



21 September 2026

Notice to Manufacturers

The R&A, USGA, PGA Tour and DP World Tour issued a joint statement on 17 June 2026 to provide an update regarding on-going conversations between the governing bodies and leading tours about distance increases at the elite level. In that statement it was shared that The R&A and USGA will take the appropriate amount of time to assess a range of possible options to address distance increases and determine the path forward. Specifically, the governing bodies will work closely with key stakeholders – including the PGA Tour, DP World Tour and their respective members – to review, test and implement options that have a meaningful impact on distance at the elite level. These efforts will ensure the elite game does not become too one-dimensional while continuing to emphasize the importance of shot-making. It was also confirmed in the statement that there will be no change to the ODS testing approach until January 2030 while these options are evaluated.

Consideration of Near-Term Model Local Rules

In relation to golf clubs and golf balls, as part of the ongoing dialogue, the PGA Tour and DP World Tour have requested that the governing bodies explore and research a series of Model Local Rule options that can be implemented as early as January 2028, including:

- (a) Requiring the use of a golf ball model included on the List of Conforming Golf Balls with an overall distance of 317.0 yards or less when tested by the USGA or The R&A.
- (b) Requiring the use of a driver head of a model and loft included on the List of Conforming Driver Heads, and when tested prior to competition has a maximum CT of 239 microseconds.
- (c) Restricting the maximum permitted length of all clubs (other than putters) to a limit that is less than the 46-inch limit imposed by MLR G-10.

Please note that the near-term Model Local Rules under consideration, if adopted, are not changes to the existing Equipment Rules and will not impact the conformance status of any conforming golf balls or golf clubs.

Additional Approaches To Be Considered

At the same time, The R&A and USGA, in consultation with key stakeholders, including the PGA Tour and DP World Tour, are in the process of considering a range of other approaches that may more materially impact the pace of future distance increases at the elite level. As a reminder, an

Area of Interest remains open for consideration of a Model Local Rule for Club Performance Characteristics which was issued on 16 March 2022. As outlined in the December 2023 communication to stakeholders, The R&A and USGA continue to monitor drivers and explore possible additional options to identify driver design features that potentially could be regulated to reward centre impact position hits versus mishits.

Overall Distance Standard Submission Dates

As part of the 17 June 2026 Notice, The R&A and USGA confirmed that there will be no change to the Overall Distance Standard (“ODS”) test in 2028, but rather the earliest ODS change would be a single date implementation in January 2030. Following that Notice, several manufacturers have asked whether the conformance submission dates proposed in the 17 March 2026 Notice and Comment remain valid. As no ODS change will take effect in 2028, The R&A and USGA have decided that the previously proposed submission dates no longer apply. The R&A and USGA recognize the importance of providing manufacturers with timely guidance and will communicate again on the ODS test within five months.

Comments

Please send any comments on these potential near-term Model Local Rules, the Area of Interest for consideration of a Model Local Rule for Club Performance Characteristics issued on 16 March 2022, or on any other alternative approaches which could be considered to meaningfully impact distance at the elite level, on or before 21 October 2026 to Dr Mark Grattan at The R&A via the email address equipmentstandards@randa.org.