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**TO: ALL MANUFACTURERS**

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### **EQUIPMENT RULE-MAKING FORUM**

The purpose of this memo is, firstly, to thank those manufacturers who attended the Forum on Equipment Rule-making which took place in Vancouver Canada on 30 November 2010. Your input and contribution was much appreciated. Secondly, we would like to provide an update on the ongoing activities of the USGA and The R&A in the light of those proceedings.

There were nine specific topics discussed at the Forum. These topics were previously communicated to those manufacturers who attended the forum as well as to those who did not attend. For reference these were:

1. Should the USGA/R&A publicize the equipment research projects that are being worked on?
2. Once a Notice and Comment for a new rule has been published, should the USGA/R&A publicize all comments received?
3. Should the USGA/R&A publicize the details of individual submission rulings?
4. Should there be provisions implemented by the USGA/R&A to facilitate the changeover to clubs with new rules? (for example, "sell-by" provisions)
5. What improvements could be made to the rule change implementation process? Timing, communication, other aspects.
6. What is the preferred USGA/R&A test equipment change process?
7. How can sources outside the USGA/R&A recommend rule changes for consideration? This could include new rules, tightened rules, relaxed rules, and rule removal.
8. Should the impact of one rule change be documented and understood before another rule change is introduced?
9. Under what circumstances is it appropriate for the governing bodies to exercise the authority granted by the following provisions of the Rules of Golf?
  - "The USGA/R&A reserve the right, at any time, to change the



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Rules relating to clubs and balls and make or change the interpretations relating to these Rules."

- "Any design in a club or ball which is not covered by the Rules, which is contrary to the purpose and intent of the Rules or which might significantly change the nature of the game, will be ruled on by the USGA/R&A."

Those manufacturers in attendance expressed numerous opinions about these topics. These opinions represented individual attendee's and manufacturer's opinions as well as the consensus views of the US Golf Manufacturers Council.

Based on the discussions at the Forum, the USGA and The R&A are evaluating the procedures and practices currently used in administering the equipment rules.

This evaluation is ongoing. As further progress is made, we plan to publish a notice of proposed procedural changes for consideration and further discussion. We expect to publish this consultative notice by the middle of 2011.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding any of the above.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Cbates' with a horizontal line underneath.

**CLAIRE BATES**  
Assistant Director – Equipment Standards