



R&A Rules Limited

Procedure for Making Decisions on the Unusual Use of Equipment

1. General

- 1.1. In order to deal with routine or straightforward submissions relating to the unusual use of equipment under Rule 14-3 of the Rules of Golf (the "Rules") as efficiently as possible, these shall be considered, in the first instance, by a Sub-Committee of the full Rules of Golf Committee (the "Sub-Committee").
- 1.2. The Sub-Committee shall comprise the Chairman of the Rules of Golf Committee, the Executive Director of Rules and Equipment Standards and Assistant Director – Equipment Standards and decisions shall be taken by a minimum of two of the above individuals who must reach unanimous agreement.

2. Receipt of Submission and Initial Consideration by Sub-Committee

- 2.1. On receipt of a Rule 14-3 submission relating to the unusual use of equipment (an "Unusual Use Submission"), the Sub-Committee shall review the Unusual Use Submission and its accompanying papers to determine whether, in its view:
 - 2.1.1. The use of an item conforms to the Rules; or
 - 2.1.2. The use of an item does not conform to the Rules.
- 2.2. The Sub-Committee shall inform the person making the Unusual Use Submission (the "Applicant") of its decision and the reasons for it, in writing no later than 42 days after receipt by the Sub-Committee of the Applicant's Unusual Use Submission. The Applicant shall also be informed at this time that he has the right to request in writing and within 14 days of the date of the Sub-Committee's letter that his Unusual Use Submission be considered by the full Rules of Golf Committee.
- 2.3. Where requested to do so by any member of the Sub-Committee, and prior to any determination being made under paragraph 2.1 above, the Sub-Committee shall refer the matter to the full Rules of Golf Committee. The Applicant shall be informed in writing that the full Rules of Golf Committee will review his Unusual Use Submission and of a reasonable timescale for this.
- 2.4. Pending review of the Unusual Use Submission by the full Rules of Golf Committee, any decision taken by the Sub-Committee shall remain in full effect.

3. Consideration by the Rules of Golf Committee

- 3.1. Upon receipt of the Applicant's written request to have his Unusual Use Submission considered by the full Rules of Golf Committee (the "Committee") under paragraph 2.2, or where consideration is to be undertaken by the Committee by reason of the operation of

paragraph 2.3, the Sub-Committee shall pass the Unusual Use Submission and all written submissions of the Applicant to the Committee as soon as practicable.

- 3.2. The Committee shall consider the Unusual Use Submission, its use and the written submissions of the Applicant and may write to the Applicant requesting the provision of any further information that may assist the Committee within 14 days of the date of the Committee's letter.
- 3.3. Following receipt of any further information from the Applicant, or where the Committee considers that it has sufficient information to determine the matter, it may either:
 - 3.3.1. Determine that the use of an item conforms to the Rules; or
 - 3.3.2. Determine that the use of an item does not conform to the Rules.
- 3.4. The Committee usually meets four times per year. Upon receipt of an applicant's letter requesting a full review of the case under paragraph 2.2 above or, where the Unusual Use Submission is passed directly to the Committee under paragraph 2.3 above, the case will, where practicable, be allocated to the next available meeting of the Committee. Where a case reaches the Committee, whether referred under either paragraph 2.2 or 2.3, at least one month before the next meeting of the Committee, it will usually be practicable to hear the case at that sitting of the Committee. In other cases, in order to allow for the collection of further information and consideration of that information the case may need to be considered at the meeting following the next available meeting of the Committee.
- 3.5. Following its consideration of the case, the Committee shall inform the Applicant in writing of its decision, and the reasons for it, no later than 42 days after the date of the meeting at which the case was considered. The Applicant shall also be informed at this stage of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee to the Appeals Committee in accordance with the R&A Rules of Appeal.
- 3.6. Pending appeal of the decision of the Committee to the Appeals Committee the Committee's decision shall remain in full effect.

4. Grounds for Appeal

- 4.1. An appeal of the decision by the Committee may be made by the Applicant to the Appeals Committee within 42 days of the date of the Committee's decision letter.
- 4.2. An appeal may be made only on one or more of the following grounds:
 - 4.2.1. The Committee's decision was based on a misapplication of the Rules.
 - 4.2.2. The Committee's decision was not supported by the facts before it;
 - 4.2.3. The Committee's decision was procedurally flawed in a material way.
- 4.3. Any appeal shall be carried out in accordance with the R&A Rules of Appeal