



September 20, 2019
Notice to Flagstick Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties

Modified Flagstick Requirements

In conjunction with the major revision of the Rules of Golf effective January 1, 2019, the USGA and The R&A Equipment Standards groups published the Equipment Rules. In addition to the provisions that had previously existed in the appendices to the Rules of Golf and the interpretations in “A Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls”, the Equipment Rules include a section providing requirements for certain equipment used by a Committee that may also have an impact on players. The first provision included in this section relates to the requirements concerning flagsticks (see Part 8, Section 1 of the Equipment Rules).

Throughout 2019, the USGA and The R&A have received numerous questions from flagstick manufacturers, inventors and golf facilities regarding the types of features permitted on flagsticks. As a result, the USGA and The R&A have reviewed the current flagstick requirements and propose the attached modifications for further clarification. It is important to note that the governing bodies adopted the 2019 modification to the Rules of Golf giving a player the option to leave the flagstick in the hole, including when making a stroke when the ball is played from on the putting green, with an interest in improving the pace of play. The governing bodies created the flagstick requirements to ensure that flagstick designs would not otherwise assist the player in holing a shot.

We welcome any comments or suggestions and ask that you provide them by November 1, 2019 to Carter Rich, Senior Director of Equipment Rules and Conformance, at jcrich@usga.org.

Regards,

J. Carter Rich
Senior Director, Equipment Rules and Conformance
United States Golf Association