



August 31, 2018  
Notice to Manufacturers

**Publication of the first edition of The Equipment Rules**

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of our intention to publish the first edition of [The Equipment Rules](#). This publication is a byproduct of the modernization of the Rules of Golf which will become effective on January 1, 2019. As a part of this modernization, the majority of the rules and specifications regarding golf clubs, golf balls and other equipment will no longer appear in the revised Rules. Instead, they will be located in a new publication called [The Equipment Rules](#). This will be referred to within the revised Rules of Golf and will be published digitally on both the USGA's and R&A's websites.

[The Equipment Rules](#) will combine the rules and specifications currently located in Appendices II, III and IV of the 2016-2018 edition of The Rules of Golf with the interpretational guidelines provided in A Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls.

Please note that, in this first edition of [The Equipment Rules](#), there are no substantive changes to the rules, specifications and guidelines currently in existence. The intent of this publication is to ensure a smooth transition to the 2019 Rules of Golf and to ensure that all information related to the equipment used to play the game is located in a single, primary location.

While there are no substantive changes to the existing equipment rules, specifications and guidelines, you will note the following amendments/additions:

1. References updated to the relevant equipment-related provisions from the 2019 Rules of Golf;
2. The addition of a Committee Equipment Requirements section for equipment noted in the 2019 Rules of Golf but placed by the Committee as opposed to the player, such as the flagstick (See Part 8, P.72 of [The Equipment Rules](#));
3. The addition of a section on Modified Equipment Rules for Golfers with Disabilities (See Part 7, P.71 of [The Equipment Rules](#))

There are a few more detailed additions to the guidelines located in the body of the publication which were previously unpublished. These include:

1. A more detailed description of a "chipper" and the particular specifications associated with this type of club (See Part 2, Section 1a, P.12 of [The Equipment Rules](#));
2. An allowance for clubs other than putters to have a length longer than 48 inches when there is a medical or physical need (See Part 2, Section 1c, P.20 of [The Equipment Rules](#));
3. The addition of sections for Clothing and The Use of Tape related to Rule 4.3 (Rule 14-3 in the 2016-2018 edition of The Rules of Golf) to more clearly define the requirements for these items of equipment (See Part 6, Section 4, P.69 for Clothing and Part 6, Section 5, P.70 for Tape)

After review of this document, if you have any comments or questions, please provide them in writing by September 30, 2018 to:

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