



The R&A
Mr. Martin Slumbers
R&A Chief Executive
Beach House, Golf Place
St. Andrews, Fife
KY16 9JA

Epalinges, August 11th, 2023

Feedback: Golf ball proposed Local Rule

Dear Mr. Slumbers,

The Swiss Golf Sport Commission discussed the proposed Local Rule for the golf ball rollback and as requested, we would like to send the outcome of our discussion.

We agree that it is necessary to find solution for golf courses "becoming shorter" and we understand that restricting ball distance further than at present addresses the issue. However, we strongly disagree introducing a "weaker" ball only for elite players for the following reasons:

1. Such a rule would create confusion for tournament organization and National Federations: who/how/when to decide if an event should be played with the proposed Local Rule? Would it be possible to ensure a correct procedure? Would the proposed Local Rule be a must for the WAGR Rankings?
2. It would create confusion among players in transition to become elite players! Those players will have to practice with the different balls to make sure that they are ready to perform with both balls; this process will certainly slow down their development and career.
3. A bifurcation of the game of golf is not consistent nor coherent with the evolution of the game and certainly not for the good of our game! Nor is it what we have come to expect from The R&A in terms of amateurs making rules for amateurs. In the last couple of years, the message from The R&A and USGA was: one set of Rules and one Hcp System! Why bifurcate equipment?
4. This change would be irrelevant for women's golf and for the "normal" golfer, so

→ We believe that if ball rollback is introduced, it should be for all players.

We appreciate the fact that we could provide our input. We remain to your disposal.

With our best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Busin".

Thomas Busin
President of the Swiss Golf Sport Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Albisetti-Heath".

Barbara Albisetti-Heath
Director Sport Swiss Golf

Swiss Golf

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