

ANCHORING THE CLUB—UNDERSTANDING RULE 14-1b

The USGA and The R&A, golf's governing bodies, have proposed changes to Rule 14-1 of the Rules of Golf that would prohibit anchoring the club in making a stroke. The change would not go into effect for three years, giving golfers who use anchored strokes time to adjust their game.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

The proposed new entry— *Rule 14-1b* —would prohibit strokes made with the club or a hand gripping the club held directly against the player's body or with a forearm held against the body to establish an anchor point that indirectly anchors the club.



WHAT THE RULE SAYS

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either "directly" or by use of an "anchor point."

NOTE 1:

The club is anchored "directly" when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

NOTE 2:

An "anchor point" exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

PERMITTED

CLAW

CROSS-HANDED

LONG PUTTER NOT ANCHORED

TRADITIONAL GRIP WITH MID-LENGTH PUTTER

GRIP RESTING AGAINST FOREARM

FOREARMS HELD AGAINST THE BODY

ONE OR BOTH ELBOWS BRACED AGAINST BODY

TRADITIONAL GRIP

PROHIBITED

BELLY PUTTER ANCHORED AGAINST STOMACH

ANCHORED LONG PUTTER

ANCHOR POINT CREATED BY FOREARM

END OF CLUB ANCHORED AGAINST CHIN

Penalty
Anchoring the club in making a stroke would bring a two-stroke penalty in stroke play and loss of hole in match play (as with any other breach of Rule 14-1).

THIS IS NOT AN EQUIPMENT RULE

Conforming equipment, including belly-length and long putters, would remain permissible provided they are not anchored.

REVIEW AND TIMETABLE

2011
Between 2011 and 2012
Golf's governing bodies begin observing a dramatic increase in the use of anchoring at all levels of the game.

2012
February 2012–February 2013
The USGA announces it is taking a "fresh look" at the anchored stroke; review continues throughout 2012. In November, the proposed Rule is announced. Prior to final action, the USGA and The R&A will accept questions and comments.

2013
Early 2013
The USGA and The R&A expected to take final action on proposed Rules change.

2013–2015
Early 2013–December 2015
Transition period in which players may adapt their stroke, if necessary.

2014

2015
January 1, 2016
Rule 14-1b would take effect in accordance with the regular four-year cycle for changes to the Rules of Golf.

2016
For more information, or to comment on the new Rule, visit www.usga.org/anchoring

