

Understanding the Rules of DMDs

When the Local Rule is adopted permitting the use of distance-measuring devices, how do you know if the information you are accessing on the device breaches the Rules of Golf?

WHAT'S THE RULE?

RULE 14-3 prohibits the use of Distance-Measuring Devices (DMDs). However, a golf course or the Committee in charge of a competition may introduce a Local Rule permitting the use of such devices. The use of any DMD (a) when the Local Rule is not in place, or (b) if the player accesses information that is prohibited by **RULE 14-3**, would result in a breach.

TYPES OF DEVICES

STAND-ALONE DEVICES

Common stand-alone devices include laser rangefinders, handhelds and watch-style GPS units.



Laser rangefinder



GPS watch



Handheld GPS unit

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL DEVICES

Common multi-functional devices include mobile phones and tablets.



Mobile phone



Tablet



PLAYER ACTIONS

A player may use a device that is capable of operating a prohibited function, provided these specific functions are not accessed by the player during the round. "Access" is interpreted to mean that the player has viewed or otherwise used the information generated by a prohibited function, or the player uses a device where such output is displayed.

WHAT CAN I ACCESS?



Distance between two points (actual)



Pre-published information (e.g., swing tips or advice on playing the hole)



Score card



Local weather information or alert for nearby lightning



Chart showing average club distances, obtained from prior rounds, for a wide range of clubs

WHAT CAN'T I ACCESS?



Displays of effective playing distances (e.g., slope-based and other plays-like distance information)



Club recommendation



Processed or analyzed club distances from current round



Gauged or measured variable environmental conditions, such as wind speed, altitude or humidity



Analysis or display of swing, set-up or other swing mechanics



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www.usga.org/DMD



USE ADDITIONAL CARE

If a device is readily viewable by the player (e.g., the player is wearing a multi-functional watch) and information is being displayed that, if accessed, would result in a breach of the Rules, the player is considered to have "used" the information generated by a prohibited function, even if the player has not actually viewed it.