



March 14, 2013

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President

Constant Priondolo
Vice-President

Steve Wood
Secretary

Gary Bernard
Chief Executive Officer

Glen Nager, President
Mike Davis, Executive Director
United States Golf Association
77 Liberty Corner Road
Far Hills, New Jersey 07931

Dear Glen and Mike:

The PGA of Canada has long been a proponent and supporter of the USGA and Golf Canada with respect to the important role both organizations play in writing and interpreting the Rules of Golf. As leaders of our respective organizations, it is our fiduciary responsibilities to represent and serve our constituents within the guiding principles of the respective Associations and the laws of the land.

With that in mind, the PGA of Canada released a public statement in November of last year, pertaining to the Rule 14-1b proposal and as requested by the Royal and Ancient and the United States Golf Association.

The statement read: The PGA of Canada has long supported the governing bodies of golf—the R&A, the USGA and Golf Canada—in their role of establishing the Rules of Golf governing play and equipment. Our organization's commitment to the golf industry both domestically and globally is to grow the game. On behalf of the PGA of Canada, we are asking them to seriously consider the impact this proposed ban may have on people's enjoyment of the game and the overall growth of the game.

In the months since the introduction of the proposed change to Rule 14-1b, the PGA of Canada has closely monitored the dialogue, conversations and opinions dominating television broadcasts, radio airwaves; newspaper and magazine pages; and Internet blogs on this contentious and polarizing subject.

In late February, the PGA of Canada conducted a poll, surveying the nearly 3,800 members of the Association. Twenty-five per cent of our membership responded to the poll, with nearly two thirds (63.5%) indicating they did not favour the proposed

ban on anchoring. These statistics are nearly identical to the PGA of America's poll, surveyed within its membership in late 2012.

The PGA of Canada also asked our members whether or not they supported the recent discussions on the bifurcation of the Rules of Golf. The poll results indicated 54.6% of the members did not support bifurcation. It would seem that based on positions taken by other organizations within the golf industry, if Rule 14-1b were to go ahead, the talk about bifurcation would continue to escalate. The PGA of Canada supports the USGA and Golf Canada that in a growing and flourishing industry there would only be one set of Rules of Golf for all players, regardless of ability or position.

The PGA of Canada's National Board of Directors' is fully aware of the varying opinions on this matter from across the country and there is without question, a percentage of PGA of Canada membership base would support the ban. However, as leaders we must listen to the majority of the constituents and lead accordingly.

Over the past year, golf has showed signs of economic recovery, but the consensus as indicated by the surveys conducted within the membership bases of both the PGA of Canada and America, is the proposed ban will not be in the best interest of the game and industry of golf. The game simply can not afford to regress again, especially if initiated from within the ranks of its own leaders.

Science continues to play an ever-increasing role in many aspects of our lives, as well as in sports. At some point, there has to be scientific methodology or tools of measurement helping to either confirm the true benefits of anchoring, or debunking the myth. To date, there is no statistical data supporting the ban in terms of providing a competitive edge. This debate should not be left to conjecture or opinion, but to the truth of science based in statistical validation

The impact of Rule 14-1b is not known, but golf currently has numerous challenges such as slow or stagnating growth numbers with respect to new players and a perceived elitist image issue within some circles. All governing bodies within the golf industry should be working in the spirit of collaboration to find solutions to these major issues.

If Rule 14-1b were to come into effect, would the loss of golfers render the game unsustainable? More than likely not, however, as stewards of the game, promoting the game and the growth of the industry is a key priority of the PGA of Canada.

For all of the reasons set forth above, it is our opinion that the proposed Rule 14-1b is not in the best interest of the game of golf.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Schubert', written in a cursive style.

Gregg Schubert
President
PGA of Canada