



SCOTTISH GOLF UNION ADVICE ON USE OF DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES FOR CLUBS AND GOLFERS

The use of electronic Distance Measuring Devices (DMD's) remains contrary to the Rules of Golf unless they are permitted by virtue of the applicable Local Rule (see the Note to Rule 14-3 and Appendix 1, Part B, Paragraph 9 on Page 140 of the Rules of Golf 2008 - 2011).

It is a very important proviso of the permission granted by the DMD Local Rule that such devices must measure distance only. The use of devices that measure functions in addition to distance (e.g. wind speed or direction, the slope of the ground or the temperature) is not permitted in any circumstances even if these extra functions are switched off. The penalty for using such a device on the golf course in a competition is disqualification. There is no breach of the rule if such a device is carried on the course but not used in any way.

The SGU have decided that DMD's will not be permitted in 2010 SGU Championships and Order of Merit events. This stance is consistent with the R&A, USGA, LGU, the ladies and gents governing bodies of Wales and Ireland and the ladies bodies in Scotland and England. The said bodies have made a commitment to maintaining a consistent approach on this matter meaning DMD's will not be permitted in any Championships/Events under their respective jurisdiction.

However the SGU's policy does not preclude individual clubs and organising committees from permitting the DMD Local Rule i.e. it is at the discretion of each organising committee to decide.

If an organising committee wishes to adopt the DMD Local Rule then the following wording is recommended:

“(Specify as appropriate, e.g. In this competition, or For all play at this course, etc.), a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.”

[For a further detailed explanation please refer to the R&A / USGA Joint Statement on Electronic Devices, Including Distance-Measuring Devices.](#)

The R&A / USGA Joint Statement includes reference to multi functional devices such as iPhones and Blackberries.