

THE UNDERSIZE GOLF BALL

A DANGER TO THE GAME

By
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For the good of the game, all golfers are urged to use only balls which conform to the USGA Rule of a diameter not less than 1.680 inches.

Some golfers have been using the British size ball of lesser diameter (1.620 inches minimum). Further, some American manufacturers have been producing balls slightly under the USGA minimum.

Failure to use the USGA standard size ball is a violation of the Rules of Golf, and the penalty is disqualification.

Thus, scores are not acceptable for handicapping if any ball not meeting USGA specifications is played.

Use of a small ball is unsportsmanlike. It can engender disrespect for the Rules. If unchecked, it could lead to distortion

of the playing values of American courses—and it would be costly, if not impossible, to lengthen courses or to recover the former relation between ball and course.

The USGA urges clubs to bring these facts to the attention of their members, and to see that their professionals sell only merchandise which conforms with USGA Rules.

USGA Tests

A substantial number of American balls of the following brands tested by the USGA in the spring did not conform with Rule 2-3 of the Rules of Golf for the reasons indicated; it is expected that subsequent tests this year will reveal that the deficiencies of a number of these balls have been corrected:

Brand	Reason
(1) U. S. Royal Special L/P	. . . Diameter less than 1.680 inches.
(2) PGA Ryder Cup 90	. . . Diameter less than 1.680 inches.
(3) PGA Ryder Cup 100	. . . Diameter less than 1.680 inches.
(4) MacGregor DX Tourney	. . . Weight more than 1.620 ounces.
(5) Ben Hogan	. . . Diameter less than 1.680 inches.
(6) Ben Hogan 90 plus	. . . Diameter less than 1.680 inches.
	. . . Weight more than 1.620 ounces.
(7) Sweetshot Dyna 90 Matic	. . . Diameter less than 1.680 inches.
(8) Golfcraft Staff	. . . Diameter less than 1.680 inches.
(9) Electra	. . . Weight more than 1.620 ounces.

Use of such balls (Nos. 1 through 9) is prohibited under USGA Rules except that any **individual** ball of the above brands may be used if it can be proved to meet the specifications or if the player presents written certification of a responsible testing authority to that effect. Responsible testing authorities include golf ball manufacturers.

(10) Acushnet Titleist DT 100 . . . Does not meet velocity test.

Use of this ball (No. 10) is prohibited under USGA Rules, as it cannot be tested except by the USGA apparatus in New York.

British Trying American Size Ball

British golfers have been asked by their golf governing body to try the

American size ball, which is legal under British Rules. Following is an announcement by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland:

"The Rules of Golf Committee have been considering the problem of the golf ball and are unanimously of the opinion that golfers of all standards would find the game more enjoyable if played with the larger, or 1.68", ball.

"Before making any proposal for a change they hope that all golfers will give this larger ball a fair and conclusive trial, so that the Committee may receive a general consensus of opinion on the problem.

"Accordingly, through the National Golf Unions and other representative bodies, they are asking Golf Clubs and golfers to try the ball for a reasonable period and to arrange competitions with it.

"The Golf Ball Manufacturers in this country are pleased to cooperate in this experiment, so far as their present production permits: they believe that supplies will be sufficient to meet reasonable demands.

"The Committee hope that by the end of this year they will have the benefit of the views of golfers, who have given it a serious trial, to assist them in deciding any future action."

Golf as a Religion

Golf is a religion, a way of life itself that is one with Art and Science and Song and Hope and Memory and Joy and Suffering.

Study its rules for character and fair play and the penalties accrued for one who does not conform to decency on a field of honor.

Our complete surrender to Golf seems to be a demonstration that happiness and goodness may be attained by making the most of this in the only world we know, by cultivating our senses until they reach out and apprehend in almost tangible form the unseen spirit of the game.

J. Martin Watson
Boise, Idaho

USGA FILM LIBRARY

"Second World Amateur Team Championship for Eisenhower Trophy" is a 17 minute film in full color of the competition at the Merion GC last fall which was won by the United States team. Ex-President Eisenhower is shown receiving the American and the Australian teams at the White House.

"Famous Golf Courses: Scotland," is an 18-minute film in full color. Famous holes were photographed at Troon, Prestwick, Carnoustie, St. Andrews, North Berwick and Muirfield.

"Walker Cup Highlights," is a 16-minute film tracing the early history and play for the first international golf trophy. Bob Jones, Francis Ouimet and other Walker Cup stars are shown. The latter half of the film is in color.

"St. Andrews, Cradle Of Golf," is a 14-minute, full color, 16mm travelogue of historic St. Andrews, Scotland, its Old Course and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club clubhouse.

"First World Amateur Team Championship for Eisenhower Trophy," is a 14-minute, full color, 16mm film of the first World Amateur Team Championship at St. Andrews. Twenty-nine countries compete for the Eisenhower Trophy.

"On the Green," a 17-minute, full color, 16mm presentation filmed at the Mid-Ocean Club, Bermuda, illustrates correct procedures under the Rules of Golf governing situations arising on the putting green.

"Golf's Longest Hour," a 16mm full color production of 17½ minutes, depicts the closing stages of the 1956 Open Championship. Filmed at the beautiful Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, N.Y., it shows the eventual winner, Cary Middlecoff, set a target at which Ben Hogan, Julius Boros and Ted Kroll strive in vain to beat.

"Play Them As They Lie," a 16mm color production of 16½ minutes in which Johnny Farrell, Open Champion of 1928, acts as intermediary between Wilbur Mulligan, a beginner of unimpeachable integrity, and Joshua P. Sive, a past master in the art of breaking the Rules. The film was made at the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J., where Farrell is professional.

"Great Moments in Golf," lets the viewer see the many interesting exhibits in "Golf House," USGA headquarters in New York, and re-live golf triumphs of the past with many of the game's immortals. The film is a 16mm black and white production and runs 28 minutes.

"The Rules of Golf—Etiquette" stresses the importance of etiquette by portrayal of various violations of the code in the course of a family four-ball match. Ben Hogan appears in several scenes, and Robert T. Jones, Jr., makes the introductory statement. A 16mm color production of 17½ minutes.

The distribution of prints is handled by National Educational Films, Inc., 723 7th Ave., New York 19, N. Y., which produced the films in cooperation with the USGA. The rental is \$20 per film; \$35 for two; \$50 for three; \$60 for four and \$70 for five, in combination at the same time, including the cost of shipping prints to the renter.