

Notice to Manufacturers

Communication of New Rules Interpretation

Title	Features on Shafts	Notice #	C2014-001.1
Supersedes Notice #	C2014-001 (Issued 1 January 2014)	Effective Date	1 st Mar 2016
Relevant Rule	Appendix II, 1a (General)		

Relevant Rule Language

“The club must not be substantially different from the traditional and customary form and make”.

Background / Reason for Communication

C2014-001, as an interpretation to Appendix II, 1a, prohibited geometric features on shafts such as grooves, dimples, or similar (that could affect aerodynamic drag).

This communication includes clarification of the situation with non-functional decorative graphics. It also reinforces the fact that any indication or claim of aerodynamic improvement will be used within the assessment of the submission, or potentially the revision of an existing decision.

Revised Interpretation

Going forward, Appendix II, 1a will be interpreted such that:

- i. *The shaft must be smooth.*
- ii. *The shaft must not include features having the intent, or the effect, of improving aerodynamic performance. Examples of such features include, but are not limited to, dimples, grooves and ridges.*
- iii. *Surface roughness of greater than 150 μ in (Ra) is not permitted.*
- iv. *Non-functional, decorative graphics are permitted.*
- v. *Traditional steps or fluting in shafts that are wholly composed of metal will continue to be permitted.*
- vi. *Decals, labels, and other attachments to the shaft will continue to be permitted under the exception to the “external attachments” clause of Appendix II, 1a and as further detailed in “A Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls”.*

Any indication or claim of aerodynamic improvement could result in a non-conforming ruling or the revision of an existing conforming ruling.