

NOTICE TO MANUFACTURERS
REGARDING 1996 RULES CHANGES

As a result of the usual quadrennial revision, the 1996 Rules Book will contain some Rules changes. None of these will have any significant effect on club or ball designers. The changes are mostly clarifications of the Rules and of how they have been and are interpreted. The complete revised version of Rule 4 and 5, and Appendix II and III are enclosed.

Specific instances of changes that have been made include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Preamble - To avoid repetition in individual rules, a paragraph has been added emphasizing that intent in design of a club may be just as important as the actuality of the finished product.
- 4-1 - A putter loft may not exceed 10 degrees.
- 4-1a - A club must have no external attachments.
- 4-1c - The grip must extend to the end of the shaft.

Appendix II

- 4-1b - In the normal address position, the shaft must not diverge from the vertical in the face back plane by more than 20°. The 10° minimum in the toe heel plane remains, and has been extended to apply to all clubs, not just putters. Also, the methods of making various measurements are clarified.
- 4-1c - A grip may have a slightly indented spiral replicating a wrapped grip.
- 4-1e - Under "Impact Area and Material" - Surface roughness of the face must not exceed decorative sandblasting or fine milling. Also, the impact area must be of a single material.
- 4-1e - Under "Non-Metallic Club Face Markings" - The marking specifications apply to materials that are similar in hardness to metal, e.g., ceramics.

Appendix III - The Ball

- Section C - The actual symmetry test has been removed from the text of the rule. That test may still be used to advise the manufacturers if the ball is not symmetrical.

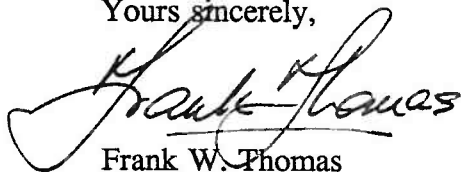
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The illustrations have been updated to better depict the meaning of the text, and some new illustrations have been added. Also, manufacturers are encouraged to submit products prior to manufacture and marketing, even if they do not have any reasonable basis for doubt as to whether or not the product conforms to the Rules; the preamble to Rule 4 has been modified to achieve this purpose.

If you have any questions with regard to the above or any other minor changes or interpretations, please call the United States Golf Association for an explanation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank W. Thomas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Frank W. Thomas
Technical Director

FWT:kw
10/23/95

Enclosures