



IGU GUIDELINES ON THE NEW GROOVE RULES EFFECTIVE 1ST JAN 2014

PREAMBLE

Effective 1 January 2010, there were revisions to golf's equipment Rules, which were designed to enhance the benefits of accuracy by making playing from the rough a more challenging prospect in future. The new Rules, which relate to club face grooves, were the culmination of an extensive collaborative research project between The R&A and the United States Golf Association. Research had showed that modern groove configurations allowed players to generate as much spin from the rough as from the fairway, resulting in a reduction in the value of accuracy.

The revised Rules were designed to increase the spin differential between shots from the fairway and shots from the rough, by limiting groove volume and groove edge sharpness. All of the existing limitations on grooves remain in place.

The rule limiting groove volume is applied to all clubs (excluding drivers and putters). The limit on groove edge sharpness is applied to clubs with loft greater than or equal to 25 degrees (generally a standard 5-iron and above).

The Rules apply to all new models of clubs manufactured after 1 January 2010. Models manufactured prior to this date, which meet the pre-2010 regulations, will continue to be regarded as conforming under the Rules of Golf until at least 2024.

The new Rules were introduced as a Condition of Competition at top professional level from 1 January 2010.

Decision 4-1/1 of *Decisions on the Rule of Golf* says that, from 1 January 2014, the condition requiring players to use clubs which conform to the 2010 groove and punch mark specifications may be adopted at competitions involving the highest level of amateur golf. Up until now, this condition has only been in effect at the elite level of the professional game and The R&A has taken the decision to adopt the condition at all of its Championships from 2014, including all amateur Championships and all qualifying events.



IGU EVENTS

In India, the IGU has introduced such a Condition of Competition at its events **for GENTLEMEN only** from 1st January 2014 onwards. Any other category of golfers wishing to play in such events must also use Golf Clubs which meet the Condition.

The Condition of Competition to be introduced into the IGU Hard Card is on page 7 of this document.

CLUB EVENTS IN INDIA

All clubs are advised that they may permit the use of pre 2010 models in their Club events upto year 2024

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- The new 2010 specifications do not apply to clubs which were in production prior to 2010.
- Pre-2010 models, which conform to the pre-2010 Rules, will continue to conform to the Rules of Golf until at least 2024 for the vast majority of golfers.
- For full information on the new specifications and guidance on the recommended use of the Groove and Punch Mark Condition, please visit www.randa.org
- Players should check with the Committee in charge of any competition they are entering to ascertain whether the Groove and Punch mark Condition has been adopted.
- For the avoidance of any doubt, clubs that were in production prior to 1 January 2010 can continue to be produced and sold by manufacturers until 31 December 2010 and can be sold by retailers until their inventory is depleted. This is regardless of whether these models meet the new 2010 specifications. However, all new models of clubs planned for production on or after 1 January 2010 must conform to the new specifications.
- Do note that new models of clubs submitted to the governing bodies on or after 1 January 2010 are not included in the database and such clubs are required to meet the 2010 groove specifications by the Rules of Golf. If a player has a new model of club which was manufactured after 1 January 2010, but would like some reassurance that it does meet the new specifications, he/she should be advised to contact The R&A's Equipment Standards department (see details below).



- Those wishing to check if their Clubs meet the 2010 specifications or not, can visit the R&A website by using the link <http://www.randa.org/en/Equipment/Equipment-Search/Informational-Clubs.aspx>
- Guidance on how to interpret the search results and other general information can be found at the following link: <http://www.randa.org/en/Equipment/Equipment-Search/Informational-Clubs/Groove-Rules-Explained.aspx>

The informational club database is not a fully comprehensive list of clubs and there are models of clubs which are not included, because either they have not been submitted for evaluation or they have not yet been evaluated against the 2010 specifications. The database should only be used a reference tool.

VERIFICATION WITH R&A & IGU

The R&A's Equipment Standards department and the IGU will be available to answer any questions individual players might have on this issue - particularly if a certain club does not appear on the database or if it is listed as 'ATR' (Additional Testing Required). In such cases, players are encouraged to complete and return the form in page 5 of this document as soon as possible and a member of the R&A's Equipment Standards staff will respond. Please remember, the new Rules do not apply to drivers and putters.

The IGU strongly recommends that all players looking to participate in the GENTLEMEN tour throughout the 2013 season seek to verify the status of their clubs against the condition, in preparation for 2014.



SUMMARY

A summary of this phased introduction – and how it affects each category of golfer – is included below:

Date	Change	Effecting...
1 Jan 2010	New specifications introduced on club face markings.	All new models of clubs launched after 1 January 2010. Existing models of clubs will continue to conform to the Rules of Golf.
1 Jan 2010	Condition of Competition will be available to Committees requiring players to use clubs with markings which conform to the new specifications.	Strongly recommended that this Condition should be introduced only on the major Professional Tours. All other golfers, playing in competitions where this condition has not been introduced, can and should be permitted to continue to use old model clubs which do not satisfy the new specifications.
1 Jan 2014	Condition of Competition will continue to be available to Committees.	Strongly recommended that this Condition should be extended only to lower level Professional events and elite level amateur events. Club level golfers can and should be permitted to continue to use old model clubs, which do not satisfy the new specifications.
1 Jan 2024	Earliest date that the Rules will be applied to clubs manufactured prior to 2010. This date will be reviewed in 2020 and may be extended.	All players, all abilities, all forms of play.

CLUB INFORMATION FORM

Please complete this form and return to the following address if you are in any doubt as to whether your clubs meet the 2010 Groove Rules:

Claire Bates – clairebates@randa.org & Ajay Singh – ajay.singh@indiangolfunion.org

On receipt of this form, you will be contacted with information and/or advice.

Name:	
Email address:	
Phone number:	
Championship being entered:	
Qualifying event:	

FAIRWAY WOODS / HYBRIDS

Manufacturer Name	Model (use markings on head)	Loft	Year of manufacture	Database Status (Circle as applicable)	
				ATR	Not listed
				ATR	Not listed
				ATR	Not listed
				ATR	Not listed

IRON SETS / ODD IRONS

Manufacturer Name	Model (use markings on head)	Clubs	Year of manufacture	Database Status (Circle as applicable)	
				ATR	Not listed
				ATR	Not listed
				ATR	Not listed

WEDGES

Manufacturer Name	Model (use markings on head)	Lofts/ Bounces	Year of manufacture	Database Status (Circle as applicable)	
				ATR	Not listed
				ATR	Not listed
				ATR	Not listed
				ATR	Not listed



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Issued by:

The Chairman- Technical, Rules & Amateur Status Committee
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New Delhi, INDIA

Date:1st September,2013



CONDITION OF COMPETITION TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE IGU HARD CARD EFFECTIVE 1ST JANUARY 2014

Section A – 1 . (a) Groove & Punch Mark Specifications

The players clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the rules of Golf that are effective from 1st January, 2010.

***PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF CONDITION:**

Match Play- At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which the breach occurred; maximum deduction per round-Two Holes

Stroke Play- Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – Four strokes.

Match play or stroke play – If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the next hole, and the penalty must be applied accordingly.

*Any club or club carried in breach of this condition must be declared out of play by the player to his opponent in match play or his marker or fellow-competitor in stroke play immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, he is disqualified.

PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF CONDITION:

Disqualification.