

ANCHORING THE CLUB—UNDERSTANDING RULE 14-1b

The USGA and The R&A, golf's governing bodies, have adopted changes to Rule 14-1 of the Rules of Golf that prohibit anchoring the club in making a stroke. The new Rule will go into effect on January 1, 2016, in accordance with the regular four-year cycle for changes to the Rules of Golf.

WHAT CHANGES?

The new entry — **Rule 14-1b**— prohibits strokes made with the club or a hand gripping the club held directly against the player's body or with a forearm held against the body to establish an anchor point that indirectly anchors the club.



WHAT THE RULE SAYS

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either "directly" or by use of an "anchor point."

NOTE 1:

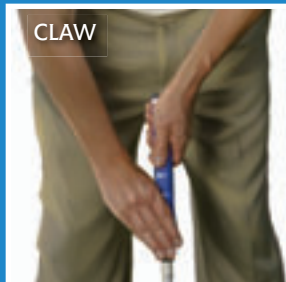
The club is anchored "directly" when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

NOTE 2:

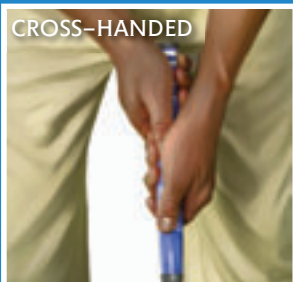
An "anchor point" exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

PERMITTED

CLAW



CROSS-HANDED



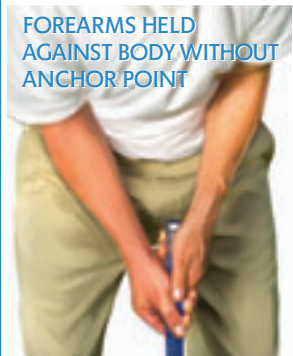
LONG PUTTER NOT ANCHORED



MID-LENGTH PUTTER NOT ANCHORED



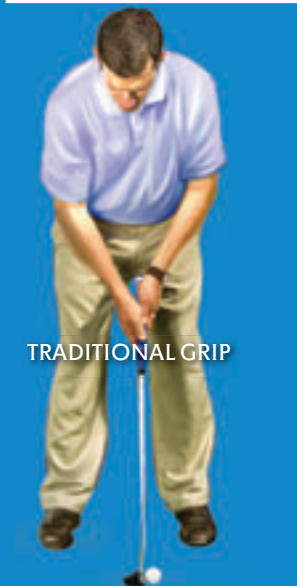
FOREARMS HELD AGAINST BODY WITHOUT ANCHOR POINT



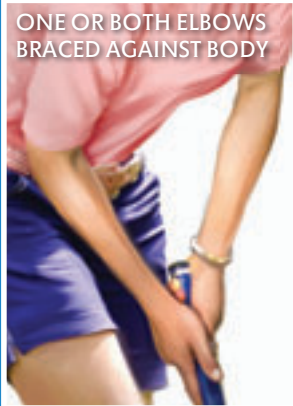
GRIP RESTING AGAINST FOREARM



TRADITIONAL GRIP



ONE OR BOTH ELBOWS BRACED AGAINST BODY

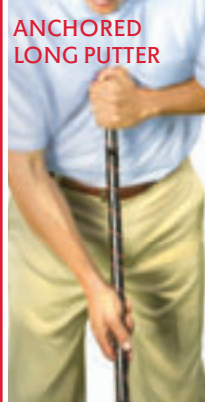


PROHIBITED

MID-LENGTH PUTTER ANCHORED AGAINST STOMACH



ANCHORED LONG PUTTER

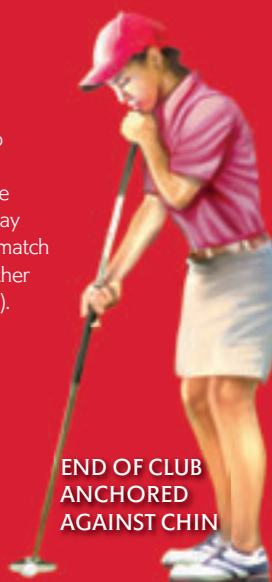


ANCHOR POINT CREATED BY FOREARM



Penalty
Anchoring the club in making a stroke brings a two-stroke penalty in stroke play and loss of hole in match play (as with any other breach of Rule 14-1).

END OF CLUB ANCHORED AGAINST CHIN



THIS IS NOT AN EQUIPMENT RULE

Conforming mid-length and long putters remain permissible provided they are not anchored.

REVIEW AND TIMETABLE

