



Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

6. Do you have something you would like to say on this issue? We'd love to hear from you. Please make your comment in 50 words or less in the space provided and we will select some of the best comments for publication in our next newsletter.	
#	Response
1	I think the USGA is going lose it authority if it continues down the present path. I for one will lobby to get the USGA to reverse its present position and leave things as they are. Let's work on growing the game instead of making it more difficult and less attractive.
2	Given the economy I think we should do more to promote golf and make it easier not more restrictive. I would be in favor of eliminating the 14 club rule.
3	Let us recall the usual courses played by the average public do not have that high rough that the pros play in majors. Make all the pro tournaments have a more penal, graduated, rough. Therefore, no need for groove changes rather than groove changes that will have more of an effect upon the general public.
4	Why should only less than 1% of golf affect the game 99% of golfers play. Could it be that someone wants to create new clubs for private profit interest.
5	The USGA should not make the rules such that it is tougher for weekend golfers to continue to enjoy this lovely game. The game is hard enough!
6	This is bad for the game. What elite players do should not have an effect on me. They should have it as a rule only for tour players. In my opinion, the USGA is out of touch what golfers really want and this decision just goes to prove it.
7	The USGA is killing the golf business. First, this non-conforming driver baloney, previously the Ping lawsuit and it will go on and on. Nobody will abide by any of these rulings anyway. I, definitely, will not. Dave
8	From my point of view I'd prefer maximum 10-club-regulation and that the professionals have a different yardage for par 4 and par 5-holes.
9	I believe in change but constant change shows the weakness in those who make change. Let the game stay as is and let's all have fun. Thanks Roy.
10	Why not just make the course conditions harder? More rough, bunkers, trees, O.B.? Just because they can spin an 8 iron, doesn't mean the average Joe can.
11	The rule should not change; the rough should be longer in the areas of possible driving, a survey on how the pros negotiate this difficulty with statistics for their efforts. Then make a sound decision for all of the golfers.
12	Grow the rough deeper for the tour pro's and leave the other 99% of us alone. This way we can ALL still enjoy the game under one set of rules.
13	I am now a senior and play from the senior tees. My scoring avg is 4 strokes less than the white tees. Are increased/decreased grooves really going to make that big a difference to me? I think not and I love my present irons.
14	Our enjoyment of the game is directly correlated with the number of "good" shots we hit. Deliberately decreasing the number of these shots for the average golfer seems counterproductive.
15	I am a new reader and new to the game (at 55 years). I appreciate the facts and analysis as seen on Frankly Golf and in Golf Digest. Very high standards. Thanks.
16	Excellent job Frank, keep up the good work, your e-mail is the break I need each week, from my ironman tri-athlon training in Panama city beach this November-golf will be priority one next year....Rob Moser
17	This game is certainly tough enough for us average players without making it any more difficult. If the USGA wants to make it more challenging for the best golfers in the world, then growing the rough another inch or two would be a good solution.
18	This would be the same as saying due to distance off the tee on the tour we are doing away with the white tees... Every one next year plays from the tips!
19	The USGA needs to start representing all players, not just the elite, or it will lose its standing and influence. It should stand for growing the game.
20	I have enough trouble keeping the ball on the green now, as a 23 handicap player. I am concerned that for future similar handicapped players who purchase new equipment they will feel frustrated with their ability to play the game. I won't buy equipment with the new more severe requirements. I wonder whether others will make a similar decision. It could encourage people to purchase out of spec equipment.
21	The USGA's motto is "For the good of the game". Is a rule that will raise my score going to make me enjoy the game more? Will the golf course owners enjoy this rule and see it for the good of the game? I wonder if the course owners will reduce the height of the rough which could affect costs because shorter grass height makes for shallower roots and burned up rough in the summer - or worse - higher costs to keep the rough green.
22	Why on earth would the USGA want to make the game any harder for the vast majority of golfers? I believe this rule change is self-destructive insanity and will only push the game into further decline.
23	I am saddened, based on their logic that the USGA has chosen to take this action. I will however, continue to study and play within the rules. Now, if they would only reverse their ruling on long putters!
24	Make the courses more difficult for the pros. A tournament that has a winning score in the minus 20 range indicates a problem. Leave the rest of us amateurs alone.
25	This is an issue about growing the game for the broader golfing public rather than for the elite few playing at the elite level. The USGA should look to tournament course conditioning rather than rolling back groove specifications if it believes that the integrity of the game at the elite level is being compromised. Whether or not the proposed changes will affect the average golfer is less material than the perception we, as average players, may have that the game may be less enjoyable because of such an arbitrary rule determination.
26	2024 seems a long way off - I might not make it, so my answers are for my adult children, grandchildren & so on.
27	I like higher rough, narrower fairways for elite players no need to change the grooves, just make harder conditions period.
28	I think the USGA has overreacted about the groves. Why does the USGA feel that they don't want the pros and us amateurs making great recovery shots from the rough? At tournaments, golf fans don't want to see flubbed shots or a pitch back to the fairway. They want to see birdies and/or pars from great recoveries. Plus, the

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	new equipment and balls have helped everyone hit it farther. If it happens to go in the rough, we all want to be able to recover. Many times we play better golf or turn a match around after that special shot. I am very surprised that the PGA wants to agree with the groove change. This rule should be overturned to maintain current grooves.
29	For the USGA to make rules based on problems with the top 0.001% of players is ludicrous! Their mandate is to be a steward of golf for ALL golfers, not just the few elite ones. For my part, I plan to keep my old grooves, regardless. If this rule isn't rescinded, why not make it apply to only the pros, since the rank and file golfer doesn't have access to the clubs/techniques they do anyway.
30	I can't get spin on an approach shot now. I'd ignore the rule change if it comes about. The bigger issue is the 300= yard driving skills. Pros emasculate most golf courses right now. They can usually most par 5 holes. Those that can't reach in 2 are few.
31	The game is hard enough now for non-pros. This will steer more players away from the game and keep new ones from taking it up.
32	Golf will always be a game requiring skill as well as athletic ability. All equipment changes are designed to make the game more available to the less skilled. I'm happier playing persimmon and blades.
33	The USGA has lost my vote as to their ability to govern the game. They have finally proved they don't give a damn about us little guys, only the top players matter to them.
34	The groove change will not affect the average player most of the time and so is not a big issue. The problem is having a different set of rules for players of different skill levels. One set of rules for all is a must.
35	Thanks for the opportunity to express an opinion. Not that the USGA really cares about my \$60 membership "For the Good of the Game," but the USGA says it is an "organization run by golfers for the benefit of golfers." They can change that to "an organization run by golfers for the benefit of the PGA and elite competitions." I'll keep my money next year to spend on what will become con-conforming equipment. BK
36	This change is idiotic and unnecessary and only shows that the USGA is completely out of touch with the average golfer. If the PGA Tour and other professional tours want this change for their tournaments, then let them do it on their own.
37	I hit it in the rough more than elite players so I need the extra help. I am an 18 handicap. Mike
38	Let's not make this game any harder than it is...the majority of golfers are mid to high handicappers. Please don't let them take my Pings away!
39	The USGA is running the game for the rest of us, and not doing much for the promotion or growth of the game on our level.
40	Reviewing the scoring at "majors," it is clear that course setup can eliminate the perceived problem of square grooves. Don't change the rules based on the elite players!!
41	Narrow the fairways and lengthen the rough for the "elite" (10 clubs???) as a "local" rule-don't punish the duffers!!
42	I'm not a fan of bifurcation of the rules of golf unless there is no other solution. I don't think that the USGA has fully analyzed other options in penalizing wayward elite players.
43	I sent an email to the USGA when they were considering this rule change, very much opposed to it. I never got a reply. I'm now considering dropping my USGA membership and would encourage others to do so as well.
44	This is a huge backward step for the majority of golfers. This problem (if there is one) should have been resolved by the way competition courses are set up.
45	The game is hard enough for us hackers without my being forced to use equipment not designed for my level.
46	Rather than screw around with the very expensive equipment that 99.999% of us pay to play with, how about taking a cheaper route and have the pros play with mandated hard-cover balls in major championships. Since they are often playing with specially culled balls anyway, it would be easy for the major manufacturers to provide them with a ball to fit a USGA spec for professional play, while leaving the rest of us to the current levels of equipment and balls.
47	Having one set of rules has been a strength of the game, but changing them to prevent the perceived advantage of the few, flies in the face of logic, and actually shows that the USGA is not thinking of what is best for the majority.
48	The USGA needs to consider the firmness and speed of greens today compared to 1942. Balls that stopped on the green in the 40s, 50s etc. would not hold today played from the same conditions. The game has changed in many ways beyond grooves in wedges.
49	The Rules should be the same for all golfers!
50	Everyone should play equipment that is under the same rules. You can roll back your equipment all you want, but the best will still be the best. It's like the Ping issue all over again.
51	I have written an article on this issue. If you are interested, please email me where to send it.
52	I strongly want only one set of rules! This is how we are able to judge ourselves against the very best players. Course conditions can be changed very easily to keep par scared.
53	If this rule change will reduce effectiveness of the Smash and Hack game being played by the Pros, it's OK by me.
54	USGA has analyzed the problem correctly but chosen the wrong solution. Penalize bad drives with 4" rough and low woody bushes.
55	The USGA is attempting to direct the game of golf to the elitist. The scratch or plus handicap players, amateur or professional, will have no problem adjusting to these new requirements to what end? They will "dial it" back a little and hit more fairways and greens. You want to make the game tougher for the elite, grow the rough.

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	Going back to 1942 standards, what are next - white shirts, ties and plus fours as a dress requirement to play?
56	There should be only one set of rules for all golfers. The USGA has shown that it can set up courses to preserve par in the U S Open, but it need punish the rest of us who are not threatening par and need help and hope out of the awkward lies we get ourselves into.
57	Don't make the equipment more difficult to use, make the championship courses more difficult for professionals to play. The scores from the US Open make it clear that the courses can be made challenging. Making the courses shorter would bring more players into contention too.
58	<p>I recently read that Callaway Golf has begun experimenting with new ball cover formulations tuned to maximize spin when hit with the new grooves. In the article, Phil Mickelson commented on how well the new balls performed when tested with clubs conforming to the new groove specification. Thus, I think the USGA is foolish to believe that it can stem the effects of technology on the game via seemingly questionable, arbitrary rulings. I believe that long before the USGA's planned re-visitation of this ruling, manufactures will learn to produce equipment that, in the hands of the games elite, will mostly negate the USGA's perceived benefits, and the USGA will be forced to respond. Manufactures will continue to churn out equipment and touring professional will continue to reap the benefits sans cost, while average golfers will end up footing the bill for the upcoming technological arms race between golf manufactures and the USGA.</p> <p>I think course design and setup offers a better alternative to regulating the professional game.</p> <p>In the end, the score Tiger or Phil shoots at the end of the day on Sunday, doesn't matter to me one bit. I'll still love to watch and play golf.</p>
59	I expect that most of us will still play with our soon-to-be non-conforming clubs. So much for one set of rules for all. It's too bad ill-informed, narrow-mindedness is over-shadowing foresight. I'd rather see the pro's WOW us with escape shots AND give them a chance instead of having golf balls scurrying across or flying the greens. Let's support skill and success and not promote embarrassment and failure!
60	I believe we are slowly moving toward two sets of rules. Currently it is permissible for the non elite players to use range finders while playing and the move to change the grooves, which will be in effect for the elite players before the rest of us, will leave us playing under another set of rules per se. What I don't understand is why is the USGA so opposed to the way the elite players are able to play the game? They are the best in the game and it should not be a sin for them to make a par or birdie. That's what makes it fun for the fans to see them perform. Trying to trick up courses and fooling with technology in an effort to try to diminish their abilities is not fan friendly. I would rather see a player make a birdie to win a tournament than to see a player self destruct and lose because of something over which he has little control.
61	I had a look at the PGA statistic and although driving distances have changes, the scoring average and GIR have not significantly dropped. Considering the advance in clubs and ball technologies, I think the effect on scoring is VERY negligible. Records are meant to be broken, I guess if the Olympics were run buy the USGA, the Jamaican sprinter, Bolt, would have to run in hiking boots from now on.....
62	Golf is hard enough for the average golfer with current equipment options. Making the game more difficult discourages participation and in turn discourages growth of the game. The golf industry can't afford to lose the average golfer.
63	I am still using clubs with the old style grooves, not by choice (can't afford new ones) I think the USGA has forgotten that the game of golf was created for the average golfer, not the 0.001%
64	Today's greens are much firmer and faster than those of 50 years ago. The old wedges, played to these surfaces, would be totally inadequate. As a low handicap player, I find my newest wedge still can't stop the ball in many situations. I doubt this is the answer.
65	Don't change the rules on the grooves, grow the rough even higher and change the course set up for the elite events. Don't change the equipment rules for the average golfer, the game is tough enough as it is. I'm afraid that these changes will stunt the growth of the game.
66	This change, unless fully documented with supporting data, is completely unfounded and should be reversed. Equally, I am completely opposed to two sets of rules. I know the pros alter their lofts and lies but we amateurs are still playing basically the same equipment. I think this change will have a big negative impact on the sport. JT
67	Leave the grooves alone, we love watching the pros score low and spin the ball ten yards backward.
68	For the Good of the Game, the USGA should not be mandating something that will make the game harder for 99.9 percent of the participants. Golf is difficult enough without reverting to 1940s technology.
69	Plant some trees and shrubs, grow a wiry tough 3inch rough and leave the grooves alone.
70	World records in all sports continue to be broken. Let the elite golfers, as in other sports, continue to break records.
71	I believe that there are other methods to penalize the elite player. The groove issue has not been scientifically proven. Narrower fairways deeper primary rough seem to do the trick in some of the majors.
72	<p>Any change that makes golf more challenging is detrimental to the popularity and growth of the game. From this principal we could conclude that the change is bad for the health of the game.</p> <p>However, in this case, the groove change may not have a noticeable difference on the 90%+ of golfers who play Bogey or worse golf.</p> <p>So, the most important concept here may not be the groove change itself, but insuring that future changes to address perceived issues with the game at the highest level do not render the game even less accessible to the rest of us.</p>
73	The ability to have even slightly more of control my shots around the green or out of tougher lies has made the game much more enjoyable I can actually spin or stop a shot like a pro would (once in a while). I would hate to see this happen. I will have to go out and purchase enough wedges soon enough to be stocked up after the change becomes effective. I thought a primary objective of the USGA was to grow the game. These types of arbitrary decisions only further alienate regular golfers who are the back bone of golf in America.
74	If the USGA wants to make play more difficult for the elite players than make the courses more difficult for them, not move backwards in golf club or ball design.
75	Accuracy on an iron shot from most primary rough is difficult enough to predict that changing the total groove volume to penalize elite players is not really necessary in order to keep the game fair and challenging.
76	When the USGA considered COR, it determined that not restricting it would benefit the best players while leaving the average player with little or no benefit. This



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	groove rule is a perversion of that philosophy; punishing the better player while punishing the average player MORE.
77	How can a rule change be good for the game if the reason for it is brought about by the play of the elite few? The USGA is not acting in the best interest of 99% of us.
78	Don't change the club specs, simply set up Elite Tournament courses to play harder...end of problem!
79	Elite players will ALWAYS be elite players! If pro hits a ball 180 out of 3 inch rough, so be it! It's a 'red hearing' to the average golfer! It's a 'real boom' to the golf industry, isn't it? \$\$\$
80	At age 75 and above, our group needs all the "extra edges and breaks" we can get!! Need different rules for age groups and pros and amateurs!!!
81	Appears as though the USGA has already decided. They have set the dates for compliance...what's left ?? The game is "set" around the select few as it is. Look at all the course changes due to "length" achieved by the Pros with new ball and club technology. Enjoy the game !!!
82	USGA is an elitist organization that seems to holdfast to preserving the game as it was. Change is inevitable and the rules should be reflective of the majority of golfers not the elite. Equipment changes are inevitable. Nicklaus's suggestion of a different ball for championship play is the simplest way to preserve all the old records.
83	I'm 68 years old. I'm sure I won't be around in 2024
84	Just leave the game alone. It is fine right now!!
85	The Pro game is out of control there are always making courses longer to stand up to the bombers. Too many good old courses are being left out of action. Make the bombers pay for missing the fairways. I don't think 1942 grooves would affect the modern irons and wedges for Joe Golfer, Would 1942 grooves really make a difference in my X-18 irons, doubt it.
86	I'm so annoyed with the USGA meddling with grooves again; I did not renew my membership. I thought this was over after the PING settlement. This is not for the good of the game.
87	I would prefer one set of rules for everyone, but there are differing rules for the "pro" in other sports so if need be another set for the "pro golfer" is ok with me.
88	To reinforce, Please Consider the Majority of the Average Golfers rather than based your findings on a vast minority. And Please reveal fully your objective findings to justify your decisions.
89	I think your opening negative comments on the USGA decision unduly impact the survey response - if you want an unbiased survey you should not precede it with your personal opinion.
90	Another indication the USGA has lost touch with the 99+ per cent of us who pay to play with our own money.
91	It would seem to me that the USGA already has the answer on how to control shots from the rough. Just make the rough longer and the fairways narrower. This worked in the US Open and the Barclays.
92	The USGA should stop turning back the evolution of golf. It was thought that lengthening golf courses would stop elite players from breaking par; but it just hasn't happened. Neither will this change have much effect on the scores of the elite players. It will, however, affect the amateur's scores.
93	Please step back and try to see the big picture here... you're cutting off your nose to spite your face. If you want to do something novel, try doing something that would HELP 99% of the game's participants instead of handicap them. It seems you're doing your best to screw the game up for the casual golfer. How about a little common sense here fellas.
94	The USGA Rule Book already gives me a headache. I would hate to see local or club tournaments decided by technicalities. Don't take all the fun out of golf.
95	Golf used to be a game about skill. The best golfer usually won, now it's about the golfer with the most money buy's a better game by buying the best game improvement golf clubs. Roll back all the equipment and make everyone play with forged blade irons and persimmon woods that way the better golfer will win not the golfer that can afford the best equipment.
96	Dear Frank, As a Club Builder I am concerned about problems in re-grooving clubs to the new specs. Your comments?
97	I find the ruling relating to grooves on the faces of golf clubs to be ridiculous!
98	If the purpose is to rein in the elite players abilities then to me the logical place to start that would have the intended effect without negatively impacting the "average" golfer would be to look at the golf ball itself.
99	It is really simple so why complicate it. One set of rules. Make the rough deeper for tournament golf.
100	If legislation is necessary, it would be more useful to prepare an omnibus set of regulations which included balls and clubs (shape, size and material) as well as groove configuration. A piecemeal approach will only provide piecemeal results.
101	It appears the USGA has failed to recognize the golfing population as has much of the media to only those that appear on weekly TV golf events. When will industry recognize the game if for all ages and skill levels?
102	Uniformity is fine, but standardizing equipment for everyone is like saying no one can adjust their lie angle or the length of their putter. It has to be an individual thing.
103	The recent rule change could open up a Pandora's box of countermeasures, i.e. softer balls, more bizarre course setups, etc. Don't really see how it protects the game. I will probably be stockpiling Miura and Vokey wedges in 2010 for use through 2024. Sixteen years until the rule applies to my sort of game is bizarre at best.



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104	I think it is very sad that the USGA is going to make a hard game even harder just because some people are so talented. Shame on them.
105	Totally unnecessary to make this change.
106	Leave the grooves alone; grow the rough deeper.
107	Frank weren't you the USGA Technical Director when the 1st set of rules came into effect when Ping came up with their new grooves in the Eye2 irons and the subsequent court case? What are the fundamental differences now? Vina
108	Leave the groove issue alone, but move the 14 club limit 15 clubs to help us high handicappers.....Patch
109	USGA should leave well enough alone.
110	If the USGA wants to negatively impact (control) the performance of the elite then they should do so such that it impacts the elite and not the playing (paying) public. Makes sense to me but what do I know. I am just one of millions of golfers that actually make this game a successful enterprise and who are also impacted by this proposal. Maybe the people in the ivory halls need a change of perspective (maybe to the outside looking in).
111	I think it is ridiculous to make a rule change like this. Why don't they just make the tournament courses the Pros play on not have short rough? They could place bunkers 300yds down the middle of the fairway on these courses...oh, and make the cup smaller. The game is hard enough for us amateurs as it is...don't make it harder!
112	Elite golfers will still be elite golfers relative to the rest of us no matter what you do with the rules. Leave them alone. We have too many rules to remember already without adding alternate rules.
113	For 99%+ it doesn't matter whether the grooves are the 1942 edition or the 2008 edition. I believe it's much ado about nothing.
114	The game is sufficiently difficult for all but the most highly skilled players. Even with "new" grooves, improved balls and clubs, only a very small percentage of players ever approach shooting par or below. Further, with costs of the game exploding, it is probable that course conditions in the future may change, making golf even harder. (e.g. more and deeper rough, less manicured fairways, etc.) Golf isn't growing now. Does the USGA want to further reduce play by making an already challenging game harder?
115	Leave it to the USGA to screw things up. The board needs to spend more time in the field talking to the golfers who pay the freight, not worrying about elite players. Penalize them in USGA tournaments, not everyone else.
116	I will not buy another set of irons if and when the new rule takes effect. I am sure there is going to be a big run on the old style grooves before they run out.
117	Frank, Golf is virtually the only game where, historically, one set of rules applies to all players of various skill levels. By making these changes the USGA is arbitrarily making a division that is unnecessary. Golf is a difficult game at all levels and the USGA should not try to make it more so for the recreational golfer. One of the unforeseen consequences may be more equipment that does not conform and therefore more undue pressure on current manufacturers. I don't like the change. George Phillips
118	The USGA is trying to be the NFL. Anytime the NFL thinks that the game is missing something, they change the rules. Golf is not the NFL, all true golfers like the game the way it is. We all need to play by the same rules.
119	Grooves, balls, MOI, etc, etc. It should all be a single set of rules for all who play golf. If we don't play by a single set of rules then we are not playing the same game. However, there should be more care and consideration as to course set-up for the 'elite'. It is interesting to note how the USGA seems to get the elite scores to come in at around even par. This is how all courses should be set-up for any tournament played and let the handicap system work the way it was intended. If rules changes cause a change in my handicap then so be it. Let the cry babies and some elitists complain that the course is too hard. They don't have to participate; they are, after all, independent contractors. It is good to see that that the elite are not superheroes and do make bad choices and do make poor shots and do look like us mortals when put tot tough test. It is much more interesting to watch and more stunning when the miracle shot is made.
120	I am not a tournament golfer of any type any more but the effects on the mfr's would affect my future purchases.
121	I would argue that the average golfer, as much as they would like to believe they are benefitting from current "maxed out grooves", really won't see much difference. I play with many golfers with handicaps in the 12-18 range and even with the Mack Daddy grooves; they can't spin the ball on the green from the fairway, let alone the rough. My biggest concern with the ruling is the overly long "sunset" clause with regard to clubs made before 1/1/2010. Just like they did with drivers, put a hard deadline for everyone and move forward. The biggest problem with this decision is a defacto bifurcation in the rules that lasts until 2024.
122	It is hard to believe that the USGA would make this kind of move for less than 1% of the total population playing golf. Is there a new group of members there that are purposely making change for change sake?
123	Frank the rules will not affect my game in any way. Most of the men and women that I play with make up our own rules to help us enjoy the game. If one is broken it does not upset me. I encourage a poor player to do what is necessary to have a good game. Even to teeing it up in the fairway. Love you emails. Tom Jennings
124	The distance the golf ball travels would be a better solution.
125	If you are a pro playing for "big bucks" and making present courses to easy, you probably need different equipment than us amateurs who are struggling to have fun. Rules of play and rules of equipment are two different things
126	I think all golfers should play by the same rules and I believe it is not in the best interest of the game to change the grooves thus making a hard game even harder because of a few elite players.

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127	I think that there should be rules for just the elite and one for the average player.
128	I am strongly against two sets of rules and prefer to keep groves as they are now.
129	Not much difference between different grooves for elite players and ball flight restrictions (2 different balls) for pros vs. amateurs. What's next, high handicappers get to roll the ball in the rough?
130	It is too wonderful a game to make rules based on the very few who play on TV and it is foolish, in my opinion, to fragment the game on that basis also
131	I don't think the groove is really the problem but the long hitting, improvement of equipments and more dedicated professionals with a lot of prize money have changed the game.
132	Regardless of my skill level I don't believe there should be two sets of rules. Personally I can't work the ball the way the pros and impart pro type spin anyway, so one set of rules is good enough for me.
133	No matter the technology improvement my understanding is the average handicap has not changed for years. The game is not getting easier for me. Let the technology grow. Narrow the fairways and grow the rough and toughen the greens on the tour. Let the average player have as much advantage as possible.
134	If they make this change then we need a change in the setup & construction of golf courses. Far too many courses are too hard & long for the average golfer & most players cannot generate enough spin with today's equipment to offset these conditions.
135	playing for pay is why we watch them and marvel at their ability make greens slower then all can stop on green from rough, we do not all need Augusta type greens!
136	Make the fairways narrower and rough taller for the elite players. Leave the club specifications alone.
137	No special consideration should be given to the .001% that messes up the res of the golfing world.
138	THE USGA IT SEEMS IS CONSTANTLY TINKERING WITH THE RULES OF GOLF. SOME CHANGES MAYBE GOOD AND SOME NOT SO GOOD.IT IS VERY HARD FOR THE AVERAGE GOLFER TO KEEP UP WITH THESE CHANGES. I THINK EVERONE SHOULD PLAY BY THE SAME SET OF RULES.WHY NOT NARROW THE FAIRWAYS & GROW THE ROUGH? THAT WOULD PUT A PREMIUM ON ACCURACY.
139	I think that this should be scrapped and they need to look at the courses they are playing. Maybe they should play shorter courses with standard width fairways that we normal golfers play. If you notice the PGA does not show well on short courses.
140	The purity of the game is it's power; when we play the same course with the same "clubs" we match ourselves with the pro's, which gives us power?
141	I don't agree going back is a good idea, we have moved to the present, leave it alone now. Leave all equipment as it is now, I am 65 and have played to a single digit with the old blade clubs and new cast clubs in many amateur events from age 15 to still at 65. Grow the rough in the landing areas where needed and let them hit the big drive, the real problem I see is the large greens the pros have to hit to, cut down the green size. The pros are strong enough to gouge the ball out to a big green, with smaller greens then accuracy will be a premium for big drives. The pros are so good with the putter they can 2 putt any big green, if the green is smaller 2 putts are good, but you still have to land it one the green which becomes more difficult, ask any good golfer if the greens are smaller the fairway becomes premium.
142	need to make ones earning money change grooves
143	The Majority of amateur have difficulty in controlling the ball now, if they firmed up the greens for elite golfing Tournaments this would have the same effect.
144	One game; one set of rules.
145	I've never been able to accept the idea, nor the gratification, of people lowering their scores just by going out and buying a new piece of equipment. I'm a 16 handicapper and I have never seen any evidence that I have ever put backspin on the ball. I highly doubt that this change will affect me or any other duffers like me. And I do think that technology has lessened the skill required of the top pros. I like this move back to older standards. It brings the element of skill more thoroughly back into the equation.
146	Basing a rule change on the top 0.001% of golfers is absurd - For those of us who play the game for the love of the game, this rule change will certainly erode that enjoyment - "For the good of the Game!"
147	Golf should be played under one set of rules, period. Courses may become easier for the best golfers, then so what? Roll back the ball...for everyone. If I end up hitting the ball a few yards shorter, then so be it.
148	Frank, I'm a purist at heart and OLD school. I say that if a man can hit a golf ball with a frying pan better than with his clubs, then he should be allowed to use the frying pan. In the old days (up until about 10 years ago), I could always live with the rules of golf both on equipment and play. Yes, me and my 1995 Wilson Pro Staff Goose Necks (straight blades, I might add) have been far outclassed by the equipment of most golfing competitors since I bought them. But I enjoy the challenge of playing with old school equipment, and the modernization of equipment does nothing to squelch that for me. Obviously, the USGA is feeling the heat of the future with regards to the courses available to the PGA Tour. They aren't going to be able to make them longer, so they have to figure out another way to make play more difficult. The solution to me will never happen with equipment regulations. Having an edge with equipment is a part of the game. If the USGA has a problem with scores, then they should spend their time with PGA officials to make the courses more difficult. That is the simple solution. The rough at the Memorial was 6 inches this year, and the players struggled at times. Foolishness and foolish rules will never solve this problem. I say im prove or ditch the courses then and build new ones! The whole thing is crazy...
149	It is quite possible that this rule change will cause me to reconsider whether or not I wish to remain a member of the USGA for the sole purpose of maintaining a handicap index since, under the proposed rules; it will become harder for me to remain even slightly competitive. I enjoy the game, and in order to continue enjoying the game I am more than willing to exit the USGA and continue playing in "casual rounds" with my playing partners under the 2008 Rules of Golf.
150	This rule should never have changed in the first place. It takes away shot making ability.
151	I think, as has been suggested in the past, a tougher course setup can address the problem of the elite players hitting the ball too far. This can be done buy gradually narrowing the fairway at the longer distances and letting the rough grow longer. Ken



Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

	<p>Hi Frank - So I just don't get it - Has the USGA not learnt from the COR debacle - Keep it simple.... KISS</p> <p>Dear USGA</p>
152	<p>Please consider taking the simpler road! and lighten the golf ball (My understanding is that affects higher swing speed players more and weight is easily measured with post office scales!)</p> <p>Why go down complicated routes like COR, and microscopic groove detail???</p>
153	<p>Although we (Most average golfers) play on different courses (Average Maintenance vs Super Maintenance), than the elite golfers. I enjoy the fact that we still play under one and the same rules.</p>
154	<p>In today's game both amateurs and professionals take both feel and hard data into account when making changes in their game, such as changes in loft/lie/degree of clubs. By relying on one (either one) and not both you run the risk of not progressing and potentially hurting your game instead. I think the same can be said for the issue on groove technology.</p>
155	<p>The USGA and R&A are out of touch with the grass-roots of the game or the 99.999% of golfers who are not the 'elite'. In the real world out of touch usually results in out of a job. Perhaps the rules for all golfers should be ratified by all golfers.</p>
156	<p>One of the beauties of this wonderful game is we all play by the same rules and can use the same equipment, thus can judge our results against the "field" of world golfers. Why change?</p>
157	<p>I think you have already said it all very well.</p>
158	<p>The elite players will be affected little by the change, because, they are elite players. The players possibly most affected would be the 99.9% whose skill level can't compensate for the change and will cause higher scores unnecessarily.</p>
159	<p>I would like to see accuracy be a more important part of the game. Stop lengthening courses.</p>
160	<p>From what I understand the studies on this issue by the USGA have produced questionable results. Why aren't the manufacturers and the rest of the industry conducting their own studies and publish the results so that the whole golfing community can have a better understanding. I agree with Jack Nicklaus change the ball. Everyone buys new balls every year. It would be far less disruptive than having to buy new clubs if there has to be a change.</p>
161	<p>There exist better and simpler solutions to the perceived problem. Low to high have different issues limiting their improvement; fairways hit and simply playing smart.</p>
162	<p>Make the pros play 1942 drivers and fair woods with steel shafts. This will change their approach to the greens.</p>
163	<p>The only part of my game I can improve enough on to lower my scores is my short game so if this rule is going to make it harder for me to improve I may get frustrated.</p>
164	<p>It is a little sad that the game of golf is becoming a sport for the elite and people like me have to go along with these changes what happened to the "One rule for all" motto..</p>
165	<p>Leave the rules alone. I don't have the budget for this and want a fair playing field.</p>
166	<p>If current grooves are reducing the need for driving accuracy by the pros, narrow the fairways and grow the rough deeper.</p>
167	<p>We cannot have two sets of rules for my game. Golf is rooted in rules and this capricious action by the USGA is not only poorly conceived but will ultimately have a detrimental impact on the game I love.</p> <p>I seem to recall that one of the USGA's tag lines is..."for the good of the game". There is nothing at all good about this "solution" for a problem which doesn't exist. As is usually the case, the USGA hurts the heart and soul of the game, we amateur duffers, in an effort to penalize the pros.</p> <p>The number of recreational golfers is already on the decline with more people quitting the game than picking it up. Between obscene green fees, expensive equipment, slow play and poor course maintenance we need a rule making it harder to play this already difficult game even harder like a four putt on a par 5.</p>
168	<p>I have just got my shots to stop with some back spin from the fairway. The most of us weekend golfers still can't make them back up, so why do we have to be penalized.</p>
169	<p>I am not sure I understand your question 4 the way it is worded.</p> <p>I am sorry to disagree with you but I do not think the square grooves should have ever been allowed in the first place. I do not want two separate sets of standards or rules in any case.</p>
170	<p>The professionals do not play the same game that the rest of us play. I would feel no differently about the great game of golf if the pros had rules which would rein in some distance. I would love for the game to go back to more of a shot shapering, strategic style vs the hitting it as far as possible, finding it, then hitting again!</p>
171	<p>I agree with Frank Thomas on this issue. Toughen up the courses for the Pro's and leave the rest of us alone. Equipment is far too expensive for the masses to keep compliant. I am a USGA member.</p>
172	<p>Do sandbaggers come into the equation?</p>
173	<p>This is pretty ridiculous. I think course setup would be a better way to challenge the elite players. Different green speeds, Narrower fairways and longer rough at the elite players driver distances might be an equalizer.</p>
174	<p>The USGA is about to ruin the fun of the game for the average golfer. As 69 year old male who can still hit the ball as far, straighter and score as well as I did when I was thirty why would they want to take that away because Tiger and the boys shoot under par? Want to stop then let the rough grow, narrow the fairway and add trees.</p>

These opinions are from golfers who completed our survey on grooves. Thanks to all who took part.



Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

175	Get back to governing the game of golf for the amateurs. Let the pros look after themselves.
176	Other more pressing changes I would rather see: 1.) Out of bounds delineation between fairways that extend together for the pros...No longer should the mile long/mile wide driver be rewarded. Also OB for the player who hits the ball into the spectators outside a certain perimeter. Matted down grass is an unfair advantage for less accurate drivers of the ball! 2.) Lift, clean and place rules too lax...stop the pampering of pro golfers! I've been to tournaments where the only WET conditions were for the spectators in the parking lot!
177	Most of the time the eqpt. that the PRO is using is not available to the general public or if it is it is too expensive ie \$200.00 shafts. You read the golf mags and so & so just put a set of prototypes into play or a new ball that is not on the market yet. You cannot convince me that I can go into a pro shop and buy the same ball that Tiger is playing. Thanks for listening.
178	Golf is a difficult game. Technology has been used to improve equipment yet the game is still difficult and we have not seen a score improvement over the past 20 years of the average golfer. Will this change make the game more attractive for the average golfer? Is this change in the best interests of the average golfer? Will it "grow the game" or will it lead to more frustration and fewer people sticking with the game?
179	The proposed change indicates that the inmates are surely now firmly in charge of the asylum
180	The changing of rules, and the building of golf courses only professional golfers can play, is madness. If necessary, create a tournament ball to solve this problem.
181	Have the new groove rule NOT Apply to game improvement irons. Better yet, have the new rules apply only to the "top of the line irons" used by pros and top amateurs.
182	No mater what they do, that 1% is going to make the game look much easier than it is.
183	Two sets of rules are bad; it goes against the thought that any two players can play a match. It is fundamentally wrong for golf.
184	The solution is simple - GROW THE ROUGH LONGER and make it more penal.
185	I think the USGA should consider tweaking course set up for elite players. The game is difficult enough for the masses.
186	Let the better players benefit from the deeper grooves and give the amateurs a target for improving their game.
187	Golf is hard enough for the average player, making it more difficult is insane!
188	I don't believe control out of the rough is the issue. The USGA let things get away from the long ago when driving distance and ball lengths began changing significantly. Dial back the distance and bring some skill back into the game. As long as driving distance is the controlling parameter the game is headed for trouble. The cost of building "payable" facilities will kill the game. Some of the new "modern monsters" are not playable by the average golfer for just about any set of tees.
189	PURE BULL
190	The game and equipment have been the same for all from the beginning; let's leave this great game fundamentally pure!
191	Stop the equipment BS. All of the USGA's concerns about the performance of elite golfers can be addressed through managing course conditions for tournament play. If they want play to be more difficult, set the course up to be more difficult. Leave the rest of us alone!
192	Just eliminate light rough for the elite pros, short grass or die.
193	Most of the very best players in the world think this change is stupid. A vocal few don't.
194	Leave well enough alone. We don't need to be going backwards in this day and time.
195	I don't agree with having equipment that will make the game too easy however, it is as dumb as you can get to try changing equipment so we don't have the pros destroying course. Adjust the course and let the (real) pros adjust to that. What a shame!!!!
196	It's time to think of the "average" golfer not to try to limit the exception. COME ON just grow the rough higher for the pro's
197	We are not pros, we support golf we enjoy golf do not restrict our game, we can not compete with the pros. lose us you we all loose. Think about it.
198	One set of rules for All golfers. It has worked for 400 years.
199	THE GAME IS SUPPOSED TO BE FUN FOR MOST OF US. I AM A 14 HANDICAP, AND I DO NOT TYPICALLY PLAY IN ANY TOURNAMENTS, SO IT SHOULD AFFECT ME. THE PROS THAT ARE SO GOOD IT'S SCAREY PROBABLY NEED A DIFFERENT SET UP RULES. JUST LOOK HOW FAR THEY HIT IT!!!! FOR TOURNAMENTS, (OTHER THAN LOCAL CLUB TOURNAMENTS), THERE SHOULD MAYBE BE SOME SORT OF RULES FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHTS. THE AVERAGE GOLFER IS NEVER GOING TO GAIN ANY BENEFIT FROM THE GROOVES!!!!
200	The game of golf should be for the shotmakers that keep the ball in play, the course should be the problem and all the equipment to overcome.
201	I have enough trouble now trying to spin the ball. God help me if it changes for us all.
202	Make rules that apply to the pro players only that concern equipment or what ever else they think is in the "best interest of the game.
203	It seems to me that there are not enough "good" golfers for it to matter. I'm a 3 handicap, and still miss-hit about a 1/3 of my shots, it seems. I guess I think that we as amateur golfers probably won't notice too much. Let's be honest now! My son, who is 27 years old and a +3 handicap, complains about too much spin all the time. So do the pro's. We will adapt, and play our little game, as best we can. Personally, I will take what comes, and keep trying to put the ball in the hole, as QUICKLY and with as few strokes as possible. Good luck to all on the links.

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Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

204	The USGA should get input from their members as to the fairness of arbitrarily deciding what and how changes are made. They are like a "secret society" now.
205	I don't think the scores have been significantly lower over the years that requires this kind of major change. Most of us need all the help we can get but Golf is still a very difficult game. No need to make it harder
206	With the # of rounds decreasing anything to make the game harder than that played by Mr. Hogan is detrimental to the game's appeal.
207	I have seen majors with course setups that keep the scores around par. This tells me that it is not the grooves but the course setup that will keep the pro golfer in check.
208	Grow the rough for the pros!!!
209	There is no evidence at all that this rule will solve the stated problem. The USGA needs to create a panel of outside experts and representative of golfers to balance the voice of its internal technical department.
210	I strongly support the USGA's initiative for the professional game only. Ordinary golfers need all the game improvement assistance they can get. I am hoping the USGA goes one better for the pro game and limits loft on wedges to 56 degrees and eliminates long putters by requiring the hands to be placed in unison on a club.
211	The USGA is OB (Out of Bounds) here again. We want to see Home Runs/a-la-Bubba/Holmes. We want the Pros to perform as well as they do with tools they use. I do not care if some courses are being brought to their knees by these experts. WOW! What they do.
212	I prefer to have one set of rules for all golfers, whether beginners or professional. All we need to do is make fairways narrow and the rough longer for the professional and therefore it will keep all our golf courses the same and playable for all at any level. No more making our current courses obsolete.
213	Everyday golfers are involved in the game to a great degree because so many professional golfers come across like regular guys (the Tiger Woods of the game being the extreme exception to ANY rule). It lends itself to the fantasy that anyone has a chance to practice hard enough to compete on a higher level. Whether that "higher" level is the PGA or a local charity tournament, the fact remains that we will continue to rate ourselves on a scale that includes the pros. When you do anything that separates the pros from the local golfer, you will begin to see a lessening interest from the rest of us because they will no longer be competing on a level scale with the rest of us. The more of an elite or different or better status you give the pros, the less they will be like the guy next door who made good. We will relate less and less to them and that will be the beginning of the end of the game of golf, or at least the every day golfer's interest in watching the pros or attending the tournaments or participating in any of the many ways we have of being involved in the game.
214	I can BARELY spin the ball with today's spec'd grooves from LIGHT rough (1"). If I by new clubs after the change, I will NOT be able to control the ball at ALL.
215	I'm not convinced that the grooves have helped the average golfer to any extent. Most golfers can't make the ball spin with today's grooves and the ball will not spin any less with the "1942" grooves. Test data showing significant differences in spin rate for the average player would allow me to revise my opinion, if it showed a significant impact on the average player.
216	The USGA is out of touch with the needs of the golfing public; not only in this area but in the GHIN system and continuing foolish rules, like hitting out of divots, etc.
217	The USGA has made this decision based on a comment by Arnold Palmer made 20 years ago about square grooves versus v-grooves. Palmer later endorsed an illegal driver with a trampoline effect which the USGA at first had a fit about then backed off due to the negative publicity they were generating for themselves in regard to the "King of Golf". Now they are taking on all the golfers in the USA over this issue of square grooves when we have been playing with them for over 20 years and not significantly improving in our scoring where is their consistency, where is their caring about the game and the amateurs that make this game work. I'm appalled.
218	Spending the USGA executive committee's time on grooves is akin to Congress holding hearings on whether Roger Clemens did or didn't. MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. A waste of valuable time. GW!
219	There are bound to be better ways to address this perceived problem, such as lengthening the rough for professional tournaments.
220	The USGA will screw up this issue as all of the driver changes they have made--the game is difficult enough so why take away the fun for the average golfer.
221	This rule change will likely result in a large run on the purchase of deep grooved clubs next year by the average golfer while those clubs are still available (to the extent that they will be available).
222	I suppose we could buy clubs from the Chinese. Rules won't bother them, or the underground club makers.
223	The most important principle is one set of rules for all. People will adapt to whatever grooves are legal. It will not be disastrous.
224	If the USGA makes the game more difficult for the average player then it is doing the game a great disservice.
225	I don't have an issue with bifurcating the rules as they apply to equipment for tour professionals and amateurs. However, the rules as to how the game is played warrants further consideration.
226	If there should be two sets of rules, tour players should have NO grooves. Jack Nicklaus had it right when he said the ball performance should be rolled back. Requiring them to float in water would go a long way toward that end.
227	As a former USGA committee man, to put it bluntly, I think the exec. committee is tilting with windmills for effect rather than substance.
228	It seems that the course setups during this years majors have taken care of any reasons for changing the grooves.
229	USGA needs to understand that the new changes has a profound effect on a very large population of people all over the world and not just a few professional golfers. I am angry and may give up golf.

Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

230	50 words or less are you kidding me? If the USGA is basing everything on the pros then we need 2 sets of rules, both for playing golf and equipment.
231	Since I will be 79 in 2024, I won't really care what the USGA will have to say. I do think that stronger minds will prevail and the groove issue will be swept under the carpet. Game improvement cannot be allowed to move backward. Would that be game deterioration?
232	If the game isn't hard enough for all of the average players, now they want to make it even harder. Out goes the whole idea of game improvement clubs and back comes the frustration of not being able to pull off that one great shot a round that keeps us coming back for more. The majority should rule in this case. Joe Parent NY
233	I think the current USGA Directors are so focused and obsessed with the US Open and the money that makes, that they are forgetting about the average golfer who has trouble breaking 100. Handicaps have not changed over the years even with the improved equipment. The USGA is out of touch
234	For me, the USGA has lost most of its credibility by instituting a rule that benefits no one. Roll back the ball, grow the rough thicker and quit building 8,000 yard golf courses.
235	I don't understand why it a bad thing for Pro golfers to hit the golf ball longer than me or for them to be able to control the golf ball better than I whether it's from the fairway or the rough. The Pros are supposed to be able to do that. It's exciting and fun to watch the Pros play well. Sometimes when the Pros hit into the thick heather or other long heavy grass they "chunk" a shot just like me. The new rule should be revoked.
236	We only need one set of rules. They should have left driver core alone and they should leave the grooves alone. Lengthen the rough or use tall grasses to penalize the big drivers who stray from the short stuff.
237	i m just curious what effect the 1942 grooves will have on the choice of ball for the tour players. Will they now go for a softer ball that spins more and doesn't go as far?? Will the young players now start to actually attempt to maneuver the golf ball like us old guys used to do.
238	thank you
239	Why doesn't the USGA focus on something more important than grooves, e.g. slow play which affects 100% of golfers? I am blessed to play at a small town course but it is a problem nation-wide and has discouraged so many people from playing. I hear it all the time, "I'm not going out there and spend 5 hours playing a round of golf." The pros need to speed up also--they set a terrible example for the 99% of other golfers. Maybe they can't play as fast as Trevino but there is a lot of room for improvement. I have seen pros stand over a fairway shot for 5 minutes trying to decide what to do. Maybe they should be assessed a lost ball penalty in that case.
240	It seems the USGA has lost sight of "who pays the freight".
241	As someone who plays on an amateur tour in Ohio I believe this rule does affect everyone because with older less defined grooves ball control is less effective and that does affect everyone. I feel the USGA is going about controlling elite golfers but penalizing the regular golfers who can use all the help they can get.
242	I can't believe the USGA has any idea how the other 95% of golfers are going to react to this. I am in a 20 person league and I was the only person aware this ruling had occurred. The USGA has lost contact with average golfer.
243	I just bought a new set of irons last fall, I'm 76 years old, I'll be dead when this goes into effect, Screw it.
244	I'm an average golfer at best. I certainly don't need the game to be more difficult. They should make the rough more of a hazard and stop grooming sand traps so loose sand is very shallow. Make sand traps REAL hazards, like the ones average golfers like me have to deal with.
245	I enjoy watching golf on TV. Although it is not the game that I play. When the USGA which I am a member makes changes for the sake of better TV I feel they take away from my enjoyment of the game. Only one poor hacker's opinion.
246	USGA TRYING TO MAKE ALL ROUNDS LIKE THEIR OPEN AND TAKE WHAT LITTLE JOY IS LEFT OUT OF AVERAGE GOLFERS ROUND. NEED TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO PLAY NOT DRIVE MORE OUT OF THE GAME. INCREASING COST IS ALREADY DOING THAT.
247	I can back up the ball maybe once every other round. If I get new clubs after 2010, I guess I'll never back up a ball.
248	Usually I feel the USGA tries to make rules and decisions to help golfers as a whole. This is clearly aimed at CONTROLLING the pros but dramatically affects all golfers. They are the USGA not the PGA Tour ruling over just pros. Think of the average golfer before such a rule change.
249	The USGA should enact this as an "experiment" for a year or two to demonstrate if the desired outcome is achieved. If not, then the matter should be rescinded. I'd prefer a minimum spin standard for balls over this.
250	Have the PGA tour adopt a single ball for play and keep the club technology as it was before the new rule came in.
251	If indeed the change is being made based on elite golfer (professionals) performance the PGA should dictate the change to their members, not the USGA. Making the game more difficult for 18+ handicap players (majority of golfers) will only drive people away from the game.
252	Who spends the most money on golf equipment to reach a point of enjoying the game? Why should we spend more to enjoy the game less? Change the golf course conditions for the elite!
253	The USGA has lost its perspective. It is not the equipment that creates a great player, but just the opposite, a great player uses the equipment to play well. Change the conditions, not the tools. Grow the rough, soften the conditions to eliminate roll and once again study the old courses where accuracy is rewarded. Par is just a number. Let the Pros shoot whatever they may, and let the rest of us have the tools to have more fun.
254	I personally will ignore this rule change and use the irons I presently own. I have do not notice any difference when hitting from the rough in my present irons and the ones I used when I started golf. I think the USGA have gone off the deep end.
255	No way to two sets of rules.
256	It seems the USGA has taken the same road as the PGA in their ELITIST ATTITUDE. Both are run by men with "little Hitler Syndrome". Doing as THEY feel and the @#%& with what is best for the majority of supporters (players and fiscal) of the game.
257	I have played the Great Game for almost 20 years and as I near my 50's I greatly appreciate all the advances in technology the manufacturers have produced.

Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

	Make the courses harder for elite players and keep the groove specs the same for the remaining 99.99% of us who love the game.
258	I think the better course of action would be to look at course set up for the elite players. The tournament this past weekend, The Barclays, was a great example of rewarding accuracy with the opportunity to card a good score. I also watched the US Amateur and there was a fellow from the USGA on to explain the reasoning for the rule change. He said the reason they decided to change the rule regarding grooves was based on the fact that the lack of driving accuracy (fairways hit) did not negatively impact scores. I say leave the clubs alone, narrow the fairways, grow the rough and have more undulating greens.
259	Is this rule change only by the USGA, or will the R&A also change to this new/old formula? This is similar to certain celebrity course designers creating courses that are just as hard from the shorter tees as from the tips; one "celebrity" comes to mind. Most of my friends (5 - 15 handicappers) do not like his courses for this reason.
260	Please! Let's not turn this into a game for the 'elite'!
261	The USGA accepts as members, golfers of all skill levels. It is patently unfair to limit advances in equipment technology because a small sub-set of members possess the skill necessary to make full and consistent use of modern technology. Rethink course design to challenge those players.
262	I do not think the USGA (what about the R&A?) should NOT change the rules for the elite few. What does it matter if the grooves help somewhat as they are competing against each other and that would tend to cancel out any real advantage?
263	The USGA is the governing body and should have the last word. It's OK to get feedback but let's not open up a can of worms regarding any rule change by putting issues, specs. And the like up for scrutiny by all of us. I firmly believe we only need one set of rules. Right or wrong, the people that represent us on the USGA must make the final decision and we must respect that decision.
264	This is ridiculous. Some of us can't even get backspin from a tee shot. Why make the game harder than what it already is by an arbitrary change to the rules?
265	I strongly agree with those in support of 1 set of rules for all golfers. I believe this is what makes the game we so love so special.
266	The elite golfer can be challenged by the set up on the golf course. The USGA created the monster now the monster is too big for its britches. da
267	Better to go to two set of rules for club spec, one for pros and one for everyone else. To me two sets of club rules would be similar to college baseball using aluminum bats while pros use wood bats. How the game is played doesn't change but the "elite" players use equipment that has slight performance disadvantage.
268	The USGA should spend more time on course set-ups for the elite golfers and not the equipment all golfers use.
269	One Game One set of Rules for All.
270	Manufacturers should make available the option to purchase either "V" or "U" performance groove irons. When buying a car I have a choice to purchase a V6 or V8 so I'm not going to whine or cry if his V8 car is faster than mine. Provide options and play golf.
271	The golf balls should be restricted for their spinning and distance characteristic.
272	This is another questionable decision by the out of touch people who run the USGA.
273	Golf being the same for both elite and amateur players is part of it's' beauty, its' heritage, to stray from this principle is a sad day for the game.
274	Since golf (flog spelled back wards) is a leisure game for the vast majority and membership in USGA and abiding by their rules is purely voluntary we should consider abandoning support for the USGA and start another..."the United States Golf for Fun Association"!
275	I hope that club and club head manufacturers will publish a list of their clubs that will conform. I've had my Golfsmith Tour Cavity Pros for 7+ years and would prefer not to change. Also, didn't we go through this before in the early 90's with Ping?
276	There are two potentially bad outcomes for this change in the long-run: 1) Old clubs are grandfathered under the old rules creating a black market for old wedges, or 2) Old clubs aren't grandfathered resulting in forcing players who wish to conform to the rules to buy new clubs.
277	This rule change forces me to review my opinion of the USGA. I have lost some respect and they are in danger of losing control that they seek. If you want to make it harder make it O.B. if you are outside of the gallery ropes. Next Problem
278	All professional sports have some different rules from the amateur ranks. I see no reason why the golf pros shouldn't have some different rules such as a lower limit on the number of clubs say to 11 or 12 then let's see them use their superior skills
279	As a zero handicap golfer, I feel that certain technology changes have mostly helped the longest hitters, not golfers in general. This includes the golf ball and the newer grooves. Since the ProV1 came out, guys that previously outdrove me 20 yards now outdrive me 30-35 yards. Now the rough is not as much of a problem for them with the newer grooves.
280	I do not care if the best players are "helped" by the grooves on a club and the average player is not good enough for it to matter. Why all the fuss over grooves?
281	Many sports have different sets of rules for the pro's vs the Joe's. Even college football, baseball and basketball rules vary slightly from that of the professional ranks. However, one of the great attractions to golf is the fact that you can hit the clubs and balls that Tiger and Phil use. That said, I am not a fan of the rule change at any level. If the USGA decides to change this rule then perhaps this is the point at which a second set of rules for the elite players should be instituted (although I am not in favor of any groove rules change.) The downside is that, like in baseball's use of the aluminum bat in the amateur ranks, the Joe's may actually have an equipment advantage over the pros. This would cheapen any accomplishment the Joe's achieve in the future. That would be unfortunate. However, I do not believe that taking square grooves out of the hands of the average golfer is at all in the best interest of the game or in the interest at all of GROWING OUR GAME. Growing our game is of paramount importance and this would make golf less fun and more challenging than it already is for the average golfer. That would be unfortunate. Laissez Faire USGA, Laissez faire! I do not hear any outcry among any of my friends who follow golf that Tiger's Bomb and Gouge way of playing is unfair. Even the most ardent Anti-Tiger golf fans agree that his grooves do not give him an unfair advantage. At the end of the day, it's not the grooves-it's the skill! Damaging the game because good players are skilled is just damaging the game. Is this idea motivated by jealousy? It certainly can not be solely motivated by a simple and genuine love for the game! All the best, Dave Habbick - 5 handicap

These opinions are from golfers who completed our survey on grooves. Thanks to all who took part.



Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

282	I feel that there should be no restrictions on technology for regular players (most of the world) in order to make the game more enjoyable. Restrictions should apply only for national and international competition
283	Never have so many golfers been ignored for the whims of so few.
284	Frustrated, insulted, anxious, perplexed, dejected at the possibility of two sets of rules. Simplified rules should be the goal of the USGA.
285	Leave the game as it is.
286	I have Callaway X-12's, 3 to sw. I don't know if I should stay with these clubs, buy a new set before the rule kicks in or wait until after Jan. 2010.
287	I STRONGLY OPPOSE TWO SETS OF RULES. CHANGE COURSE SETUPS TO SOLVE PERCEIVED PROBLEMS.
288	The game is hard enough for most of us without imposing rules that will make it even harder. I think it will tend to turn people away from the game i.e. my children and grandchildren, who enjoy playing now but will become increasingly frustrated by such rule changes.
289	It is already hard enough to spin the ball at all, don't make me buy new clubs that are even harder to spin.
290	Any consideration using the pro tour as a performance indicator for decisions made for "Golfers" is logically and statistically wrong.
291	The USGA has always had the authority to make rule changes for the betterment of the game of golf and golfers of all levels. We should maintain one set of rules for all golfers.
292	Almost all sports have 2 sets of rules. Those for the pros and then for everybody else. For example, pro baseball players can't use aluminum bats. Keep up the good work. BER
293	For a long time I have felt the stewards of the USGA are detached from the average golfer....who is the backbone of the game. This detachment is one component of the current problems in the game.....including growth.
294	I use Ping eyes (including pitching wedge and sand wedge). Golf is recreation for me and I like my irons and will keep playing them. Just hope I'm still around and able to use them in 2024.
295	I was not clear about whether the new grooves help the normal golfer. If they don't actually help the elite golfer (as is suggested by Frank_), or the avg golfer what is the issue. Couldn't we just grow the rough a bit at elite tournaments and take care of this?
296	Equipment rules should be different for tour players and regular players. I only get to play once a week at best and need grooves and hi-cor drivers to play my best. Pro's do not.
297	There is no reason that courses cannot be configured to more difficult to offset the advantages of the long hitters, if this appears to be affecting the games / scores to produce more desirable effects.
298	Golf is starting to sound like NASCAR with the mandating of in this case club specifications. The majority shouldn't be penalized because of a small percentage. Leave specs as they are. Who cares if the pros shoot 50 under par for a tournament? They're all playing the same course. One set of rules and leave the equipment alone.
299	The recommended groove depiction presented during the US Amateur final (on TV) was not a 1942 groove pattern. It was representative of the Ping EYE 2 Groove pattern of about 10 years ago.
300	Regulate the elite; let the rest of us play.
301	The USGA should be thinking about us regular golfers, let the PGA change the rules for the elite. After all they play by different rules as it is. (Free drops from grandstands) Considering dropping my membership in USGA since my fees are for the good of the game. Bo Heckert Montague, CA
302	The present grooves and long enough rough seem to penalize the pros as seen in the majors
303	Golf popularity is on the wane. If the USGA wants to attract the average guy to the game they should not prevent equipment improvements that allow making that one shot which keeps you playing. They should concentrate instead on eliminating the "silly" rules such as penalizing a player if the ball moves one millimeter after address.
304	Golf is having a hard enough time keeping people playing the game. The last thing they need to do is make the game more difficult. These types of rules should be for only the professional golfers and not those merely trying to enjoy the game. They should be trying to find ways to attract and keep players not run them off.
305	As a 60 year old with a 0.5 handicap, I need all the help I can get. I play 4 year old Big Bertha irons and I guess now I will play with them until I die.
306	I thought the USGA was "our" sanctioning body - not just for Pros!!!
307	If the pros have it "too easy" out of the rough make the rough tougher for their tournaments.
308	Changes to this rule should not be made to just accommodate less than 1% of golfers. My game needs all the help it can get with the present groves.
309	Professional Golfers are professional for a reason. Regardless of their spin control out of the rough I don't see a huge impact. Why penalize the good for being "good". That's what they get paid for.
310	The USGA should stop fixing what isn't broken. This groove issue is like the head size of the drivers. If the present specs help promote the game to the average golfer they should stay in effect. What the USGA SHOULD look at is these stupid belly putters and broomstick putters. THATS what they should outlaw.
311	For most of us the game is difficult enough. Making it more difficult, with these potential changes, will probably lead to more amateur players giving up the game.



Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

312	I fall to see where anyone benefits from this rule except the golf club manufacturers.
313	I think that one of the primary jobs of the USGA is to grow the game. I think that the best way to do this is to not make the game more difficult for the average golfer -- its hard enough already. This rule change will surely make the game tougher, and so it is counter-productive to one of the main purposes of the USGA. I can only think that this rule change is being implemented solely to make it tougher for the pros, which is intended to increase interest in the Tour and top USGA televised events, which should increase revenue, primarily from TV. Then the USGA wants to abide by its "one rule" rule. So to make more money the USGA is going to make the game harder and therefore decrease the number of golfers in the future. It seems to me that increasing revenues (greed) is the real driving force behind this change, at the expense of the growth of the game. John Morgan
314	Now that one shot a round that we think to ourselves, tiger or Phil couldn't do better, will always have an asterisk
315	I have spent hundreds of dollars on wedges and I still cant make a ball backup like the pro s so what's the reason for the change
316	I started playing the game with a cut-down 7 iron that had dimples instead of grooves. The new grooves don't help me that much, so why two sets of rules? Keep it simple.....
317	I have been following Frank Thomas's comments on the subject, and agree 100% with his views. It would be ridiculous to have different rules for elite players and amateurs. There are different and better ways to solve the "problem", mainly through course setup.
318	Let the common folks have the extra technology we need to make the game more fun; don't roll back the rules for me because the pros are too good. Grow the rough for tournaments until they can't hit driver any more if that's what it takes.
319	The groove on the clubs currently being used by almost all amateur golfers are the same as those for the pros. However, those grooves do not help 99% of all amateurs in controlling the spin of a shot from the ruff. So...where's the benefit to changing the rule on grooves. The USGA is supposed to protect the game, not the image of the USGA. Trust me...the pros will figure out a way to hit shots out of the ruff that will stop on the greens. Their pros! For the other 99.999% of us, there will be no discernible difference in the shots we are hitting now and after the rule change kicks in. Except for having to buy a new set of irons that is. I'm staying with my current clubs until I need to buy another set regardless. I'll bet a lot of clubs will be instituting their own local rules for tournament play also.
320	The old saying the cream always comes to the top. Tiger and Phil will be able to handle the new grooves better than the others. Makes more sense to grow the rough and closely mow the areas around the greens. After saying that, some of the over paid players may complain about toughing up the course.
321	Second guessing on the technicalities is not the point. We should focus on what is important. One set of rules, more difficult setups sounds fair. But can the average player that might be discouraged see the difference in the grooves effect?
322	Grow the rough long and thick so that it is punishing to get out of, and so making staying in the fairway a benefit. Heck even I play the bomb it out there and muscle it out of the rough. Unless it's long and wet..Then I play smarter and generally score better..but not as much fun..lol
323	When I play I do not want to play a different game than anyone else. With a handicap system (and playing from the tees appropriate to my age and skill level), I feel that I am competing fairly with any opponent.
324	I'm all about this groove change. How many rounds have I watched hackers like myself try to spin a shot and come up way short? Hell, I can't do it myself, but I just try to play to my strengths. Get rid of the grooves, and the attempts at "miracle shots" will lessen. How did golfers prior to the invention of "zip grooves" and "spin-milled grooves" survive, anyway? Guess we're going to find out. One note I'd like to make is the issue of cost. How will companies be able to justify selling the updated wedges with no "bite" (their marketing ploy) for \$100-\$150? Or the soon-to-be "non-conforming" wedges, for that matter? What about balls? With these razor-sharp grooves, you can shear the cover off your \$4.00/ball Pro V1, rendering it useless. Cut back on the grooves and the ball is playable longer. Maybe this rollback will be the start of golf becoming more accessible (affordable) here in the States. I know it sounds like a pipe dream, but if companies start to lose their marketing edge, how will they justify their prices? That's the issue I'm more concerned about.
325	The game is struggling now; let's not make it harder for new players. We need to make golf easier for new players and higher handicap players, so they keep playing.
326	There are different things the USGA can do to make it harder for the elite players of golf without making a rule change regarding the grooves on wedges. Longer rough, faster and harder greens (i.e. like in the majors), tighter pin placements etc. The elite players are not shooting lights out during the major tournaments and there is no reason to change the grooves on wedges. Make the changes in the course conditions to limit the way the elite players play the game.
327	Having two sets of rules is a big mistake!
328	As oppose to changing the equipment I think it's an opportunity for the USGA and Superintendents to configure golf courses differently. Think outside box as oppose to penalizing the 99% of us who play.
329	This rule STINKS! If the USGA is worried about the pros, then make a PGA rule. Maybe take the groves totally away, and see them adapt. Leave all the rest of us alone!!! Hugh Penney.
330	Get rid of the USGA. They are detrimental to the game and ridiculous. Think about it, really and deeply!!!
331	I wonder if the big name makers shot themselves in the foot when they created clubs that make you love the game enough to make you play with the same set for the next 30 years. Great design, fewer sales down the road when we pass them down from father to son to grandchildren. Change the rules...what better way to promote sales at much HIGHER PRICES.
332	Were these clubs ever available to the general public? If so who sold them? The elite players have superior short games and will not be as severely affected as us pedestrians. Just when I had hope they pulled me back down.
333	Quit messing with my game!
334	It's about time the USGA decided to take a strong stand on the use of U shaped deep grooves. The art of accuracy with a golf ball has been compromised in favor of "bash it as hard as is possible and who cares where it ends up" golf. Now if we could only get the USGA to shorten the distance the ball travels by about 10%, we could return to white tee courses that play anywhere from 5800 to 6100 yards for the average player and 6600 for the elite player. This would allow some great old courses to become challenging once again. It would also reduce the cost of maintenance, allow more people to walk and reduce playing time. These concepts are no-brainers. We need to allow the USGA and the R & A to do their appointed jobs without constant criticism!



Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

335	"Bomb and gauge" pros can be penalized by growing the rough longer, and then watering the grass. The square grooves won't help in those conditions, the rules won't need to be changed, and we won't have to buy new clubs. Of course, if the purpose of the new rule is to support new club sales for the manufacturers, then shame on the USGA!!
336	The rules are the rules & should be the same for everyone. So what if we're going back to the equivalent of 1942 grooves to say this bad is to presume that every change since then has been for the good of the game overall.
337	What is undermining the integrity of golf is the USGA's continued refusal to reign in the length of the modern golf ball. Big hitters get an unfair advantage whether they're in the fairway or rough. If the USGA negligence continues at its current furious pace, balls will soon have tiny heat tiles glued to them to prevent burn up on re-entry into the atmosphere.
338	99.999% of golfers really don't care what the shape of the grooves is.
339	I do not understand the USGA's obsession with trying to reign in the best golfers in the world. Great players will make great shots from difficult or impossible lies no matter what is done to try and limit the equipment. Leave the rules alone and try to enjoy the show.
340	I feel that changing this rule will make this game even more difficult for amateurs and professionals and will not benefit the game at all. How does this decision further the game for everyone?
341	Judging from the scores shot at the majors, groove configuration does not seem to help all that much for better scoring by these professionals
342	I do not think that the USGA should make rules directed at a small segment of the golfing population. Most of us need all the help we can get. The USGA runs a risk of allowing another organization to come into the game to make rules for the 99.9% of golfers. It's not worth it.
343	I have been a USGA member many years and do not recall reading much information in their publications leading to this rule change. The changes in grooves in some of the new wedges are understandable but going back to 1942 on all irons is ridiculous. The "elite" have a hard enough time with the long rough.
344	Instead of changing the groove spec, why don't they just mow the grass in the rough a couple of inches higher in the pro tournaments?
345	I think it's ridiculous that the "governing" body is worried about grooves rather than the de-gradation of the game. I am strongly thinking about quitting the game as it is difficult, expensive, and not enough TV coverage to keep me excited about the game.
346	Leave the equipment the same for all players. Course set up should be the equalizer for the pros.
347	There should be a public comment period on "proposed changes in rules" before rules are adopted rather than the present system. And the comments should be addressed by the rules maker as a part of the process of issuing any new rules.
348	THIS SEEMS TO FIT IN WITH THE MUST SPEAK ENGLISH RULING OF THE LPGA.
349	Just let the grass grow higher, out of the fairways and around greens.
350	The USGA knows how to set up a course to make the "Elite" players score higher. The average fan wants to see the pros shoot lights out at the regular tour events. Make the set up harder, not the game itself.
351	Q5 -the process should be transparent, so the reasons for the change are clear, not so we can second guess the decision - if we don't like it take steps based on that.
352	Leave things as they are...Is it a problem that doesn't need to be fixed? So scores of -15 or better will happen - so what?
353	Please use one set of rules, let everybody use the current or newer equipment as is developed, play by the current rules of golf and delete the proposed groove change! BoB Lewis
354	I understand the USGA's concern that elite players are making some golf holes obsolete through long distance skills, but I am not entirely sold on the grooves issue. If a player has learned to extricate themselves from the rough better than the rest of us then we should reward that skill rather than muzzle it. The elite player's advantage is neuro-muscular and inherent, it's not in the hardware that any of us can buy. (If we had to use gardens hoes as sand wedges, Tiger would still be the best.) Our interest in professional golf is due to our admiration of skills we common hacks don't possess, but strive to attain. We already equalize the game with a handicapping system, and that seems to work pretty well for most of us.
355	As far as having two sets of rules. There are different rules for professional baseball vs. college vs. little league. Professional football vs. college vs. high school. So why not professional golfers vs. amateur golfers. Thanks
356	I can hardly get out of the deep stuff now, with grooves. I might just stop golfing if this comes into effect. I think the game would lose a lot of golfers. What a shame that would be, especially since they are trying to keep up the interest in the game.
357	Once again, the USGA is ignoring the vast majority who play golf for fun and recreation while trying to manage the professional game which doesn't need or want the help. Most issues with distance could be solved by banning the multi-layered ball which has helped elite players only.
358	The golf ball of today spins less than the old balata balls, could it just be the fact that the greens are being over watered and are too soft. The pros are strong athletes and swing real fast the ball will always spin. The pros don't want that, they want distance control, drop & stop. I Frank I met you when you were in OZ pga show. I was the one asking all the questions. sh
359	Amateurs in the game need forgiving clubs so they can enjoy the game. If we have to conform to the old clubs specs, some would probably quit the game.
360	Frank--your suggestion that the 'groove' issue should be solved by course set-up is the best for all golfers.
361	THEY SOULD REALLY LOOK AT THE PGA SCORING AVERAGE BEFORE THEY CHANGE ANY RULES. I HAVE NOT RESERCHERD THE SCORING AVERAGE BUT I BET EVEN WITH ALL THE NEW EQUIPMENT USED BY TODAYS PLAYERS THE SCORING AVERAGE HAS NOT CHANGRD BY A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT.

Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

	<p>AND AM SURE THE SCORING AVERAGE OF THE REST OF THE GOLFING PUBLIC HAS NOT GONE DOWN.</p> <p>SO I WOULD ASK WHY WOULD THE RULES NEED TO BE CHANGED.</p> <p>IF THE USGA HAS A PROBLEM WITH THE WAY THE ELITE PLAYERS OF THE WORLD ATTACK A GOLF COURSE WHY NOT SET THE COURSE UP DIFFERENTLY</p>
362	<p>Once again the USGA just doesn't get it! If they are so concerned about the spin a professional can generate out of the rough then they should grow the rough higher. Maybe they could use their graduated rough concept they used at the U.S Open but make the rough deeper the closer you get to the green. That way it would put more of a premium on accuracy for the long hitter. I thought the USGA was originally created by a group of amateur golfers. You wouldn't know it by their recent actions or inactions. Terry</p>
363	<p>I must be getting jaded after all these years but I am starting to believe we should go back to the original rules of golf for the public. Keep it simple.</p>
364	<p>If the USGA said the grooves are legal, why change? Only the club makers win. I'm one of the over 99 %, not one of the elite.</p>
365	<p>Making the game more difficult for the average golfer will cause more people to leave the game. If the USGA's goal is to take the game back to 1942 then they will probably get what they want. Golf will go back to a game where only the elite will be able to play. Most of us do not have the time it takes to work on our games and to make it more difficult will only lead us into other endeavors during our free time.</p> <p>The most difficult part of the game for most of us already is the short game. Making this more difficult is preposterous. I love the game of golf and it will be sad day if I can't stomach playing anymore because I am frustrated with my inability to be somewhat successful at playing the game.</p> <p>David Colony</p>
366	<p>Please be smarter on golf course setup/design for Tour Players and not apply changes the 99% of all golfers. We need all the help we can get to make golf fun!</p>
367	<p>It is apparent that if the course is set up right the pros won't be shooting very low scores, I for one love to see them struggle to shoot par. The clubs grooves will be a mute point if all courses are set up more difficult, taller rough, than they are now.</p>
368	<p>We ALL play the same game; we need only ONE set of rules.</p>
369	<p>I hope I don't have to buy new clubs because the manufactures don't sponsor me like the pros do. I don't think the amateur golfer should have to comply with this rule change.</p>
370	<p>The ability of the worlds top players will not change they will still be the best and so what. The USGA should maintain the rules as is and implement them. No more changes just to sell clubs!</p>
371	<p>I disagree with the USGA rules change. Elite players play better than amateurs because they devote their entire lives to the game. And, that is the way it should be. I am strongly in favor of one set of rules for ALL golfers. In this case, I think the USGA is off base to try and effect a change based on the performance of .001 percent of all golfers in the world. Wake up USGA. Golf is now a game for the masses, not just the elite.</p>
372	<p>Frank: They're still trying to get even with Karsten Solheim. How about only allowing dot punches on wedges if you hit it further than 280 yds. (sarcasm)</p>
373	<p>I have played golf for over 40 years and it is the advances in diver technology and golf balls that have made the most impact on golf scores. To penalize the vast majority of players for the sake of a select few is a big mistake. There are other ways to take care of the problems of PGA tour professionals. Please do not make this change.</p>
374	<p>What I'd like to see: 10 club limit, no rakes on the golf course, wound balata balls, wood club heads, no lift, clean and place, 1942 V grooves, emphasis on tee-shot placement and shot making, not just blasting wildly away with the driver.</p>
375	<p>Leave it alone</p>
376	<p>This change was affected w/o letting the manufactures of clubs weigh in and to boot, they didn't even release a list of clubs that would be affected by the ruling. Why is that?</p> <p>I hope that the manufactures take this ruling to court much in the same way that Ping did a number of years ago.</p>
377	<p>While I agree that technology has certainly changed the game and that today's pros do not have the challenges of those in the past, I believe a far better solution is found in either using a pro tournament ball (as Nicklaus has suggested) or simply increasing the amount, length and density of the rough for tournament play.</p>
378	<p>Making the game more difficult for 99% of current players could result in people giving up the game; golf isn't as much fun when you're shooting 100 instead of 85 or 90. It could also discourage new players from staying with the game if they find it too difficult.</p>
379	<p>Limiting club performance as in the COR or volume rules is one thing. Significantly degrading club performance for any reason seriously runs against the spirit of the game, which has historically included the search for a better club.</p>
380	<p>Grooves seem to be a silly thing to focus on as giving the pros an advantage. They should change the specifications of the golf ball to reduce the distance and control the spin if they want to make the game more difficult for the pros.</p>
381	<p>The USGA & R&A should never have let this square groove happen in the first place so leave it be. Just like they won't touch the belly and longer putters.</p>
382	<p>The elite golfers already are treated different than the other 99%. Last time I looked, I could not use metal spikes on any course I play. If Tiger or Phil play on the same course, they can use them. Is there a swing advantage to use metal spikes in the wet slippery rough on a hillside? Most would say Yes. I will play with soft spikes, just let me keep those grooves. I can't practice 40 hrs a week to groove their swing.</p>
383	<p>The longer hitters will still have an advantage. Short hitters use longer clubs to get home on par 4's. Longer clubs are less accurate meaning the potential for the short hitter to hit the green in regulation would be lower. The short hitter will not be able to control the ball as well to get up and down to save par. advantage longer hitter.</p>
384	<p>Has the USGA considered the effects of young amateurs growing up and developing golf skills with the current grooves and then having to switch if deciding to turn pro? This may weaken the tour in the long-run and is something today's elite players never faced.</p>

Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

385	Go ahead and let them (players) score.... I still play ball on a 10' hoop, bowl on a 60' lane etc.
386	Since I have just purchased a new set of irons, I doubt I will buy a new set with the old grooves as prescribed by this rule change.
387	Will we play with balls from 1942?
388	I feel a 10 club limit for tour players would be a better option.
389	I personally think that the game of golf is going the way of bowling did about 12-15 years ago were it's becoming too much of an equipment game. This may be a start to where the rules will have to be adjusted so skill rather than equipment determines the best golfer.
390	I personally enjoy some of the technology that has become available. However, I realize that the majority of the benefit from some of these technologies will probably benefit only the top 1% or so of players. Doesn't bother me at all.
391	A change that is going to affect all golfers negatively in the enjoyment of the game and financially (requiring us to buy new equipment) is an ill advised change.
392	I don't think that the grove change will affect more than 15% of the golfing public. They don't get much spin anyway.
393	I am a beginner golfer and can use all the help of technological advances on golf clubs I can get. We will ALL be penalized by this rule, elite and beginner golfers. Another example of a minority of individuals negatively affecting everyone.
394	Roll back the height of the rough, speed of the greens, and undulations common on new courses. Not sure old time pros had to deal with so many tricked up courses.
395	Why can't they just make the rough longer on tour course setups? Why affect us hackers who have enough problems??
396	The Pros do play a different game than us 10 handicappers. I have no problem with the USGA, PGA and R&A having a set of "Pro-only" club performance (grooves, MOI, COR) rules and the weekend player continuing to use "game improvement" clubs. Problem is, OEM's will market and sale "Pro" clubs because weekend warriors think they are better players than they really are. Weekend players need MOI, .86 COR, 460cc heads and big grooves. What about rolling balls back to 1942?
397	Two sets of rules will please only those who make a fetish of procedure. Why not simply grow the rough longer?
398	If the USGA wants to grow the game of golf it should stop making these types of decisions; if it really wants to grow the game stop penalizing out of bounds and lost ball with stroke and distance; stroke and distance is very penalizing on amateurs and it also really slows the game down because the penalty is so severe that players spend a lot of time looking for the ball, in order to avoid the penalty and also arguing about in or out etc; also the amateur should be allowed to place his ball out of divots without penalty because divots are man made obstructions and not part of the planned golf course.
399	Technology advancement is part of any sport and should be relished. If the rough is not a problem with elite players utilizing the current technology then it isn't penal enough. If you grow the rough higher and make it more penal to miss the fairway it shouldn't matter what groove technology is being employed. The US Open seems to have figured out how to make it difficult. I love the way they set up courses. The more difficult the better.
400	<p>WRT #5, there is NO argument or evidence I would consider useful in support of this pathetic move by the USGA / R&A.</p> <p>"One set of rules for ALL golfers" has been T.H.E. ONLY sane and defensible position for these organizations and T.H.E. rationale behind their 'ownership' of the Rules of Golf.</p> <p>I absolutely reject the notion that there is ANY rationale for this rule change -- debating the merits is pointless.</p> <p>They should back down -- NOW! -- for the good of the game.</p> <p>Where will this madness end if they are allowed to go this way?</p> <p>The game of the 'elites' is what it is because of the effort they invested to become the players they are. Tweaking the equipment, ground rules or playing conditions JUST to throttle back the 'elites' is stupid, misguided and takes deadly aim at the very soul of the game.</p> <p>I'm 61 years old and CANNOT hit a 300 yard drive or full-swing flop shot back over my head if my life depended upon it. Does this justify taking something away from the 'elites' so they more closely resemble me? This picture is SO wrong in SO many ways ...</p>
401	<p>The USGA once again demonstrates just how out of touch it is with the universal everyday recreational golfer. Would that there were another governing body (for us) so the USGA might feel pressured to exercise some "common" sense. They're hopeless!</p> <p>A reluctant long-time member</p>
402	The game of golf should have only one set of rules and the USGA should have the power to set them. But a 5 year grandfathering would have been plenty! Let's get the groove change OVER with!
403	Don't obsess over this "2 sets of rules" phrase. There are already precedents - match play vs. stroke play rules for example. Let the pros and scratch amateur events restrict grooves - leave "us" alone.
404	As long as the game of golf is a fair test for all, I see no need to change the groove. If you've seen my game, I'd say I'm adequately tested even with the wider grooves. I carry a USGA 12 hcp
405	I feel that an elite player will always have an advantage in performance over an average player no matter the groove. For pro events the rough is deeper, and fairways tightened, in short the course should be toughened for the pro. and let the rest of us have a chance to enjoy the game we play with each other.
406	Old Tom Morris had the right idea 150 years ago, if someone is playing the course 'unfairly', fix the course so they can't do it anymore! Then it will be up to the course to solve its own embarrassment and will probably leave the course in a manner that the average duffer can play it like the pros. This doesn't mean moving tees into adjacent neighborhoods, a stand of trees, water feature, or a permanent mark should steer them back to playing the fairways, with irons if necessary.



Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

407	Handle the elite players with tougher course set-ups. Keep one set of rules for everyone.
408	A game should be played under the same rules for all levels of players. Only then will the average Joe be able to identify and compare him-/herself with the pros.
409	The game is hard enough for most of us without this change. The elite will still be the elite!
410	There is no substitute for lessons and regular practice but how much time does the median golfer have to devote to the pursuit? So you try to purchase some degree of forgiveness and consistency through your equipment and the golf gods say time to reverse the trend...and you wonder why golf doesn't grow in America! We drive the game with our dollars and you don't see us as your customer. Good Luck
411	I believe that if you put your minds too it a clear and better way could be had to exact the same results without disrupting those of us that do our best to play by your rules as they are. Think longer and change little.
412	Let us keep the clubs we have now. I would favor a tournament ball before I would back a groove change.
413	This is silly, I know I DO NOT PLAY the same game as the pros. Do stuff for the pros .. but screw it up for us and watch golf being called tennis v2.0 (ie as a follow up to the demise of tennis)
414	If the issue is the lack of a penalty for hitting it in the rough and the USGA feels this is caused by today's grooves, wouldn't a more logical solution be to increase the height of the rough. This would have less of a financial impact on the game.
415	For 90% of the golfers, it is another meaningless rule. If you play in USGA sanctioned events it might have some effect. Probably not. Most are just happy to get out of the rough.
416	With the present standards, the scoring is not so low on tour that a change is necessary. I would encourage the USGA to focus on course setup and design more than groove specs - changing would hurt the general community more than its worth!
417	Overall, I think the most important thing is that we all have one set of rules. Perhaps the PGA tour could have a local rule for groove specs certain weeks, but I think it is terrible (although it may not matter to most) that our beloved wedges will be illegal down the road.
418	In all major sports, the governing body of that particular sport provides the ball(s) for official play. The PGA should do the same and any adjustments which need to be made (to control spin, etc.) can be made to the balls provided.
419	Most players have enough trouble stopping the ball on the green with the current equipment. In my opinion, penalizing the masses with this change will drive more players away from the game. Let's make the primary rough even more penal for the professional tournaments and then the groove issue would not make any difference. Also keep the patrons farther back from the fairways and greens in the normal landing areas so the rough is not trampled down.
420	This is the same witch hunt the USGA conducted when PING had "square" grooves. No professional improved their scoring at that time either. If they had, all the pros would have played PING irons.
421	The USGA is out of touch with the golfing public at large. They seem to be protecting the records of Bobby Jones, Horton Smith, etc. This makes as much as requiring you to publish on the Guttenberg press. If this is there aim, why not eliminate par 5's, make all 4's under 250 yards 3's, and introduce par 2's. We can change it back Monday morning and have fun even if the pro's can't break par.
422	I would be interested in hearing the USGA's answer to the following questions: How are they going to enforce this rule and what happens if it doesn't have the desired effect of restoring accuracy as an important part of the pro game?
423	There are already inequities regarding certain rules between the "elite" and us amateurs (lost ball - forecaddies, for example). I would think the game would be healthier with one set of rules. Courses can always adjust to challenge the elite. I want my score comparable to everyone's.
424	One - and ONLY ONE - set of rules please! Consider mandating new ball parameters which would reduce or limit ball speed for driver club head speeds in excess of 100 mph??? Don't penalize the 15-30 handicappers! (p.s. - I'm a 4.3, so it WOULD still affect me!)
425	One of the thrills of watching elite players is their occasional "miraculous" recovery shots from the rough. Don't take this away. We, the un-elite, need all the help we can get - from anywhere "through the green". Then there is always the frog putter, once we make it to the really short grass!
426	I agree the grooves on these new wedges need to be addressed, but let's not penalize the average golfer. The pro's spin the ball much too easily out of the rough so let them use different equipment so us mere mortals can have some fun!!!!
427	I can't believe that it can be that difficult to set up courses for the tour so it can nullify any advantages they have with equipment; but for sure we don't want two sets of rules. As amateurs we want to have some relationship to the pros. Doug 9.8 index
428	There is unfair for weekend golfer to use same spec. of club as a tour pro.
429	USGA is always LATE --- the horse is out of the barn in technology. They might as well mandate a return to balatta & persimmon! We shouldn't be surprised when a group of amateurs call the shots. I think the USGA is in danger of losing their authority with many of the rank & file ---hackers. (They already "bend" the rules!) Equipment must be regulated, but the USGA is making another big mistake.
430	If the grooves are such a problem, then why not reduce the size of drivers as well to stop the 350 plus yard drives of the elite players. Let the rest of us enjoy the game.
431	The USGA has its head in the pockets of the Major MFG'S Get back to the real world of GOLFER'S WE BOGEY GUY'S LOVE GOLF TOO..Keep it a game we can play....AFTER ALL YOU (USGA) MUST BE A SCRATCH GOLFER.....
432	While player ability has improved immensely over the years, so has golf equipment. This is a way to restore the game to its original intent. The last time I checked, most weekend golfers don't spin the ball much anyways!



Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

433	This is typical USGA. They govern this game based on a very narrow vision. One great thing about golf is that we all play the same rules and courses, to divide the elite player, or to restrict the higher handicapper based on performance of the professional is silly. I don't think the USGA cares how this affects the golf consumer; they only care about producing elite competitions.
434	Putting 'spin' on the ball is part of the skill of golf. Its one of the reason we average people enjoy watching the pros, and keep hitting the range. There are other ways to challenge the pros: use imagination, not limitation!
435	USGA seems to be going overboard from a need to "do something," other than just make obscene amounts of money selling merchandise. As you said recently, Frank, the game should be made easier and more fun to grow again. I have moved to playing skins and not keeping score!
436	The rules were not conceived based on skill levels from either extreme (best or worse). What is best for the majority of golfers should be the basis for any set of rules.
437	Baseball requires pros to use wooden bats, while others use metal. Same thing. Pro events, pro rules; amateur events, amateur rules. Not a problem.
438	99.99% of people who play the game, do so for recreation. To make a rule change that affects 100% of golfers when it's directed at .01% is ridiculous. Two sets of rules: competition vs. non-competition.
439	I have no problem with course setup being different for PGA Pro Tours, but equipment I feel should be the same as much as possible. The technical data and its significant for this proposed change should be made known, as well as its impact on the 'average' golfer.
440	This rule change will have virtually no affect - good golfers will still be good and bad golfers are already bad and the larger grooves now have no affect on how they are already playing.
441	Human training and not technology should move the game forward and make old golf courses obsolete. Compare how the specifications of the javelin have changed to prevent the results to increase when the throwers got better, this should also be done with golf ball and golf club specifications. Duffers enjoyed the game 30 years ago too.
442	A very large percentage of golfers do not participate in any kind of formal competition - they do it for the enjoyment and a large majority try to follow the rules as "They Know Them" why does this have to be so complicated because of the Elite few? A lot of people will quit if they sense a new set of clubs required every time there is a rule change. A tournament ball requirement would make more sense - but not enough reality there either for the average Joe.
443	Game is hard enough for average player! Why make it harder?
444	leave us alone
445	With the increase in strength the pros are getting through weight training, they will be able to spin it regardless of the type of grooves unless you remove all grooves. Their strength allows them to generate club head speed regardless of the length of rough.
446	The game of golf is supposed to fun. It's hard enough as it is now. New rules to make it tougher will drive people away.
447	The groove change will not hurt elite players at all, only we weekend players who don't count anyway.
448	A USGA official previously said something to the effect that most amateurs play a two-piece ball, and that their research thusly indicated that most amateurs would be unaffected by this groove rule change. Well, I use premium golf balls, as do most of my playing group, despite being mid-handicappers. While I respect the USGA, and I can't repute whatever numbers they came up with, I resent a rules change that might negate the chance to occasionally allow us to hit a quality golf shot, with the same grooves and premium golf ball, that an "elite" player does. What makes golf on TV so compelling is that we amateurs can identify with situations encountered on the course, and we often employ the same techniques (as best we can). Why introduce some form mandated difference, especially when golf participation is waning?
449	It would seem that the USGA does not always make or adjust rules for the majority of those who play golf. Maybe it is time to have a different set of rules for the professional. But since the club manufacturer makes it money from the people that buy golf equipment...they should have some say. We have come a long way from the gutta percha ball and clubs have to evolve accordingly. The average golfer would quit the game if they had to play golf courses set up for the pros. Skill level ranges greatly from top to bottom of most golfers...but I play the game for enjoyment...not to see how high a score I can shoot. Leave the amateurs alone...USGA or you may not have any future members !!!!!!!
450	I believe that all of us should use the same basic equipment. If the pros are getting to different clubs other than we can use then change the rule. Just because they can get a new wedge every round should not matter. They play a different game than us.
451	This grooves issue is a bunch of nonsense. Are we going to go back to hickory shafts as well? Grow the rough!! But that is not what the players want; it makes it to tough for the majority of them. That way Phil Mickelson, and others, can hit it all over creation and still shoot a good score. They say it doesn't showcase their talent. Horse hockey!! Hit it in the fairway where you can use the grooves to your advantage.
452	We have had square grooves for many years the Nat'l average handicap has not gone down. The average golfer can't spin the ball even with sq grooves, he can stop it which will not be the case with the new grooves. This rule change is very bad for the game of golf for all of us average golfers
453	The rule is changed - it is too late now.
454	I think it is pretty suspect, when a Tour course has 4 inch rough, and guys are spinning the ball back, or stopping it dead. One can only conclude that it is the grooves on all the irons. I would favor a set of specs for clubs, and balls for Championship tournament players [pro & ams], and different specs for regular people. There is a problem with routine 350 yd.drives.It obsoletes too many classic courses, and raises the cost of the game for the core player. The heart of the game is the avg. golfer.500 yd. par 4, drive and short iron? No way.
455	This entire rule relates only to PGA tour pros. If the rough was the way it was at Oakland Hills for the 2008 US Open, there would be no need for this silly rule. Why doesn't the USGA ROLL BACK THE GOLF BALL PERFORMANCE!!
456	We all love to see great approach shots spinning back towards the hole. Getting one in is almost as goods as a hole in one. Why are they taking this fun away from us? How can they possible justify taking several steps backwards to 1942 specs?
457	It's unfortunate that the few who make the rules are so removed from reality.

Have Your Say on Grooves. The Results. Your Comments

458	I agree that something has to be done to reign in the Pro scores. I think that having higher roughs would do it better than changing the grooves. Narrower fairways would also be a better idea for them. This is a game of skill and accuracy, so to penalize them for wayward shots is the way to go. If the grooves don't affect the average Joe then go that way. We will adapt.
459	The type of grooves has little effect on any but the most accomplished of players. Most average players are lucky just to get out of the rough. I am a 12 handicap but am unable to hit a 6 or 7 iron out of most rough. The USGA (of which I am a long time member) anarchy reminds me of the snob nosed members in "The Greatest Game Ever Played". Get a life. Let people enjoy the game.
460	USGA might just find that it's NOT just the grooves but the technology of the ball and groove's together.
461	It is time to have different rules for pros and amateurs. Elite (scratch or better) can choose to play using the "pro" rules if they choose. It is about competing against yourself and the course, not trying to be like Tiger.
462	Technology has changed the game, reducing skill levels across the board. Time to stabilize the game, even though will reduce "future game improvement" due to technology for us duffers.
463	As a new golfer, it is suggested that I play on easier tees than the pros. Said another way, they should play a harder course than I do. Make the course harder for them, and make them go over par if necessary, or eliminate par from the equation and simply use the total strokes to determine a winner.
464	I think the rule is overkill if they want to make the game harder for elite players get the PGA Tour to adopt the groove rule and use it in elite competitions for example the US Open. I have played golf for 30 years and have been a single digit handicap for at least 20 of those. I can stop a ball on a green from the fairway but from the but I can rarely spin it back. I use the Callaway wedges with MD grooves and from the rough the ball will always run out some. I have a fairly high swing speed and most of the people I play with can barely get the ball to stop from the fairway. Why is the USGA trying to make a hard game harder?
465	I play with David Pelz's wedges which have square grooves I think. Anyway I appreciate how they usually hold up on the greens but they do scar up my nice golf balls.
466	The USGA is the governing body of golf in the u.s. I have played by the rules for 25 years. I will adapt my game when I use the new grooves. I do not think the opinion of frank or the golf channel should be considered.
467	I agree with the change. Loss of spin is a fair penalty for hitting a drive in the rough. By the way - the golf ball should be rolled back also. Our great courses are running out of real estate.
468	Will the rule change apply to amateur competitions and college play?
469	Please do not punish the many because of the few elite. We have to pay for our clubs, unlike the elite.
470	The pros hit the ball too far. (big deal) Roll back the PGA TOUR ball, grow the rough deeper and pinch in the fairway. THAT would bring accuracy to a premium. You can't just pinch in the fairway because that punishes the shorter hitter even more. He's trying to hit a 5 iron out of deep rough and the bomber is hitting a 9. If we mere mortals want to play with a neutered ball, go for it. They would be for sale if anyone wanted them. Leave our clubs alone! K. Mitchell
471	Modern equipment including wedges has helped lower my handicap. I need just as much help out of the rough as the pros. Changing the grooves means more lost balls.
472	My respect for the USGA is at an all time low. It seems as if the USGA is trying to return to the days of "country club golf." What's next, hickory shafts and plus fours? The vast majority of members at my course suggest that the USGA do something anatomically impossible. They state that they will NOT follow or support this change.