



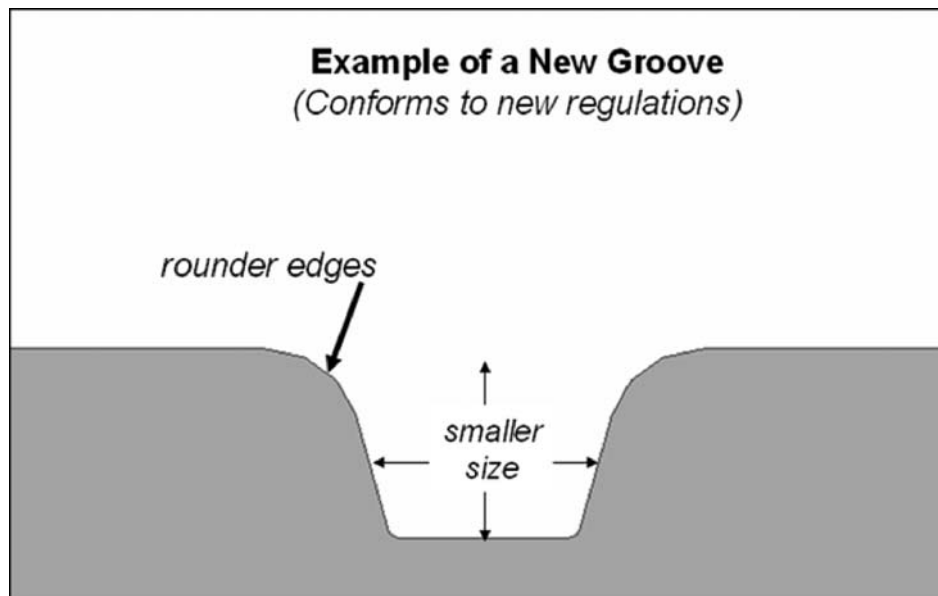
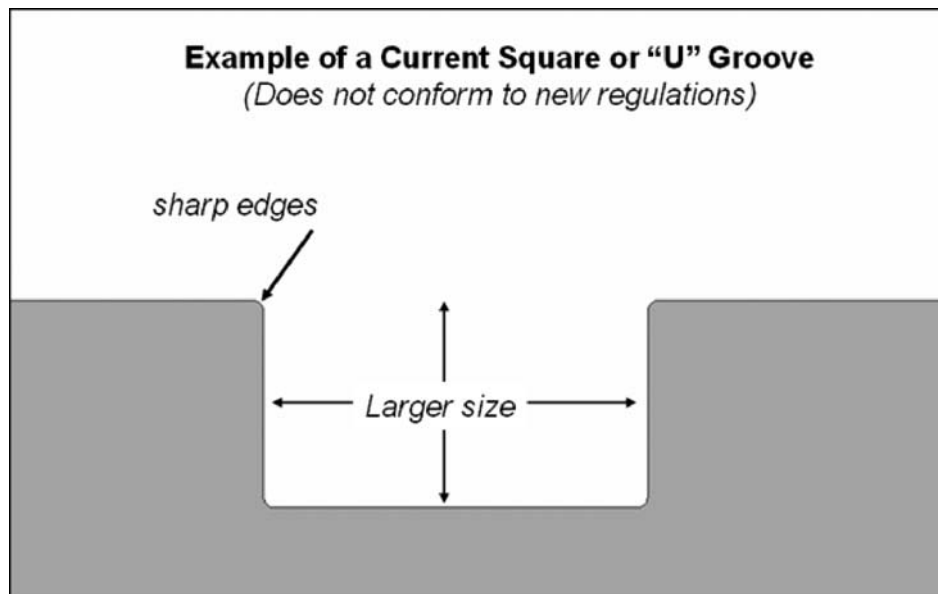
Groovy Information

By **Jeremiah Hoffmann**, PGA Golf Professional, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

There has been a lot of talk over the past year about the new “groove” rules. As technology continues to improve, it gives those of us in the golf business a chance to learn a lot about physics and geometry. Cubic Centimeters, Coefficient of Resolution and Volume of Grooves have become part of our vocabulary as the USGA adjusts their rules to keep up. Somewhere my geometry and physics teachers are smiling, knowing they are vindicated, because yes I am actually using this stuff! (I know because my dad was my geometry teacher!) The rule change raises many questions like what actually is changing, how will that change my game and when do I have to get new wedges by?

The first thing to realize is that this rule change does not apply simply to wedges, it is any club with more than 25 degrees of loft. By traditional standards, that means anything shorter than your 4 or 5 iron. In the past manufacturers only had to worry about depth, width and spacing of grooves. Now they have to include total volume of the grooves as well. The major difference players will see is a result of the radius on the edges of the grooves. No longer will wedges have sharp edges that tear up the cover of your new Pro V1! The sharp edges are a major contributor to the amount of spin put on the golf ball.

The answer to how will this affect my game is, “it depends.” Better players that play a soft covered ball will see less spin. Players that don’t spin the ball much or play a harder Surlyn covered golf ball will see less change. More than likely those chip shots from heavy rough won’t have the same “juice” on them. So, what can you do? Make sure you hit more



greens and get better at bump and run shots! (Your golf pro would be happy to help you with both.) In addition, many companies are introducing golf balls that are softer and spin more.

As of January 1, 2010, manufac-

turers can no longer produce clubs with the old grooves. However, only certain USGA and PGA events will require the use of the new grooves. Top amateur and Section PGA events are exempt until 2014 and all other golfers have until 2024 to

make the change. Golf companies realize that you like to be able to spin the ball from the deep rough, so they are marketing 2010 as a year to "stock up" on wedges. Taylor Made took it a step further, creating a club that you can change out the face of the club. What that allows you to do is buy each of your favorite wedges and a bunch of replacement "faces" to keep you stocked until 2024. The faces are relatively inexpensive and are interchangeable between lofts. Either way, if you like being able to spin, this is the year to get those new wedges.

Hopefully this clarifies some the questions you may have had about the changes. If you have more questions or want more information talk to your golf professional or check out the USGA's website at www.usga.org. 

"V" Groove
(Conforms to new regulations)



New groove rules start this year for USGA Opens and PGA Tour Events, 2014 for USGA Amateur Events and 2024 for Other Competitions. (Diagrams courtesy of USGA)

count on
our quality.
depend on
our service.
trust in our
experience.



WAUPACA

715-258-8566 • www.WaupacaSand.com