

United States Golf Association

Golf House

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December 15, 2004

Notice to Golf Club Manufacturers

Publication of a List of Conforming Driver Heads

On June 30, 2004, the USGA sent a notice to club manufacturers proposing the publication of a List of Conforming Driver Heads. The comments received by the USGA expressed support for moving forward on the publication of the List. The USGA has decided to continue development of the List of Conforming Driver Heads, and to implement publication of the List in the manner described below. The USGA has modified some of the details of the List as a result of the comments received.

The List will be established and maintained in a similar manner to the List of Conforming Golf Balls which the USGA has published for over two decades.

DETAILS OF THE LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS

The revised details of the List of Conforming Driver Heads are as follows:

1. The List will cover only driving club heads.
2. The USGA and the R&A will jointly maintain a single List of Conforming Driver Heads.
3. A clubhead will be added to the List by the USGA only if it is submitted directly to the USGA by the original manufacturer and the USGA determines that the clubhead conforms to all USGA rules applicable to clubheads (not merely passing CT measurement for spring effect). Clubheads which are submitted to the R&A will be added to the List by the R&A.
4. For the purpose of the List of Conforming Driver Heads, a “driving club” is a club that is designed primarily to be used while hitting from a tee. Club design features to be considered will include such things as loft, head size, face dimensions, head weight, and club length. Any declared or apparent intent regarding the use of the club will also be considered.
5. Only driving clubheads manufactured and submitted to the USGA since 1999 will be included on the List. Driver heads manufactured prior to 1999 will be considered conforming for spring-like effect and will be permitted for play under USGA Rules unless the USGA has made a determination of non-conformance, or non-conformance has been determined by a tournament official and/or rules official.

6. Any driving clubhead made after 1998 that has not been submitted to the USGA for evaluation must be submitted and determined to be conforming in order to be included on the List.
7. Clubheads will not appear on the List without the prior consent of the manufacturer. This is to prevent information about a new club from being publicized prematurely, in conflict with launch dates or marketing campaigns.
8. The USGA will complete evaluation of a submitted driver head within three weeks of receipt of the sample, and the results will be posted on the conforming or non-conforming list as appropriate at the next available update. There may be exceptions to the above if a submission contains new features or technology requiring additional research and evaluation by the USGA before it determines whether the submission conforms to the Rules of Golf. Manufacturers are encouraged to bring new club designs to the USGA's attention at the earliest opportunity. This could help to avoid evaluation and listing delays.
9. The List will be updated on a weekly basis.
10. The USGA will continue to maintain and publish the Non-Conforming Driver List for the foreseeable future.
11. If the design of a driving clubhead is modified from the clubhead that was submitted to the USGA, the USGA reserves the right to review the conformance status of that clubhead, and to obtain and evaluate additional samples of the clubhead for the purposes of verifying its conformance.
12. There is no expiration date intended for the inclusion of a clubhead on the list.

CONDITION OF COMPETITION

Once the List of Conforming Driver Heads has been fully implemented, an optional Condition of Competition will be added to the Rules stating:

"Driving Clubs

The Committee may require, in the conditions of competition (Rule 33-1) that any driving club the player carries must include a head that is named on the current Conforming Driver Head List issued by the USGA.
Penalty for Breach of Condition: Disqualification"

(Please note that the final wording may change slightly.)

Further details of the administration and use of this Condition are as follows:

1. As with the Conforming Golf Ball List, the revised Condition would only be recommended for use by Committees in charge of competitions restricted to highly skilled players (including top amateur events).

2. The option to use the Condition will become effective only after the List has been published and used satisfactorily for an appropriate trial period as set forth in the Timetable below.
3. The Condition will only cover driver heads. However, any driving club that a player carries must also have a conforming shaft and grip.
4. It is the player's responsibility to carry clubs which conform to the Rules of Golf, and all relevant Conditions of Competition. Players and manufacturers therefore, should take care to ensure that any modification made to a driver head does not alter the playing characteristics such that it becomes different from the sample submitted for evaluation which appears on the List.
5. A clubhead's presence on the List of Conforming Driver Heads does not eliminate the possibility that an individual club may be evaluated for conformance to the Rules as authorized by the Committee. For example, an individual club may be evaluated at a competition site for club length, groove dimensions, CT measurement, and anything else authorized by the Committee. If a driver fails any on-site test, the individual club would be considered non-conforming and should not be carried by the player even if that model of clubhead appears on the List.

IMETABLE

This implementation schedule is intended to allow for substantial trial and feedback by manufacturers prior to its becoming publicly available.

1.	Complete database and website development	December 2004
2.	Send initial individual database to manufacturers for accuracy check	January 2005
3.	Publish working "beta version" of the list website; accessible by manufacturers only (details to be confirmed)	February 2005
4.	Publish "beta version" of the list to selected rules officials for feedback	July 2005
5.	Maintain and de-bug the list	September 2005
6.	Fully publish the list	September 2005
7.	Condition of competition becomes effective	January 2006

Any questions regarding the List of Conforming Driver Heads should be sent to the USGA, attention Dick Rugge, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931, Fax 908-234-0138, e-mail: drugge@usga.org.

