

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOLF ASSOCIATION (INC)

M E M O R A N D U M

MEMO TO: All Clubs
FROM: Greg B Fitzhardinge
DATE: 21 February 2006
SUBJECT: DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES

As many people may be aware the R & A has incorporated within the Decisions on the Rules of Golf a specific decision referring to the use of measuring devices.

The Decision states that a committee may establish a Local Rule allowing players to use devices that measure distance only. Without such a Local Rule the use of such devices is contrary to Rule 14-3.

The Match Committee of the Association has considered the use of such devices and advise that in WAGA events and GMJGF events Rule 14-3 will apply ie. the use of such devices will be contrary to the Rules. These events will include all forms of Pennant play and Paxton Average events. Specific reference will be made to this subject in the Pennant Regulations and Paxton Average Conditions.

This decision does not stop clubs incorporating a Local Rule permitting the use of measuring devices. Whilst the WAGA Match Committee is not in favour of such a Local Rule being established the final decision lies with the club.

It is however to be noted that the only devices that can be used are devices that measure distance only. Any device that has the capability of measuring other factors such as wind and / or gradient is not permitted – even though the facility is non-operational for the duration of the event.

The R and A has issued a wording for a Local Rule which endorses their decision –

“(In this competition), (In all competitions), (For all play at this course) a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However if during a stipulated round a players uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play eg. gradient, wind-speed, temperature etc. the player is in breach of Rule 14-3 for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.”

Should you have any queries please refer them to me.

Greg B Fitzhardinge
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR