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Memo

To: Member States, Member Clubs, PGA of Australia, PGA Tour of Australasia, GMA
c.c.: Rules of Golf & Amateur Status Committee, Board, Media
From: Simon Magdulski
Date: 9 November 2007
Subject: Advice re New Regulations Governing Driving Clubs

With the 1st of January 2008 now very nearly upon us, Golf Australia wishes to again remind golfers, golf clubs, golf associations, club distributors, and retail outlets that they should continue to plan for the full introduction of the new Rule relating to drivers. First promoted and reported in Australia in 2003, this Rule will limit the spring-like effect a driver may exhibit.

The new regulation states that driving clubs with a loft of 15 degrees or less must not have a characteristic time greater than 257 microseconds when measured on pendulum testing apparatus approved by R&A Rules Limited (the penalty for use of these drivers is disqualification). The new regulation will apply to ALL levels of golf from the 1st of January 2008.

A list of clubs known to have a characteristic time greater than 257 microseconds can be found on The R&A website (this can be accessed via the following Golf Australia webpage – <http://www.golfaustralia.org.au/default.aspx?s=newsdisplay&id=67078>). If a club is not included on the List of Non-Conforming Drivers, it should be considered to be conforming unless there is very strong evidence to the contrary. There is also a separate List of Conforming Driver Heads which may help in determining the status of a driver but only committees conducting elite competitions should refer to this in their competition conditions.

If the only concern about a club's status is; (a) that it is a copy club, and (b) that the manufacturer is unknown, then the club should be considered to be conforming although reasonable investigative attempts should be made to determine its status. 'Very strong evidence' is considered to be; claims being made by the manufacturer, the markings on the clubhead, etc.

In formulating procedures for rolling-out and administering the new regulation, committees should bear in mind that golf is essentially a self-regulatory game. Just as it is left to the individual competitor themselves (in all levels of competition) to ensure they have a conforming golf ball and only 14 clubs in their bag, so it is each individual golfer's responsibility to ensure they have a conforming driver. Whilst committees are encouraged to provide a service to their members by publicising the new regulation as widely as possible (through notice boards, newsletters, email bulletins, proactive offers of assistance from the golf shop staff, etc), Golf Australia does not encourage committees to go to the extent of checking players' clubs on starting tees.

Please contact your state association or Golf Australia for further information.

Kind regards,

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