

## Artificial Devices and Unusual Equipment (Rule 14-3)

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Dear PGA Member,

Since 2008 The PGA Local Rules and Conditions of Competition card has permitted the use of Distance Measuring Devices and it continues to do so in 2015.

It has been brought to our attention, and subsequently confirmed by the R&A, that some products available for purchase, if used during any PGA Tournament, would still constitute a breach of this Local Rule, the penalty for which is disqualification. Some details to be aware of include the following:

### Range Finders

Certain laser range finders are capable of calculating **gradient, wind speed and temperature**, as well as distance. This is not permitted by the Local Rule and use of such a device would result in disqualification, even if the functionality is turned off.

### Electric Trolleys

Certain brands of 'digital' electric trolley have secondary functions. Amongst other things these include distance measuring devices and **temperature gauges**. Use of a trolley including the latter would result in disqualification.

Due to the unusual nature of this specific piece of equipment, users of such trolleys are permitted to keep using them if they either **turn this function off** or **cover the display screen with tape**.

### Smart Phones

Smart phones are primarily communication devices but have many secondary functions. GPS applications on smart phones are permitted provided the application used measures distance only.

However, it is worth noting that other applications on the device, such as a **compass, wind speed or temperature gauge** would automatically render that device non-conforming, even if the specific distance application being used does not measure these conditions.

It should also be noted that when such a device is purchased, the compass application may be pre-installed automatically. This **must** be deleted prior to competition if the device is to be used in accordance with the Local Rule; otherwise the player would be disqualified. If deletion is not possible, the device will be permanently non-conforming. *As a result, whilst The PGA does not prohibit the use of smart phones in this way (because they can conform to the rules) we strongly advise PGA Members to use other means to calculate distance.*

### Internet

The Rules of Golf allow use of smart phones and the like, including secondary functions, during the stipulated round (Decision 14-3/6 governs).

Provided the internet is not used on such a device for any action which would constitute a breach of Rule 14-3, the fact it is available, and used, does not render a conforming distance application non-conforming.

PGA Members are reminded that whilst use of any artificial devices or unusual equipment may be permitted under the Rules of Golf, their use, persistent or otherwise, may constitute a breach of etiquette, PGA Regulations or the Code of Ethics.

PGA Members should also be aware that the examples in this notice are by no means exhaustive.

Any questions relating to the above should be directed towards the Tournament Director on site, your Regional Tournament Staff or through the PGA National Tournament Department.

Improvements in technology, product development practices and the type of products available for purchase make pro-active monitoring of this area impossible. Therefore, when in doubt about the conformity of a particular product, and in the absence of a ruling, PGA Members are advised to err on the side of caution.

Best Regards,



**Ben Groutage**  
Head of Tournaments  
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