



New R&A Rules on Club Face Markings **Groove Regulations**

As you will be aware, the R&A are introducing some new rules on club face markings from January 2010 which will augment the current regulations on grooves.

The changes will specifically regulate the radius of the groove edge (for sharpness) and the volume of the groove – two factors which it is believed have a significant effect on the ability to control the ball from the rough. The revised rules will significantly increase the spin differential between shots from the fairway and shots from the rough.

The European Tour's Tournament Committee approved the introduction of the new regulations at their meeting in Ireland in May. Although the new regulations may be implemented from the beginning of January it has been decided that for practical purposes their introduction should be slightly delayed. The regulations will therefore come into effect on the respective Tours on the following dates:

European Tour - Monday January 18th 2010 (will come into effect at the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship following the co-sanctioned events in South Africa.)

European Challenge Tour - Monday 3rd May 2010

European Senior Tour – Monday 3rd May 2010

All clubs that you use in competition must conform at the time to the new specifications. It is therefore very important that **you make arrangements with your manufacturer** to begin testing and updating your equipment as necessary.

On Site R&A Testing

The R&A are proposing to be on site at the following events for testing of existing and new equipment in 2009:

European Tour

Alfred Dunhill Links Championship (St Andrews)

Castelló Masters (Mediterráneo)

Barclays Singapore Open (Sentosa)

European Challenge Tour

Italian Federation Cup (Olgiata)

European Seniors Tour

Scottish Senior Open (Fairmont St Andrews) - already completed

It is anticipated that field equipment will be on site and available for groove testing by European Tour officials during the 2010 season on all 3 Tours.

Implementation on Other Major Tours

PGA Tour of Australasia	– 1 st January 2010
PGA Tour	– 1 st January 2010
Asian Tour	– 18 th January 2010
Japan Golf Tour	– 1 st April 2010
Sunshine Tour	- 1 st August 2010 – TBC

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