoulders to be pretty level [parallel] with the ground.