



17 March 2026

Notice and Comment

Proposed Change to a Single Date Implementation of the Updated Test Conditions for the Overall Distance Standard from January 2030

The R&A and USGA published an Area of Interest on 16 January 2026 requesting feedback on changing from the current phased implementation schedule to implementation on a single date across the whole game effective from January 2030.

Based on consideration of feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, The R&A and USGA are proposing a single date implementation of the updated test conditions for the Overall Distance Standard (ODS), effective across the whole game from 1 January 2030.

The governing bodies propose to maintain the previously communicated timelines for submission of golf balls for conformance testing under the current ODS test conditions.

The proposed last date for acceptance of conformance submissions under the current ODS test conditions would be 6 October 2027. In addition, golf balls submitted for conformance evaluation under the current ODS test condition that are on the December 2027 List of Conforming Golf Balls would remain on the List until 31 December 2029, after which they would expire.

The suggested first date for acceptance of conformance submissions under the new ODS test conditions for inclusion on the List would be 7 October 2026.

We ask that all responses relating directly to this Notice should be received no later than 16 April 2026. These communications should be addressed to Dr Mark Grattan at The R&A via the email address [equipmentstandards@randa.org](mailto:equipmentstandards@randa.org).

Section 2.1 of the Equipment Rulemaking Procedures states:

*“Comments which are provided to The R&A and USGA in response to a proposed Rule change, including the identification of the source of the comments, will be published on the respective websites of The R&A and USGA.”*

In accordance with this procedure, please check the appropriate box below and return it with your comments.

## Permission to Publish Comments Received

- PERMISSION IS GRANTED FOR THE COMMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED VERBATIM.**
- PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO PUBLISH A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE COMMENTS** which redacts any sensitive and/or proprietary information.

Please attach the modified document for publication.

(NOTE: The contents of the modified document, however, must be substantially similar to the non-published version)

- PERMISSION IS NOT GRANTED FOR THE COMMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorised Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title: