



in association with



Groove Condition of Competition for All Stages of Qualifying for the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open, U.S. Senior Open and U.S. Senior Women's Open Championships

U.S. Open

In Local (first stage) and Sectional (second stage) Qualifying as well as in the Championship proper, the player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf effective from January 1, 2010. ***Note: Ping EYE2 clubs manufactured prior to March 31, 1990 may not be used during Local and Sectional Qualifying as well as the Championship proper.*** The Condition of Competition is available for review on the entry application and applies to all fairway woods, hybrids, irons and wedges.

The USGA and The R&A have created a reference resource called the Informational Club Database to assist golfers in determining whether their irons, wedges, hybrids and fairway woods comply with the Rules of Golf effective from January 1, 2010 and are permissible for play under the groove condition of competition, which is in effect for all USGA Open Championships. For information about and to access the database, please use the following link:

<http://www.usga.org/InfoClubsDB/intro.html>.

Additionally, for other information regarding the groove condition, please use the following link: <http://www.usga.org/grooves/>.

Finally, for information regarding the conformance status of clubs not listed or for any other questions regarding the condition, please contact the USGA Research and Test Center at (908) 234-2300.

Player Club Testing is available for the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open, U.S. Senior Open, U.S. Senior Women's Open Championships. Please use the following link:

<http://www.usga.org/grooves/> for more information.

The USGA strongly suggests that all players verify the conformance of their clubs well in advance of their scheduled qualifying competition. It is the player's responsibility, not the USGA's responsibility to ensure that his clubs conform.

Waiting until the day of the competition is the fault of the player. The Committee is under no obligation to test the club the competitor may play. However, if it is later determined that the club is nonconforming, including after the competition has closed, the player will be disqualified.

General

The groove rules effective from January 1, 2010, will be adopted as a condition of competition for the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open, U.S. Senior Open and U.S. Senior Women's Open, as well as all qualifying stages (including U.S. Open local qualifying) for these three championships. The condition will also be in effect at the USGA's national championships and team competitions that are contested by amateurs only.

The Condition

4-1/1 Groove and Punch Mark Specifications Effective January 1, 2010 Including Condition of Competition

"The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010.

***PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF CONDITION:**

Match play - At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round - Two holes.

Stroke play - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes.

Match or stroke play - In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

Bogey and par competitions - See Note 1 to Rule 32-1a.

Stableford competitions - See Note 1 to Rule 32-1b.

*Any club or clubs carried in breach of this condition must be declared out of play by the player to his opponent in match play or his marker or a fellow competitor in stroke play immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, he is disqualified.

**PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF CONDITION:
Disqualification.**

Links from USGA Website to Groove Specific Information

Grooves Resources and Information – <http://www.usga.org/grooves/>

- Questions & Answers: Implementation of Condition Regarding Grooves
- Link to Informational Club Database
- Invitation for Club Testing