



DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICE POLICY

The USGA and R&A have issued a [joint statement](#) regarding the use of electronic devices when the Local Rule permitting such is in effect. [Decision 14-3/0.5](#) states that any device used for distance measuring may not contain any other measurement functions that are prohibited (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature - even if such functions are turned off or not used). Many multi-functional devices, such as smart phones, may not be used for distance measuring because they contain prohibited features. The penalty for using a prohibited device is disqualification.

Since current and future mobile technology is ever-changing, it is impractical for the Metropolitan Golf Association (MGA) to develop a statement that will answer all possible questions. Below are examples of what may be used and what is prohibited. The player should contact the MGA to ensure their device conforms if they are not sure.

Many phones have built-in applications that are difficult, if not impossible to delete. For example, the iPhone 3GS comes with a compass application pre-installed. A compass is one of the devices that may not be used on a golf course ([Decision 14-3/4](#)). It is not possible to remove the compass application from the iPhone 3GS. Therefore, it is prohibited for use as an Electronic Distance Measuring Device under the Rules of Golf.

The iPhone 3G does not have the Compass application or any other prohibited applications pre-installed. As long as the user has not installed a prohibited application, the iPhone 3G may be used as an Electronic Distance Measuring Device.

Before using any electronic distance measuring device during a competition, the player should ensure that it conforms to the Rules. Any doubt of conformity will be resolved against the player.