



Communication of New Rules Interpretation

Title	Features on Shafts	Notice #	C2014-001.2
Supersedes Notice #	C2014-001.1 (Issued February 12, 2016)	Effective Date	October 31, 2018
Relevant Rule	Appendix II, 1a (General) of the current Rules of Golf Part 2, Section 1a (General) of the 2019 Equipment Rules		

Relevant Rule Language

“The club must not be substantially different from the traditional and customary form and make”.

Background / Reason for Communication

C2014-001, as an interpretation to Appendix II, 1a of the 2014-2016 Rules of Golf, prohibited geometric features on shafts such as grooves, dimples, or similar (that could affect aerodynamic drag). C2014-001.1 sought to clarify the intent of the initial communication with respect to non-functional decorative graphics.

After receiving additional comments, it has been determined that further refinement regarding non-functional decorative graphics is beneficial.

Revised Interpretation

Going forward, Appendix II, 1a of the current Rules of Golf (and effective January 1, 2019, Part 2, Section 1a of the Equipment Rules) will be interpreted for clubs, other than putters, such that:

- i. *The shaft must not include any features intended to improve aerodynamic performance.*
- ii. *The shaft must be smooth* from where it intersects with the head, neck and/or socket to a point not less than 12-in above this intersection along the length of the shaft. Limited, non-functional, descriptive markings may be permitted in this area.*
- iii. *Non-functional, decorative features, markings or graphics are permitted above the 12-in reference point.*
- iv. *Traditional steps or fluting in shafts that are wholly composed of metal will continue to be permitted.*
- v. *Decals, labels, and other attachments to the shaft will continue to be permitted under the exception to the “external attachments” clause of Appendix II, 1a of the current Rules of Golf (and effective January 1, 2019, Part 2, Section 1a (iv) of the Equipment Rules). See also Section 1a (iv) of the current Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls.*

Any indication or claim of aerodynamic improvement could result in a non-conforming ruling or the revision of an existing conforming ruling.

**A particle-type roughness of less than or equal to 150 μin (R_A) will be considered smooth.*