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NOTICE

Subject: Spring-Like Effect

Rule 4-1e in Appendix II states, "The material and construction of the face shall not have the effect at impact of a spring, or impart significantly more spin to the ball than a standard steel face, or have any other effect which would unduly influence the movement of the ball."

The USGA Executive Committee has concluded that while the intent of this rule is clear, the current language in the Rule Book requires quantification. Accordingly, the Technical Department has devised a test for measuring spring-like effect.

Although there may be some exceptions, it is the Committee's current expectation that under the proposed test virtually all of the driving clubs that have been submitted to the USGA to date will conform. We believe that establishing such a test procedure balances the interests of all interested parties with the need for enforcement of the Rule. The orderly process that we have followed to date on this issue will continue.

The proposed test procedure for measuring spring-like effect (enhanced rebound velocity) in driving clubs is attached. The test involves firing a ball at a freestanding clubhead, which isolates this effect. The base line against which the magnitude of this effect is measured will be relative to a calibration metal test plate.

Interested persons are requested to provide written comments by September 4, 1998.

All interested persons are invited to an open forum at Golf House on September 28, 1998 at 9:00am to discuss, and provide input, regarding the attached test procedure that the staff has proposed.

For scheduling purposes please let me know by September 1 if you intend to make a presentation and the amount of time you need for your presentation. A lottery system will be used to determine the order of the presentations. If we have to impose time limitations on the presentations, we will let all presenters know as soon as possible.

Following the September 28th, 1998 open forum, the Executive Committee will evaluate the written materials submitted and the oral presentations made, and determine if the test procedure should be adopted as proposed.

Yours sincerely,

Frank W. Thomas
Technical Director

07/07/98

