



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

July 11, 2014

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[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

TO: Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrators and Head Coaches of NCAA Institutions that Sponsor Division III Men's and Women's Golf.

FROM: NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Golf Committees.

SUBJECT: Groove Condition.

The Division III Men's and Women's Golf Championships will adopt, as a Condition of Competition, the Groove and Punch Mark Specifications which were included in the USGA Rules of Golf effective from January 1, 2010. The details of this Condition can be found in Decision 4-1/1 of the 2012-2015 Decisions on the rules of Golf. The NCAA recommends that all Division III regular-season tournaments and conference championships adopt this Condition beginning August 1, 2014.

The Rules of Golf require that all new models of clubs manufactured on or after January 1, 2010 must conform to the new groove specifications. Among other things, these specifications reduce the maximum volume of the grooves on irons, wedges, hybrids and fairway woods. The specifications also place a limitation on the sharpness of groove edges on irons, wedges, hybrids and fairway woods with 25 degrees of loft or higher. This was done in order to reduce the spin applied to the ball under certain situations, primarily when a player is playing from the rough. The major professional tours have used this Condition since it was available, in 2010.

Players are responsible for ensuring that clubs conform to the Rules of Golf, including all applicable conditions of competition. Players, therefore, should take care to ensure that any clubs carried during a stipulated round meet the rules requirements in effect for competition. Moreover, it is strongly recommended that any questions regarding compliance with the New Groove Rules be resolved by the player in advance of competition; onsite testing may be available at the NCAA championships. A player in doubt as to whether their clubs conform to this Condition may go online to [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org), Equipment, Conforming Club and Ball List, and Informational Club Database. This database lists models of clubs that were available prior to 2010 (including some models that changed their

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grooves specifications for 2010) and the result of the USGA testing. For newer models or clubs not found on the list, the player should contact USGA Equipment Standards for further information at 908/234-2300. The list is available at the following link: <http://www.usga.org/InfoClubsDB/intro.html>

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