

# UNDERSTANDING THE GROOVE AND PUNCH MARK CONDITION OF COMPETITION

## WHAT'S THE CONDITION?

A condition of competition may be in effect for your competition requiring that your clubs conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from Jan. 1, 2010 (see Decision 4-1/1 in the Decisions on the Rules of Golf and Appendix II, 5c(i) of the Rules of Golf).

## WHICH CLUBS DO I NEED TO CHECK?



## IS THE CONDITION IN EFFECT FOR MY COMPETITION?

It's in effect for all USGA championships, including qualifying rounds.  
For other competitions:



Look at the **entry form**.



Ask the **committee in charge** of the competition.



Look at the **posted conditions** for your specific competition.

## RULES SUMMARY

### WHAT CHANGED?

In addition to the principal requirements regarding width, depth, spacing, symmetry and consistency, among other things, the following new requirements became effective Jan. 1, 2010:

- A maximum groove volume for the clubface which applies to all clubs as previously noted, regardless of loft (measured as the area of a groove's cross-section divided by pitch).
- A limitation on how sharp the grooves' edges can be, which applies to all clubs as previously noted with lofts of 25° or more (effective minimum edge radius).
- A plain groove shape requirement.



## HOW CAN I TELL IF MY CLUBS CONFORM?



Check the Informational Club Database:  
[usga.org/InfoClubsDB/intro.html](http://usga.org/InfoClubsDB/intro.html)



Call the **USGA Test Center** at **908-234-2300**.



If after checking the database and calling the Test Center you are still unable to determine the conformance status of your clubs, send your clubs to the USGA for testing:  
[usga.org/equipment/testing/InviteForOpenClubTesting/](http://usga.org/equipment/testing/InviteForOpenClubTesting/)

VISIT OUR GROOVE RESOURCE CENTER FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[usga.org/grooves/](http://usga.org/grooves/)