

# ANCHORING THE CLUB—UNDERSTANDING RULE 14-1b

The USGA and The R&A, golf's governing bodies, have proposed changes to Rule 14-1 of the Rules of Golf that would prohibit anchoring the club in making a stroke. The change would not go into effect for three years, giving golfers who use anchored strokes time to adjust their game.

## WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

The proposed new entry— *Rule 14-1b* —would prohibit strokes made with the club or a hand gripping the club held directly against the player's body or with a forearm held against the body to establish an anchor point that indirectly anchors the club.



## WHAT THE RULE SAYS

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either "directly" or by use of an "anchor point."

### NOTE 1:

*The club is anchored "directly" when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.*

### NOTE 2:

*An "anchor point" exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.*

## PERMITTED

**CLAW**

**CROSS-HANDED**

**LONG PUTTER NOT ANCHORED**

**TRADITIONAL GRIP WITH MID-LENGTH PUTTER**

**FOREARMS HELD AGAINST THE BODY**

**GRIP RESTING AGAINST FOREARM**

**TRADITIONAL GRIP**

**ONE OR BOTH ELBOWS BRACED AGAINST BODY**

## PROHIBITED

**BELLY PUTTER ANCHORED AGAINST STOMACH**

**ANCHORED LONG PUTTER**

**ANCHOR POINT CREATED BY FOREARM**

**END OF CLUB ANCHORED AGAINST CHIN**

**Penalty**  
Anchoring the club in making a stroke would bring a two-stroke penalty in stroke play and loss of hole in match play (as with any other breach of Rule 14-1).

## THIS IS NOT AN EQUIPMENT RULE

Conforming equipment, including belly-length and long putters, would remain permissible provided they are not anchored.

## REVIEW AND TIMETABLE

