UNDERSTANDING THE RULES OF DMDs

Beginning on January 1, 2019, distance-measuring devices (DMDs) are allowed under the Rules of Golf. Take a look below to see what types of functions on your DMD are allowed under the Rules.

WHAT'S THE RULE?

Rule 4.3a allows the use of distance-measuring devices so long as the player does not access any information that is prohibited under this Rule (details below). The first breach of this Rule means the player gets a loss of hole penalty in match play or a two-stroke penalty in stroke play. A second breach of Rule 4.3 during the same round results in disqualification. NOTE: A golf course or the Committee in charge of a competition does have the option to prohibit the use of distance-measuring devices by Local Rule.

TYPES OF DEVICES

STAND-ALONE DEVICES MULTI-FUNCTIONAL DEVICES Common multi-functional devices Common stand-alone devices include mobile phones and tablets. include laser rangefinders, handhelds and watch-style GPS units Laser GPS watch Mobile Tahlet rangefinder phone Handheld GPS unit 180 ARD





PLAYER ACTIONS

A player may use a device that is capable of operating a prohibited function, provided these specific functions are not accessed by the player during the round. "Access" is interpreted to mean that the player has viewed or otherwise used the information generated by a prohibited function, or the player uses a device where such output is displayed.

WHAT CAN I ACCESS?

Distance between two points (actual)

> Pre-published information (e.g. swing tips or advice on playing the hole)

Scorecard

Local weather information or alert for nearby lightning

Chart showing average club distances, obtained from prior rounds, for a wide range of clubs

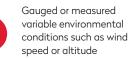
WHAT CAN'T I ACCESS?

Displays of effective playing distances (e.g., slopebased and other plays-like distance information)

Club recommendation



Processed or analysed club distances from current round



Analysis or display of swing, set-up or other swing mechanics



USE ADDITIONAL CARE

If a device is readily viewable by the player (e.g., the player is wearing a multi-functional watch) and information is being displayed that, if accessed, would result in a breach of the Rules, the player is considered to have "used" the information generated by a prohibited function, even if the player has not actually viewed it.