



WOMEN'S SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF ASSOCIATION



POSITION STATEMENT

The Women's Southern California Golf Association has reconsidered its position on the use of distance-measuring devices in WSCGA-sponsored events.

The *USGA* decisions on the Rules of Golf effective January 1, 2006 allows a Committee to permit the use of distance-measuring devices by Local Rule.

This applies to devices that measure distances only, not other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g., wind or gradient).

During the initial two months since the *USGA* Rules of Golf have allowed this Local Rule, feedback from WSCGA members and tournament players has been significant requesting the Association to allow the Local Rule. Players feel that the use of distance-measuring devices will speed play, enhance and equalize course knowledge, and is good for the game. It has also become apparent that the trend is heavily toward allowing the Local Rule, not only in local club events, but at the regional and national level, as well as in most other state amateur golf associations' events.

Therefore, the WSCGA Committee has created a Local Rule and is allowing the use of distance-measuring devices at all WSCGA tournament and team play competitions. This Local Rule applies even if a club has not adopted their own Local Rule regarding distance-measuring devices.

Effective **immediately**, conditions of play for WSCGA-organized events will invoke the following *USGA* recommended wording for the Local Rule allowing distance-measuring devices, as follows.

“Distance-Measuring Devices: For this competition, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect her play (e.g., gradient, wind-speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.”

The Women's Southern California Golf Association, a not-for-profit organization, provides golf-related services and benefits to 28,000 women's golfers and is a USGA licensed State Association, established in 1922 to “**FOSTER INTEREST IN AMATEUR GOLF AND TO ENCOURAGE FRIENDLY COMPETITION AMONG ALL MEMBERS.**”