



December 17, 2014
Notice to Manufacturers
Equipment Research - Area of Interest

Maximum length for clubs other than putters

In 2004, the USGA and The R&A adopted a maximum club length limit of 48 inches for clubs other than putters (Appendix II, 1c). Exceptions were made to accommodate golfers who, because of their height or some other physical attribute, must use a driver longer than 48-in. A survey conducted of touring golf professionals in 2008 found that the driver club length of most of these players was between 44.5-in and 45-in.

Some recent data however suggests that the drivers currently used by professionals on the PGA TOUR are now typically between 45-in and 45.75-in. Furthermore, with only a few exceptions, most drivers are now marketed with a club length between 45.5-in and 46-in. It is estimated that each inch of additional shaft length can potentially produce 2-3 yards of additional distance as a result of increased club head speed.

We would like to make you aware that the USGA and The R&A are initiating an investigation on club length. In addition to further quantifying the driver club lengths used by players of all abilities, the research will investigate the potential effect of increases in club length beyond those typically used today, and whether the current maximum length of 48-in., for clubs other than putters, is still appropriate.

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 any of this research results in a proposal for a rule change, it will be communicated in accordance with the Equipment Rulemaking Procedures.

If you have any questions, comments, data or other information that you would like to contribute, please contact JohnSpitzer at 908-781-1036 or email: jspitzer@usga.org.