



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

December 1, 2013

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TO: Director of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrators and Head Coaches of Institutions Sponsoring NCAA Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Golf.

FROM: NCAA Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Golf Committees.

SUBJECT: Groove Condition.

The 2014 Divisions I, II and 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 will also recommend that all regular season tournaments and conference championships adopt this Condition beginning January 1, 2014. This January 1 timeline is recommended by the United States Golf Association for the highest level of amateur golf. The adoption of this Condition for all NCAA Divisions, at one time, will promote consistency among the college ranks.

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.

A player in doubt as to whether their clubs conform to this Condition may go online to 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 groove 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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