



Society of Hickory Golfers Golf Club Equipment Standards

Golf Club Equipment Standards

The purpose in developing these guidelines is to establish standard benchmarks for equipment that are most appropriate and best represents the interests of hickory golf and the playing community. We recognize that even with the best intentions there may still arise issues of uncertainty and disagreements with respect to the acquisition, performance and enhancement of wood-shafted clubs many decades old.

Our group was founded in the spirit of true sportsmanship. Traditionalists at heart, we cherish our obligation to savor and perpetuate the joys of this Royal and Ancient game as it was once played. We feel it is of paramount importance that a climate be established in which competition is on an equitable and level playing field. To us, just merely playing and experiencing golf in this way remains more important than victory, a living testament to Tom Morris's famous epitaph: "Modest in victory, gracious in defeat." To us, golf presents a lasting safe haven for ennobling virtues, including the highest standards of competitive character, honor and integrity.

Our enduring preference remains that each hickory golfer acquire and play with authentic antique wood-shafted golf clubs made prior to 1935. We are, however, acutely aware of the increasing difficulty in finding playable antique clubs whose lineage can be definitively established. We also recognize the positive effect that modern replicas have had, and will continue to have, in fostering the growth of hickory golf. And, of course, in time all things, especially those of a certain age, are bound to require repairs.

Finally, everything about our endeavor has been in an effort to enthusiastically foster the continued enjoyment of hickory golf. It is as informal guardians of the hickory game that we hope to continue this purpose.



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THE SOCIETY OF HICKORY GOLFERS



The SoHG approves for play in its tournaments and sanctioned events:

ANTIQUÉ HICKORY SHAFTED CLUBS

This category is for equipment whose club heads were made prior to 1935. Antique clubs may be “updated” for play and a complete list of all such renovations is available and maintained on the SoHG website or may be obtained from the SoHG Equipment Committee.

MODERN REPRODUCTION HICKORY SHAFTED CLUBS

This category is for equipment made to replicate, as nearly as possible, clubs that were made prior to 1935. A complete list of currently approved clubs is available and maintained on the SoHG website or may be obtained from the SoHG Equipment Committee.

RETRO FITTED CLUBS

This category was created for clubs that were made in 1935 or before and at the time of their release were available with both wood and steel shafts. We do allow these pre-1935 wooden club heads to be fitted with period or new hickory shafts ONLY if they were offered with the two differing shaft materials. Players must establish-through the retro-fitter or seller of these clubs-that the heads were indeed offered before 1935 in wood and steel shafts. No golf club made after 1935 will be allowed in this category.

There will be no limit on the number of clubs a competitor may carry.

The SoHG Equipment Committee will review, in a timely manner, any club or club renovation submitted for approval to be used in Hickory Tournament play. Requests for equipment approval should be made through the chairman of the Equipment Committee and there is a form available on the SoHG website that can be used for this purpose. Upon completion of the review process the committee chairman will respond to and will explain the final decision to the submitting party.

The SoHG Board of Directors and general membership will also be apprised of all decisions regarding equipment approval or disapproval. This will happen via the website, the Official SoHG publication or the United States Postal Service.

Clubs that fall outside the above mentioned criteria are not approved for tournament play by the SoHG and are discouraged from being used. Members of the SoHG should verify that their guests, or potential new members be equipped with clubs that fall into one of the preceding categories.



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