



## Equipment Permitted Conditionally for Medical Reasons

As noted in the Miscellaneous Section of the Modification to the Rules of Golf for Golfers with Disabilities, there are many golfers who have physical limitations that may result in some degree of disability and that may have a significant impact on their ability to play. The USGA reviews, on a case-by-case basis, unique devices that are designed for use by individuals with such limitations and that do not conform to the Rules of Golf. After reviewing a device, as well as information regarding the individual's medical condition, the USGA determines whether the device could be permitted as an exception to Rule 14-3 and refers the ultimate decision to the local Committee (e.g., IGA). If the IGA determines that the individual does not gain any undue advantage over other players by using the device, the Committee may permit the player to use the device during a stipulated round in IGA Championships. A similar procedure is noted in Exception 1 to Rule 14-3 for decisions which can be made by the local Committee.

In addition to the procedure noted above, the USGA publishes a **List of Equipment Permitted Conditionally for Medical Reasons** (the "List") for certain items manufactured at a commercial level (i.e., mass produced with respect to a specific condition rather than designed for use by a specific individual). To be included on the list, an item must be submitted to the USGA Research and Test Center for review, along with medical and/or scientific evidence demonstrating a significant connection between the device, as used by a golfer, and the targeted medical condition. Devices designed on a customized level (i.e., designed for use by a specific individual) will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as described above.

A player is not considered to be in breach of the USGA Rules of Golf for using a device included on the List if:

- he establishes, with the Idaho Golf Association, that he currently has a medical condition identified on the List associated with the particular device, and
- the Idaho Golf Association determines that the player would not gain an undue advantage over other players in that competition by using the device.

Neither the USGA nor the IGA make any medical claims or endorsements regarding any device on the List. Manufacturers of equipment and devices that may not conform to the Rules of Golf, but that are beneficial to golfers with medical conditions, are encouraged to submit their products to the USGA for potential inclusion on the List. However, the USGA reserves the right to determine that the equipment or device is excessive (i.e., too restrictive, too assistive, etc.) or does not comply with the spirit of this provision.

### **General Guidelines for Obtaining Permission to Use Equipment Permitted Conditionally for Medical Reasons or to Proceed Under Exception 1 to Rule 14-3 at IGA Competitions Only**

All such requests and required documentation must be submitted to the IGA simultaneously and together with the entry application, all of which must be submitted in writing and received by the IGA prior to the closing time and date of entries set forth on the particular entry form.

If a player is diagnosed with a condition related to a device on the List after the closing time and date of entries set forth on the particular entry form and the player wishes to use the device during an IGA competition, or the player wishes to proceed under Exception 1 to Rule 14-3, the player must submit a formal request, as specified below, to the Executive Director of the IGA as soon as possible prior to the event. In addition to the information required below, the player must include proof that the condition was diagnosed after the closing time and date of entries.

- Requests for local and regional USGA qualifiers should be made directly to the USGA.
- Written requests should include the following information:
  - Documentation from a treating physician, physical therapist or other medical professional describing the player's condition (i.e., medical record, letter, etc.) and how the device affects the player's ability to play golf.
  - The product manufacturer and product name identified on the List that the player wishes to use.
  - Contact information for the medical professional providing the documentation.
  - The following authorization must be included in the player's cover letter to the IGA:

I authorize the IGA, its designated agents and any medical professionals participating in the review process to contact my health care provider(s) regarding my condition, which I believe qualifies me to use the product specified in my request.

I also authorize my health care provider(s) to communicate with the IGA, its designated agents and any medical professionals participating in the review process to provide clarification or further information as may be necessary for the IGA to make a determination regarding my request. I authorize the release of any documentation, medical records, or other information relating to my condition in connection with my request for use of the specified product.

If you are seeking permission to use a unique medical device during an IGA competition, please contact the Executive Director at the Idaho Golf Association, at (208) 342-4442. Similar to the above procedure, all such requests and required documentation must be submitted to the IGA simultaneously and together with the entry application, all of which must be submitted in writing and received by the IGA prior to the closing time and date of entries set forth on the particular entry form.

### **Search Equipment Permitted Conditionally For Medical Reasons**

Go to: [http://www.usga.org/equipment/medical/rx\\_eqpt.asp](http://www.usga.org/equipment/medical/rx_eqpt.asp)