

PGA MEMORANDUM

ACTION

To: PGA Board of Directors
From: Championship Department
Date: January 5, 2009
Subject: NEW GROOVE REGULATIONS

The USGA recently announced (August 5, 2008 - attached) the implementation of new regulations governing the cross sectional area/spacing and the edge radius of grooves on all clubs except drivers. These new groove rules become effective for all new clubs covered by this rule change that are manufactured on or after January 1, 2010.

A condition of competition requiring the use of clubs that conform to the new groove rules for competitions conducted after January 1, 2010 will be added to the USGA Rules of Golf.

The USGA recommends that this condition initially apply only to competitions involving expert professional players at the highest level of competition.

It is therefore expected that the condition of competition will be adopted at all PGA Tour, Nationwide Tour, LPGA Tour, European Tour and Champions Tour events starting in 2010. Note: the Q school in 2009 will not adopt the condition but it is likely all open qualifying rounds and possibly pre-qualifying Section events into qualifying events for Tour events will likely be adopting the condition of competition.

The USGA has stated that they will adopt the condition of competition for their US Open, US Senior Open and US Women's Open (including all qualifying events into such) but not in any of their National Amateur events. The USGA is also recommending that the condition not be adopted at any other events where expert professional players are not exclusively involved.

Based on this, it would be our recommendation that the PGA of America adopt this same condition of competition for our PGA Championship, Senior PGA Championship, Grand Slam of Golf and Ryder Cup in 2010 and beyond but **do not** employ the condition of competition for any of our other PGA member National Championships, PGA Cup or any of our amateur/junior events at this time. Note that the qualifying for the PGA and Senior PGA Championships start in 2009 at which point the condition of competition will not yet be available for use. Therefore, we would have to make it clear to all of our competitors that should they qualify for the 2010 PGA or Senior PGA Championship then at that point their clubs must conform to the condition of competition regarding grooves.

We should look to review this condition after the first year of implementation by the various Tours and then determine if we should adopt this condition on a permanent basis and/or expand the condition to any of our other Championships.

Similarly, we would not recommend our PGA Sections adopt the condition of competition in any of their Section Championships/ State Opens, Pro-Ams or any of their other events in 2010.

Action:

The Championship Department would request Board approval of the above stated Groove regulation policy for our Senior PGA Championship, PGA Championship, Ryder Cup and Grand Slam only starting in 2010.