



NCGA'S CLARIFICATION ON SMART PHONE APPLICATIONS

The USGA and R&A has issued a [joint statement](#) regarding the use of electronic devices. [Decision 14-3/0.5](#) states that any device used for distance measuring may not contain any other functions that are prohibited (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature). The joint statement states that multi-functional devices such as mobile phones may not be used as a distance measuring device if the device contains any prohibited features.

Many phones have built-in applications that are difficult, if not impossible to delete. For example, the iPhone 3GS ships 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 to use it as an Electronic Distance Measuring Device under the Rules of Golf. The penalty for using a prohibited device is disqualification.

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.