



USE OF DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES

1. Distance Measuring Devices:

A Competitor may use a device that measures or gauges distance. The device cannot be used to measure conditions that might affect a player's play such as gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.

The USGA and R & A issued the following, abridged, information in a Joint Statement:

"Permitting the use of a measuring device to provide the same information that can be obtained through use of a yardage book or on-course markings is not considered to diminish the skill level required to play the game..."

A Clarification of the Rules...

2. When the local rule is in effect, distance-measuring devices must be limited to measuring distance only.

The use of a distance-measuring device would constitute a breach of the Rules if:

The device has the capability of gauging or measuring other conditions that might affect play (e.g., wind speed, gradient, temperature, etc), or;

The device has some other non-conforming feature, including, but not limited to, recommendations that might assist the player in making a stroke or in his play, such as club selection, type of shot to be played (e.g., punch shot, pitch and run, etc.), or green reading (i.e., a recommended line of putt), or other advice-related matters. However, it is permissible to use such a device, during a stipulated round, to access distance information from previous rounds that has been processed prior to the commencement of the current round (e.g., a chart of all club yardages), or;

The device has the capability to assist in calculating the effective distance between two points (i.e., distance after considering gradient, wind speed and/or direction, temperature or other environmental factors).

There would be a breach of the Rules even if all of the above features can be switched off or disengaged, and in fact are switched off or disengaged..."

Electronic devices such as cell phones and iPods MAY NOT be used!

Penalty for Breach: Disqualification (14-3)