



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. When the DMD Local Rule is in effect in a competition, if you have and use a DMD that can measure functions in addition to distance (e.g. wind speed or direction, the slope of the ground or the temperature) then the penalty is disqualification even if the extra functions are switched off. There is no penalty if you carry such a device in your golf bag and do not use it in any way.

The SGU have decided that DMD's will not be permitted in 2011 SGU Scratch National Championships. For clarification this means DMDs will not be permitted in the following Championships/Events:

Scottish Junior Champion of Champions
Scottish Champion of Champions
Scottish Boys Championship
Scottish Youths Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
Moneygate Scottish Area Team Championship
Scottish Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
Scottish Boys Area Team Championship
Scottish Seniors Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
Scottish Boys Under 16 Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
Scottish Boys Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
Scottish Amateur Championship
Scottish Boys & Girls Under 14 Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship
Scottish Club Championship
SGU Junior Tour Events 1, 2, & 3
Scottish Golf Academy Winter Series Events

However DMD's will be permitted in all stages of 2011 SGU Handicap Championships i.e.

Belhaven Best Scottish Club Handicap Championship
Belhaven Best Captain & Secretaries Championship
clubgolf Junior Masters

This stance is consistent with the R&A, USGA, LGU, the ladies and gents governing bodies of Wales 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 Scratch Championships/Events under their respective jurisdiction.

However the SGU's policy does not preclude individual clubs and organising committees, including SGU Order of Merit Event organisers, from permitting the DMD Local Rule i.e. it is at the discretion of each organising committee to decide. **Players competing in any SGU Order of Merit event, outwith those directly organised by the SGU, should therefore check with the event organisers prior to competing whether the DMD Local Rule is in place or not.**

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, Blackberries and electric caddie cars with built in distance measuring technology.