



The USGA has clarified its policy regarding the acceptability, for handicap purposes, of scores made by a player using a Distance-Measuring Device. From this point forward, scores made with such a device are not acceptable for handicap purposes unless the device measures distance only. A score made with a device that gauges or measures other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g., wind or gradient) is not acceptable for handicap purposes. This language is consistent with recently issued Decision 14-3/0.5 from *The Decisions on The Rules of Golf* and the recommended Local Rule located in the rules section of www.usga.org.

This policy applies for handicap purposes regardless of whether a Committee has established a Local Rule allowing the use of a distance measuring device.

The USGA Handicap System manual has been published for 2006-2007. Handicap Decision 5-1f/2 addresses this general subject, but does not include this clarification. The wording of that decision is revised to the following:

Decision 5-1f/2. Scores Made Using a Distance-Measuring Device

Q: Are scores made using information generated from a Distance-Measuring Device acceptable for handicap purposes?

A: In certain situations, yes. If the Distance-Measuring Device measures distance only, the score is acceptable for handicap purposes, regardless of whether the Committee has established a Local Rule allowing the use of a distance-measuring device. However, the use of a device that gauges or measures other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g., wind or gradient) is not permitted and makes the score unacceptable for handicap purposes, even if these capabilities are disabled or not used.

This language is reflected in the online version of the USGA Handicap System manual, which is located on the USGA's Web site, www.usga.org. A press release will be forthcoming in the near future.

Thank you for support of this clarification.