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TO: ALL MANUFACTURERS

APPLICATION OF NEW RULES ON CLUB FACE MARKINGS

I refer to my letter dated 25 February 2009 regarding the application of the new Rules on club face markings, which are due to be introduced on 1 January 2010.

The purpose of that letter was to seek your opinion on a proposal to extend the permitted manufacture of existing lines of clubhead, which do not conform to the new Rules, by one year – i.e. until the end of 2010 rather than 2009 as previously communicated. Such an extension would mean that the natural production lifecycle of most of the products affected by the new Rules could be completed without disruption. However, the stipulation that all such products had to be assembled and distributed by 31 December 2010 would remain unchanged.

Having carefully reviewed all of the responses received and given the current difficult economic climate, The R&A has decided to adopt the proposed extension to give manufacturers more flexibility in planning their production and inventory levels during the transition to the new Rules.

For the avoidance of doubt, all new models of clubhead due to be launched on or after 1 January 2010 must still conform to the new Rules. Furthermore, players competing at the highest level of elite play from 1 January 2010 will still be required to use clubs that conform to the new Rules, via a condition of competition.

The R&A is appreciative of the input received from manufacturers on this issue which proved to be most valuable.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Claire Bates'.

CLAIRE BATES
Assistant Director – Equipment Standards