

United States
Golf Association



USGA

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Notice No. 1
February 2, 1987

NOTICE TO GOLF EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

Pursuant to a February 27, 1986 notice to golf club manufacturers, the USGA staff has proposed a method for groove measurement.

The proposed method is designed to help manufacturers and others make groove measurements and thus determine whether a club conforms to the Rules of Golf governing grooves.

The proposed method is as follows:

"The groove-width measurement shall be made between two points where a plane inclined at 30 degrees to the face of the club is tangent to a radiused edge of the groove.

"To make this measurement in the field, a specially designed tool with an included angle of 120 degrees will be used to scrape off an ink-like substance, thus creating a mark on each side of the groove.

"Because this marked line will have some dimension, the measurement shall be from the inside of one mark to the outside of the other. Using this method, the groove width shall not exceed .033 inches with a measurement tolerance of $\pm .002$ inches. The distance between adjacent grooves shall not be less than three times the width of a groove, and the minimum distance between grooves shall not be less than .075 inches.

"Under laboratory conditions, the groove measurement will be made with a ContouReader®. This device will trace and expand the groove profile."

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the proposed method to the USGA's Technical Director, Golf House, Far Hills, N. J. 07931 by April 16, 1987. On April 28, 1987, at 9:30 a.m., the USGA will conduct an open hearing at Golf House to give all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the proposed method. Thereafter, the USGA Executive Committee will determine whether to adopt the proposed method or some variation thereof.

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