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
- Forearms held against body without anchor point
- Traditional grip
- Grip resting against forearm

PROHIBITED

- Mid–length putter anchored against stomach
- Anchored long putter
- Anchor point created by forearm
- One or both elbows braced against body
- End of club anchored against chin

THIS IS NOT AN EQUIPMENT RULE

Conforming mid–length and long putters remain permissible provided they are not anchored.

REVIEW AND TIMETABLE

Between 2011 and 2012
Golf’s governing bodies begin observing a dramatic increase in the use of anchoring at all levels of the game.

February 2012–February 2013
The USGA announces it is taking a “fresh look” at the anchored stroke; review continues throughout 2012. In November, the proposed Rule is announced. Prior to final action, the USGA and The R&A accept questions and comments.

Spring 2013
The USGA and The R&A take final action on proposed Rules change.

Spring 2013–December 2015
Transition period in which players may adapt their stroke, if necessary.

January 1, 2016
Rule 14–1b takes effect in accordance with the regular four–year cycle for changes to the Rules of Golf.

For more information on the new Rule, visit www.usga.org/anchoring www.randa.org/anchoring

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