

United States Golf Association

Golf House
PO Box 708
Far Hills, NJ 07931

May 14, 2003

Notice To Manufacturers

Head Size and Club Length Limits

In December of 2001 the USGA proposed limits on clubhead volume and club length. The clubhead volume limit proposal was modified in January 2002. This Notice is to advise manufacturers of an addition to the clubhead size proposal, a revision to the club length proposal, and proposed implementation dates for these changes to the Rules.

Clubhead Size for Wood-type Clubs

The USGA has previously proposed a clubhead volume limit of 460 cc plus 10 cc for measurement tolerance. We have received many comments regarding that proposal. In addition to the previously made volume proposal, the USGA is now proposing that clubhead heel to toe length and clubhead sole to crown height will also be limited. The USGA believes that the use of both volume and dimensional controls will define the size limitations more effectively than either volume or dimensions alone. Clubs will be required to conform to both volume and dimensional limits to be considered conforming.

Clubhead dimensions will be measured with the head positioned at a 60 degree lie angle. If the outermost point of the heel is not clearly defined, it will be deemed to be 0.875 inches above the horizontal plane on which the club is lying. The proposed limit for clubhead heel to toe length is 5.0 inches. The proposed limit for sole to crown clubhead height is 2.8 inches. Both dimensional limits include an allowance for measurement tolerance. The method used to measure clubhead length and height is illustrated in the attached drawing.

Based on clubs already submitted to the USGA, all clubheads measuring less than 460 cc + 10 cc in volume have length and height dimensions which are less than the proposed limits.

Club Length

The USGA has previously proposed a club length limit of 47 inches for clubs other than putters. We have received many comments regarding that proposal. The USGA is now proposing to increase the club length limit for clubs other than putters to 48 inches. The measurement method is to be made with the club in a 60-degree lie angle position from the ground plane to the end of the grip. This measurement method is illustrated in the attached drawing.

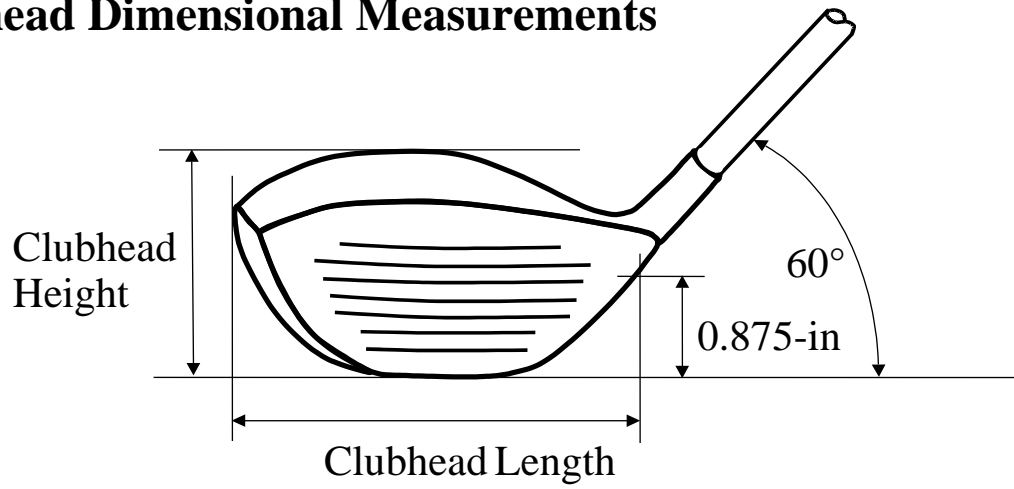
Proposed Timetable

The USGA proposes that these rules for clubhead size and club length limit become effective at the next quadrennial publication of the Rules of Golf, which is January 1, 2004. However, in recognition of the fact that some clubs exceeding these limits are already in use, a one-year grace period is being proposed for those clubs, permitting their use until December 31, 2004.

Written comments regarding the proposed changes to the head size limits and club length limits as well as the measurement methods for both should be sent to the USGA, attention Dick Rugge, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931, Fax 908-234-0138, e-mail:

drugge@usga.org. Written comments received later than July 14, 2003 will not be considered.

Clubhead Dimensional Measurements



Club Length Measurement

