ANCHORING THE CLUB—UNDERSTANDING RULE 14–1b

The USGA and The R&A, golf’s governing bodies, have adopted changes to Rule 14–1 of the Rules of Golf that prohibit anchoring the club in making a stroke. The new Rule will go into effect on January 1, 2016, in accordance with the regular four–year cycle for changes to the Rules of Golf.

**WHAT CHANGES?**

The new entry — Rule 14–1b—prohibits strokes made with the club or a hand gripping the club held directly against the player’s body or with a forearm held against the body to establish an anchor point that indirectly anchors the club.

**WHAT THE RULE SAYS**

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either “directly” or by use of an “anchor point.”

**NOTE 1:**
The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

**NOTE 2:**
An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

**PERMITTED**

- Claw
- Cross–handed
- Long putter not anchored
- Traditional grip
- Forearms held against body without anchor point
- One or both elbows braced against body
- Grip resting against forearm

**PROHIBITED**

- Mid–length putter anchored against stomach
- Anchored long putter
- Anchor point created by forearm
- End of club anchored against chin

**Penalty**

Anchoring the club in making a stroke brings a two–stroke penalty in stroke play and loss of hole in match play (as with any other breach of Rule 14–1).

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