

February 21, 2024

**Memo to Players and Manufacturers Regarding Driver CT Testing
and Club-Length Measurement at the U.S. Open**

Beginning with the 2024 U.S. Open Championship, the USGA will implement a driver testing program for CT (characteristic time) and club-length conformance. The USGA Equipment Standards staff will conduct the program, which will cover a representative sample of drivers intended for play in the championship.

A similar testing program has been in place on the PGA TOUR since 2019 and, as a result, many players in the U.S. Open field, as well as manufacturers, will be familiar with the process. Through our experience in testing equipment, we know that players and the equipment manufacturers who support them go to great lengths to ensure that all equipment in play conforms to the Equipment Rules. Therefore, we expect this program to provide continued assurance to players, manufacturers, and other constituents that equipment in play at the U.S. Open conforms.

The program will work as follows:

- The USGA will implement a selection process to obtain a representative cross-section for testing of the makes and models of drivers intended for use by players at the championship from the various worldwide professional tours, amateur ranks, and other categories of qualifiers.
- Driver testing will occur on non-competition days when manufacturer representatives are on-site. However, the USGA reserves the right to perform testing through the first day of the championship if there is difficulty locating a player whose driver has been designated for testing.
- Once the USGA designates a player's driver for testing, an official will collect the driver and the USGA Equipment Standards Team will perform the test. Testing takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and will occur in accordance with the USGA's published test protocols at the USGA's Test Center located on-site at Pinehurst Resort.
- To assist with the testing process, each manufacturer that has driver heads in play at the U.S. Open must appoint one representative who will be the on-site contact during the testing window (June 9-13). Once the USGA Equipment Standards Team completes the test, an official will notify the player and manufacturer representative of the conformance status of the driver. The official will not provide CT values and will deliver the results in the following categories:
 - GREEN – The club is conforming and may be used in subsequent *rounds*.
 - YELLOW – The club is conforming and may be used in subsequent *rounds*, but the result is within the USGA's published tolerance. This means that continued use of the club could further increase the likelihood that the club will exceed the limit plus tolerance if tested in the future.
 - RED – The club is deemed damaged into a non-conforming state, in accordance with the USGA's Notice to Manufacturers dated October 11, 2017, regarding CT testing, and the club will no longer be permitted for use in any play under the Rules of Golf.

To maintain confidentiality, the manufacturer's representative, and the player whose driver the USGA evaluated will be the only parties notified of the test results.



- The USGA will record the serial numbers of all clubs tested. An official will return clubs with green or yellow test results to the player. An official will return clubs with red test results to the manufacturer's representative.
- The USGA will also evaluate the club for conformance to Model Local Rule G-10, limiting the maximum allowable club length for clubs other than putters to 46 inches. If the USGA measures a club's length to be longer than 46 inches, an official will advise the player and the player must correct the issue prior to playing the club in the championship proper.
- The USGA considers compliance with this program to be a condition of entry for the championship.

Should you have any questions regarding the program, please feel free to reach out to Carter Rich at jcrich@usga.org or (908) 781-1085.