

Dear Professor Steve Otto

Thank you for giving us the chance to express our views on the "Notice to Manufacturers" jointly conducted by R&A and USGA on March 14th this year. We would like to express the following opinions on the report "Proposal for the Model Local Rule relating to golf ball conformance".

Mizuno is categorically against this MLR introduction.

<Reason 1>

Golf should simply be played under one rule, and the ball should be manufactured and sold under one standard. We should recognize once again that one of the main attractions of golf is that all players can play under the same rules, and respect that one rule. It is a great loss to undermine the appeal of one rule, which is not easily seen in other competitions. A decreased performance ball MLR will also cause confusion to elite level players and general consumers.

<Reason 2>

Golf goods, especially club and balls, are fundamentally sold through a top-down strategy from tours. Introduction of this MLR means a separation from top-down strategies in ball sales. The attractiveness of tour use to general consumers will be lost, and the appeal of the product will inevitably decrease. This has an impact that can shake the foundation of the ball industry.

<Reason 3>

Ball manufactures will be forced to develop two types of balls for tour use, one is MLR compliant and the other existing rules compliant. It is also assumed that from an optimization standpoint the club will be forced to develop two types to match those balls. These factors increase the development costs of manufacturers, and they must be transferred to ball and club price. The increased cost will ultimately become a burden on general consumers.

As a result, the above will be a burden and impact on recreational level golfers, leading to a decline in the golf population and even a decline in the industry.

Again, I would like to thank you for giving Mizuno the opportunity to express our opinions.

Shozo Tanaka

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差出人: The R&A <equipmentstandards@randa.org>

送信日時: 2023年3月13日 21:59

宛先: Shozo Tanaka (田中晶三)

件名: Notice to Manufacturers



13 March 2023

Please find the following documents for your review:

1. [Notice to Manufacturers Regarding a Proposed Model Local Rule for Golf Balls](#)
2. [2022 Annual Drive Distance Report](#)
3. [Golf Course Effects on Hitting Distance Research Report](#)

In accordance with the Notice to Manufacturers, please provide comments by no later

than the deadline of 14 August 2023, to Professor Steve Otto at equipmentstandards@randa.org . Additionally, should you have other comments or questions regarding these documents, please feel free to reach out to Professor Steve Otto as well.

As a courtesy to our manufacturers, we are providing these documents to you the day prior to their public release. These are provided to you in confidence on the basis that you do not share or discuss these documents outside of your organisation prior to that publication.

For any questions, please contact:
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