

Green-Reading Materials

Interpretation on Putting Green Information

Purpose of Interpretation:

Rule 4.3 limits the use of equipment and devices that might help a player in his or her play, based on the principle that golf is a challenging game in which success should depend on the judgment, skills and abilities of the player. This interpretation of Rule 4.3 limits the size and scale of detailed putting green maps and any similar electronic or digital materials that a player may use during a round to help with reading his or her line of play on the putting green so that a player's ability to read a green remains an essential part of the skill of putting.

[The limitations apply:

- to any stroke a player makes from the putting green, and
- to a stroke made with a putter from anywhere when the player's intention is for the ball to come to rest on the putting green.

This bracketed information comes from a frequently asked question on green-reading materials. To access all FAQs, go to www.usga.org/GRM.]

Putting Green Maps

The player is allowed to use a putting green map or other putting green information, except that:

- Any image of a putting green must be limited to a scale of 3/8 inch to 5 yards (1:480) or smaller (the "scale limit");
- Any book or other paper containing a map or image of a putting green must not be larger than 4 ¼ inches x 7 inches (the "size limit"), although a "hole location sheet" that displays 9 or more holes on a single sheet of paper may be larger, provided that any image of a single putting green meets the scale limit;
- No magnification of putting green information is allowed other than a player's normal wearing of prescription glasses or lenses;
- Hand drawn or written information about a putting green is only allowed if contained in a book or paper meeting the size limit and written by the player and/or his or her caddie.

Electronic or Digital Putting Green Maps

In electronic or digital form, any image of a putting green must meet the above scale and size limits. Even when an electronic or digital putting green map meets the above limits, the player is still in breach of Rule 4.3 if the player uses any device in a manner not consistent with the purpose of these limits, such as by:

- Increasing the size of the green's representation beyond the scale or size limits;
- Producing a recommended line of play based on the location (or estimated location) of the player's ball (see Rule 4.3a(1)).