

United States Golf Association
PO Box 708, 77 Liberty Corner Rd., Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708
T 908.234.2300 F 908.234.9687



November 28, 2012

Dear Golf Association Leader:

The USGA cherishes its strong relationship with state and regional golf associations across the United States. We are honored to have worked closely with you over many years to lead the game toward a sustainable future.

Because of our enduring and impactful partnership – and recognizing the critical role that you play with golfers all across the country – we want you to be among the first to know about an important announcement. This morning, together with The R&A, the USGA is proposing a change to the Rules of Golf for players at all levels of the game that would disallow direct or indirect anchoring of the club in making a stroke with any club from any location on the golf course.

The proposed Rule 14-1b would prohibit strokes made with the club or a hand gripping the club intentionally held directly against the player's body, or with a forearm intentionally held against the body to establish an anchor point that indirectly anchors the club.

The proposed Rule would not alter current equipment standards and would allow the continued use of all conforming golf clubs, including belly-length and long putters, provided such clubs are used in a non-anchored manner. The Rule would target only a few types of strokes in which the club is anchored, while preserving the golfer's ability to play a wide variety of strokes in his or her individual style.

Throughout the game's 600-year history, the essence of the golf stroke has been to grip the club with the hands and swing it freely at the ball. This Rule change is being proposed to preserve the fundamental challenge that makes golf a unique competitive sport.

The proposed Rule change would take effect on January 1, 2016, at the start of the next four-year cycle for revisions to the Rules of Golf. This timetable provides an extended period during which golfers currently using an anchored stroke may adapt their method of stroke, if necessary, to conform to the requirements of the new Rule.

We are proposing to take action now in response to the recent upsurge in the use of anchored strokes at all levels of the game. We believe that the proposed Rule is necessary to protect the essential nature of the golf swing and to fulfill our fundamental responsibility to the game.

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The proposed Rule is the culmination of a review process that began in early 2012, and it reflects the strong consensus of our leadership and the Rules of Golf Committee. Given the high level of public discussion and interest in this issue, we are announcing the proposed change in advance of final action by the Executive Committee, which is expected to occur in early 2013. Between now and then, we will explain our rationale for the Rule and its application, answer questions and solicit feedback on the proposal from the golf community.

Recognizing that you will likely receive questions from golfers, we have developed videos, images, graphics and other materials that are available at www.usga.org/anchoring to help you and the players you serve become more familiar with the specifics of the proposed Rule. We have also provided an opportunity to offer written questions or comments on the proposed change, and we encourage you to direct golfers to this feature as well.

I would also like to suggest that you visit the USGA's InfoPortal and our *News Share* service, where you can download materials related to the proposed Rule change for use in electronic or printed communications with your members. If you have not used the *News Share* service, or have questions regarding it, please contact your respective USGA Regional Affairs Director for assistance.

Thank you for your dedication and support as we continue to serve all golfers around the world and work to secure the health and traditions of the game for current players and for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glen D. Nager". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Glen D. Nager
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "M" and "D".

Mike Davis
Executive Director