

20 November 2009

To: **ALL GOLF BALL MANUFACTURERS**

GOLF BALL SUBMISSIONS - 2010

1. INTRODUCTION

Manufacturers are invited to submit golf balls for testing for inclusion on the List of Conforming Golf Balls throughout 2010. Submissions will continue to be accepted on a monthly basis (see Section 4 for all of the respective dates and deadlines) and a copy of the up-to-date List will be posted on The R&A's website (www.randa.org). Manufacturers who do not have access to the Internet can request a hard copy of the current List from The R&A.

Most of the instructions listed below are similar to last year, and they are set out again purely to remind you of the details. However, some of the information is new and we would urge you to read all of this document.

2. ELECTRONIC LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS

For inclusion on the Electronic List of Conforming Golf Balls, manufacturers may only submit samples of those models that fall into the following two categories:

- (a) models that are currently being marketed, or that are planned for the marketplace within the next two months; and
- (b) models that are currently being used on Tour, or that are scheduled to be used within the next two months.

In an effort to ensure that this condition is being adhered to, random checks may be carried out and, in some circumstances, a manufacturer may be asked to provide evidence that a certain model, or models, do satisfy one or other of the above two conditions.

3. UNOFFICIAL LIST

Those models that do not satisfy the conditions for submission onto the "Electronic" List can be submitted for testing for inclusion on a "Reserve" List. This List is designed to cater for those balls that are not currently planned for the marketplace or for use on the Tour, but that have been developed, and that may be introduced at a much later date. It will enable manufacturers to submit balls for testing in preparation for possible appearance on the main "Electronic" List in the future.

This List will not form part of the "Electronic" List, and any ball appearing on this List would not constitute a Conforming Golf Ball under the Conforming Ball Condition of Competition. The contents of this List will remain largely unpublished as a whole.

A model of ball that appears on the "Reserve" List can be transferred onto the next published edition of the "Electronic" List if, or when, it becomes a ball that the manufacturer has decided to market and/or it is going to be used on Tour. A manufacturer wishing to move a ball from the "Reserve" List onto the main "Electronic" List must give at least 7 days notice prior to the publication date of the next "Electronic" List.

The submission procedure of a model of ball for inclusion on the "Reserve" List is identical to that of a model that is being submitted for the main "Electronic" List. The same deadlines and testing charges also apply (see Sections 4 and 11 respectively).

4. DATES AND DEADLINES

All of the deadlines for submissions for the 2010 Lists are as follows:

Deadline Date for Submissions	Publication Date of Subsequent List
4th November 2009	6th January 2010
2nd December 2009	3rd February 2010
20th January 2010	3rd March 2010
24th February 2010	7th April 2010
24th March 2010	5th May 2010
21st April 2010	2nd June 2010
26th May 2010	7th July 2010
23rd June 2010	4th August 2010
21st July 2010	1st September 2010
25th August 2010	6th October 2010
15th September 2010	3rd November 2010
13th October 2010	1st December 2010
3rd November 2010	5th January 2011
1st December 2010	2nd February 2011

The above schedule has been worked out on the basis that the List will be updated on the first Wednesday of every month, and, depending on the month, balls must be submitted between six and nine weeks before the next publication date.

5. NUMBER OF BALLS REQUIRED

Two dozen golf balls of each model should be submitted, whether for a new or a repeat submission, and whether for the main "Electronic" List or for the "Reserve" List (see Section 3 above).

These balls should not be pre-selected but they should be a representative sample of those balls intended for use in the marketplace or in Tournament play. Particularly in the case of balls submitted for the "Electronic" List, samples should be from the most recent production lot. For our convenience, it would be appreciated if manufacturers could submit the sample balls in boxes, without sleeves. It would also be helpful if the outside of the box could be marked with the name of the golf ball. **Please do not send golf balls in plastic bags or containers other than standard ball boxes. Improper packaging may result in a delay in processing.**

A "model" of ball is defined as one in which all individual samples have been designed and manufactured to be, as far as possible, identical, even including the external markings and appearance of the ball, except that the identification number may differ in value and in colour (see Section 8)

6. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

The following procedures should be observed when submitting ALL balls for testing:

- (i) Submissions should be consigned direct to our testing agent: The USGA Research and Test Centre, United States Golf Association, Golf House, Far Hills, New Jersey 07931, USA. They should not be sent to The R&A.
- (ii) Our testing agent has advised us that the following information should be included in your shipping documents to assist with the safe and speedy passage through the Customs Authorities in the United States:
 - (a) Indicate clearly the Country of Origin.
 - (b) Indicate that the balls are "For Testing Purposes Only".
 - (c) Declare the value of the golf balls at factory cost price and not at retail price.

For those manufacturers who have a US subsidiary or distribution point, consideration might be given to supplying balls through these organisations rather than through independent shipment through customs.

- (iii) Manufacturers in the USA and Canada will be advised separately by the United States Golf Association on the procedures regarding the submission of balls for testing.
- (iv) When submitting balls for testing, manufacturers are required to complete a separate Golf Ball Specification Sheet for each model submitted and these should be sent with the submission of the golf balls to our testing agent.

In addition, a duplicate copy of each Golf Ball Specification Sheet should be submitted direct to The R&A, accompanied by one sample ball of each model for reference and record purposes.

A copy of the Golf Ball Specification Sheet is attached. This Sheet may be reproduced if additional copies are required.

Please note that the supply of construction and dimple information is mandatory. Failure to complete all the required detail may delay the testing of the model of ball concerned.

- (v) Although golf balls should be consigned directly to our testing agent in the United States, all correspondence, information or queries regarding submissions should be addressed to The R&A.

7. RE-APPEARANCE AND REMOVAL FROM LIST

A model of ball that appears on, for example, the January 2010 "Electronic" List will re-appear automatically on all Lists published within the ensuing 12 months (i.e. up to and including December 2010), unless it is found not to conform in the meantime. A

ball submitted for inclusion on the "Reserve" List will remain on that List for 12 months. If it moves onto the main "Electronic" List within those 12 months, it will only serve out the remainder of that time on the "Electronic" List before a re-submission is necessary.

From time to time during the year The R&A will randomly test balls obtained from retail outlets and through Officials in charge of Amateur and Professional events world-wide. If more than three balls in any two dozen of a particular model collected from any source are found not to conform with the size, weight or initial velocity specifications, the model bearing that name and those identification markings will be withdrawn from the List immediately.

8. GOLF BALL MARKINGS

Both the "Electronic" List and the "Reserve" List provide for two different major markings (on the poles) and two minor markings (on the seams), and it is our view that these four different fields provide adequate means for identifying different models of ball. The current policy on markings is as follows, and it must be observed with regard to all submissions:

- (a) Complete identification of a model of ball must be achieved by the specific contents of the pole and seam markings. However, it is not necessary to use all fields.
- (b) The contents of the fields must include only letters or symbols available from standard computer keyboards and software, or logos which are easy to identify and describe in words. **Symbols must be significant in size and must be easily recognisable.**
- (c) Each model must be unambiguously identifiable using the description on the List, without the need to compare a sample ball of one model with that of another. Since it is often difficult to visually distinguish the various colours used in the markings (for example black versus dark blue or green) the colour of the markings must also be specified on the Golf Ball Specification Sheet.
- (d) For golf balls with coloured covers, only one hue is permitted per individual colour range and the use of iridescent paint is discouraged.
- (e) Models differentiated only by the font style, size or very slight variations in the colour of the markings will not be accepted.
- (f) Identification numbers (sometimes called the player number) cannot be used in any way to distinguish different models - identification numbers are purely regarded as an aid to the player in identifying his ball.

Balls which do not conform to the above policy on markings will not be accepted for testing and listing. In cases of doubt, manufacturers are encouraged to submit proposed markings for review prior to using them on models submitted for testing.

9. COLOURED GOLF BALLS

Coloured Golf Balls within the same model will continue to be listed separately on the Conforming Golf Ball List and the manufacturer will incur a testing fee for each colour submitted.

10. TESTING CHARGES

Manufacturers will be charged a testing fee of £600 for every model of ball which is submitted for testing, even if the ball fails the tests. ***If a ball cannot be fully evaluated due to its construction or as a result of its performance during testing, the ball will not be included on the conforming list and the manufacturer will incur a testing fee for that submission and any subsequent resubmission.***

Manufacturers will be invoiced on a quarterly basis – ie in March, June, September and December. We would respectfully like to ask manufacturers to settle these invoices promptly, in order to avoid a situation whereby we are obliged to consider rejecting future submissions.

11. TEST RESULTS

A summary of test results for Size, Weight, Initial Velocity and Overall Distance will be provided on a quarterly basis for each model submitted. However, these results should be treated with some caution, since testing is usually terminated as soon as it is clear that the model will pass the particular test. If you don't receive any notification in the meantime, you can assume that the balls submitted have passed the relevant tests and that they will appear on the next appropriate List. As intimated in Section 7 above, a model of ball must be submitted once a year to remain on the current Conforming Ball List. Manufacturers will receive notification as to when a model of ball is nearly due to expire.

Please be advised that in any advertisements of a model of ball that appears on the Conforming Ball List, the manufacturer may state that The R&A has ruled that it does not breach the Rules of Golf. However, the use of statements such as "R&A Tested" or "R&A Approved" is prohibited.

Full results for any model submitted which fails any test will be provided to the manufacturer as soon as possible after completion of that test.

If you have a query with regard to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

CLAIRE BATES

Assistant Director - Equipment Standards

Att

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