

ARTIFICIAL DEVICES AND UNUSUAL EQUIPMENT (RULE 14-3)

Dear Player

In recent years, championships run under the auspices of Wales Golf have allowed the use of Distance Measuring Devices, and so continues to do so into 2018.

Over this time, many products over a range of different platforms are available for purchase which can create confusion whether they are in breach of Rule 14-3. New Rules have come into effect in 2016 regarding the use and conformity of such devices, and details are given below for these varied platforms and what functions to be aware of:

Range Finders

Range Finders (or lasers) are designed to accurately measure distance to a specific point. Some models are also capable of calculating gradient, wind speed and temperature in addition to distance. Any use of such a device to calculate any of these conditions, other than distance, would be in breach of Rule 14-3

Additionally, new range finder products are being released with multi-functional abilities on a frequent basis which would influence whether the device is permitted for championship play under Rule 14-3. These products can be very confusing regarding their conformity, and it is strongly advised that Wales Golf staff are notified prior to usage in the first instance.

Electric Trolleys

Certain brands and models of digital electric trolleys have secondary functions. These include, but are not exclusive to, distance measuring and temperature gauges. Use of a trolley which includes the function to measure temperature would be in breach of Rule 14-3 should the information be accessed by the player.

Due to the nature of this piece of equipment, trolleys including these features which are in breach of Rule 14-3 are permitted for championship play provided they either turn the function off or cover the display with opaque tape.

Smart Phones

Smart Phones, although primarily are communication devices, can have secondary functions. GPS applications on smart phones are permitted provided the application in question measures distance information only.

Additional applications on the smart phone, however, such as those that can measure present & real time weather conditions would render the device non-conforming to Rule 14-3 if these applications are used or accessed by the player. There are also potential etiquette implications of the use of smartphones as GPS devices during play.

With this in mind, it is recommended that players obtain distance information from a separate conforming device during Wales Golf Championship play.

Use of Internet

As explained above, The Rules of Golf do allow for the use of smart phones during the *stipulated round* (Decision 14-3/16)

Provided that the internet is not used for any action that would constitute a breach of Rule 14-3, then use of the device regardless of additional applications does not render the device non-conforming in this instance.

Players are however once again advised to refrain from using devices for the internet except in an emergency situation. The potential to breach Rule 14-3 is relatively high and also the player risks breaching golf etiquette with persistent use of such a device.

General Information

Any questions you may have relating to Distance Measuring Devices and their usage can be directed to the Championship Manager or Rules Officials at any Wales Golf Championship, by contacting the Wales Golf office or by visiting the advice pages at The R & A at the following link: <http://www.randa.org/News/2015/12/Revision-to-Rules-Regarding-Distance-Measuring-Devices>

Constant changes in technology and product development makes it impossible to produce a definitive list on conforming and non-conforming devices, and the quantity of new products becoming available makes it equally unrealistic to undergo pro-active monitoring of this area. Therefore it is strongly advised that any player in doubt of conformity of their device to Rule 14-3, and in the absence of a ruling direct from Wales Golf, uses an artificial device which they are certain is one which conforms to Rule 14-3.

With best wishes



David Wilson
Championship Manager
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