



## **GAP Policy on the use of Cellular Phones and Smart Phones or any other portable noise producing devices**

All players/caddies are advised that the use of cellular/Smart phones for phone calls/emails/texts/messaging on the course is permitted as long as it is done so within the confines of Rule 14-3 and if the host facility allows those devices to be used. The Association will provide the host club policy on the GAP Website and in the Player's Information sent with the tee time.

All players are expected to keep their phones in silent mode while on the course. If a player consistently disregards his fellow competitors or opponent to their detriment, the Committee will take appropriate disciplinary action. Such action may, for example, include prohibiting play for a limited time or in a certain number of competitions. In the case of a serious breach, the Committee may disqualify a player under Rule 33-7.

There could be a penalty for undue delay (Rule 6-7) or disqualification (33-7) based on a player's actions. Golf is considered a gentleman's game and each player is expected to adhere to the highest standards of conduct on the course.

### 14-3/16 Use of Electronic Devices

As provided in the Etiquette Section, players should ensure that any electronic device taken onto the course does not distract other players.

The use of an electronic device such as a mobile phone, hand-held computer, calculator, television or radio is not of itself a breach of Rule 14-3. For example, the following uses of an electronic device during a stipulated round are not a breach of the Rules:

- Using the device for matters unrelated to golf (e.g., to call home);
- Using the device to access information on advice-related matters that was produced prior to the start of the player's round (e.g., an electronic yardage book, swing tips);
- Using the device to access (but not interpret or process) playing information from previous rounds (e.g., driving distances, individual club yardages, etc.); or
- Using the device to obtain information related to the competition being played (e.g., the leader board or projected "cut").

However, the following are examples of uses of an electronic device during a stipulated round that might assist the player in his play and therefore are in breach of Rule 14-3:

- Using the device (e.g., a television or radio) to watch or listen to a broadcast of the competition being played;
- Using the device to ask for or give advice in breach of Rule 8-1 (e.g., calling a swing coach);
- Using the device to access information on advice-related matters that was not produced prior to the start of his round (e.g., analysis of strokes made during that round); or
- Using the device to interpret or process any playing information obtained from current or previous rounds (e.g., driving distances, individual club yardages, etc.) or to assist in calculating the effective distance between two points (i.e., distance after considering gradient, wind speed and/or direction, temperature or other environmental factors).

### 14-3/17 Player Listens to Music or Broadcast During Round

**Q.** A player uses a device to listen to music, a radio broadcast or any other type of broadcast during a stipulated round. What is the ruling?

**A.** Under Rule 14-3a, a player may not use any artificial device or unusual equipment that "might assist him in making a stroke or in his play." Listening to music or a broadcast while making a stroke or for a prolonged period might assist the player in his play, for example, by eliminating distractions or promoting a good tempo. Therefore, the use of an artificial device to listen to music or a broadcast, whether or not through headphones, while making a stroke or for a prolonged period of time during a stipulated round is a breach of Rule 14-3. However, it would not be a breach of Rule 14-3 for a player to listen to a device briefly, for example, to obtain the results of another sporting event or traffic information, while walking between the putting green of one hole and the teeing ground of the next hole.

A Committee will have to consider all available facts and circumstances in determining whether a player using an artificial device to listen to music or a broadcast has done so for a prolonged period such that the action might have assisted the player in his play.

There is no restriction on listening to music or other broadcasts while practicing (whether on the practice ground or on the golf course, and whether by oneself or while playing with others), although club rules and disciplinary codes could apply in such circumstances.

### 14-3/18 Weather Information Accessed on Multi-Functional Device

**Q.** During a stipulated round, may a player access local weather information (e.g., wind, temperature, humidity) through an application or internet browser on a multi-functional device?

**A.** Yes. The prohibition in Rule 14-3 is only applicable to the specific act of gauging or measuring conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g., through use of an anemometer or a thermometer). When accessing weather reports provided by a weather station through an application or internet browser, the player is not actively measuring or gauging the conditions. (New)