

January 2012

## Equipment Decisions Updates and related issues



Fellow SoHG Members;

The Equipment Committee plans to use this section of the Equipment Guidelines to provide you with updates on equipment issues that arise from time to time. Some updates will directly affect equipment allowed for tournament play; others will inform the membership of upcoming equipment issues.

Every one of these decisions creates discussion among the membership. The decisions of the Equipment Committee and the board are, first, an attempt to be fair. The Committee also intends to be true to the Jan. 1, 1935 date that demarcates approved from non-approved clubs. The SoHG Board decided on that date believing it to be an acceptable cutoff and the Committee follows that date. The membership is reminded that these guidelines and rulings are primarily focused on tournament play although it is our hope they promote the good of hickory golf in general.

### Updates dated January 2012

- 1/1/2012 – Newly published and updated guidelines covering retrofitting wood headed clubs with wood shafts should answer many if not all questions about which clubs can be retrofitted and which ones may not. The Committee feels that setting a date – Jan. 1, 1935 – as the SoHG has from the beginning, as the cutoff for retrofitting woods makes misunderstandings less likely. The new guideline should make more woods available for hickory players to use in competitions.
- 1/1/2012 – An issue has arisen regarding the retrofitting of irons (iron headed clubs). As this is not allowed for SoHG play, it is important to caution members and tournament sponsors about a particular type of retrofitted iron headed club. The clubs in question have been retrofitted by removing a portion of the narrow hosel (originally made to accommodate a metal shaft) and then micro-welding onto the end a replacement section of new hosel with a larger diameter that will accept the cone-shaped end of an original or modern hickory shaft. **These clubs are not approved and will not be allowed.** Currently, no irons (iron headed clubs) are allowed to be retrofitted. The membership is hereby notified that this practice has come to light, to be aware of it, and to note that we may see more of it in the future.
- 1/1/2012 – Long Putters: As there is no rule forbidding the use of long putters today and there is evidence of the use of long-shafted putters in the past (pre-1935) with and without an anchor point, the SoHG feels there is no need to make a rule or guideline about the use of such a club. The heads of submitted long putters should meet the SoHG guidelines on shape and size. This guideline does not apply to gutty-era play, also known as pre-1900 play, where such a club is not allowed.