

**United States Golf Association**

Golf House  
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**December 10, 2008  
Notice to Manufacturers  
USGA Equipment Research - Area of Interest**

In accordance with the Joint Statement of Principles issued in 2002 by the USGA and the R&A, the purpose of the equipment rules is to protect golf's best traditions, to prevent an over-reliance on technological advances rather than skill, and to ensure that skill remains the dominant element of success throughout the game.

To carry out this mission, the USGA Equipment Standards staff conducts ongoing research into golf equipment technology. In recent years, we have informed you that research was being conducted on such things as golf balls, grooves, clubhead moment of inertia, and club adjustability. In some (but not all) cases, this research has led to a Notice and Comment process and a subsequently a change in the equipment rules.

We would like to make you aware that the USGA and the R&A are currently conducting research on high-lofted wedges. This research is being conducted to determine if high-lofted wedges (for example, 60 degrees of loft and higher) can reduce the challenge of the game for shots near the green.

It is important to note that this is strictly a research area of interest at the present time. No proposal is being made today. If our research results in a rule change proposal, it will be communicated through the USGA's Notice and Comment process.

Any comments, technical information, or opinions regarding this topic are welcome. Any such information should be sent to: Dick Rugge, Senior Technical Director, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931, Fax 908-234-0138, e-mail: [drugge@usga.org](mailto:drugge@usga.org)