

# **Rules of Amateur Status For Juniors**

**By the United States Golf Association**

**Effective January 1, 2010**



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Dear Junior:

Whether you have just discovered the game of golf or have played for several years, you will learn more each day about the etiquette and Rules of the game. I hope you also are taking the time to learn about the Rules of Amateur Status.

The Rules of Amateur Status guide how to compete as an amateur. Whether it is your junior club championship or a USGA National Championship, the Rules of Amateur Status apply. As you continue to develop as a golfer and progress to the next level of competition, the Rules become even more important. It is imperative that you are familiar with them to avoid a mistake which could cost you your amateur status.

Amateurism captures the true essence of the sport, where athletes play because of the deep respect and love they have for the game and its rich history and traditions. I have established great friendships around the country because of golf. I cherish the time I spend playing with other amateurs. We are passionate about the sport and love the game.

This guide contains information reflecting changes to the Rules of Amateur Status, effective January 1, 2008. You should familiarize yourself with these Rules and note the changes applied to expenses and lending name or likeness as of January 1, 2008. This book will highlight situations you may encounter as a junior while competing in amateur competitions.

The Rules are complex and lengthy and will take time to understand. Start with the basics and please do not hesitate to ask a question if you feel some activity may not be permitted by the Rules. We encourage you to share this book with your parents, guardians, coaches, and fellow competitors.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James F. Vernon", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

James F. Vernon  
President  
United States Golf Association

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# Section I

## For the Good of the Game

*The United States Golf Association (USGA) has served as the national governing body of golf since its formation in 1894. It is a non-profit organization run by golfers for the benefit of golfers. The USGA remains committed to promoting policies and programs for the good of the game.*

### What Is the USGA?

More than 10,000 private and public golf courses, clubs and facilities make up the USGA.

An Executive Committee of 15 volunteers oversees the Association. More than 1,250 volunteers from all parts of the country serve on various USGA committees. A professional staff of approximately 325 directs the Association's day-to-day functions from Golf House, the USGA's headquarters in Far Hills, New Jersey.

In 1975, the Association formed the USGA Members Program to help support the game and the USGA. Today, more than 1,200,000 golfers around the nation are USGA Members.

The USGA acts in cooperation with national, regional, and local golf associations in areas of common interest. The Association also represents the United States in relations with golf associations of other countries.

### What Does the USGA Do?

The USGA sponsors programs that benefit everyone who plays the game. These essential services affect all golfers, whether they are amateurs or professionals, public or private course players.

- **Writes and Interprets the Rules of Golf**

The USGA and R&A Rules Limited, jointly write and interpret the Rules of Golf to guard the tradition and integrity of the game.

- **Produces the Rules of Amateur Status**

The Rules of Amateur Status reinforce the fundamental idea that an amateur is one who plays solely for the enjoyment of the game, without financial benefit.

- **Conducts National Championships**

The USGA conducts golf's national championships. These include the U.S. Open, the U.S. Women's Open, the U.S. Senior Open, 10 national amateur championships and the State Team Championships. The USGA also helps conduct four international competitions: the Walker Cup Match, the Curtis Cup Match, and the Men's and Women's World Amateur Team Championships.

- **Provides a Handicap System**

Thanks to the USGA Handicap System, all golfers can compete on an equal basis. The USGA Course Rating System ensures that golf courses are rated in relation to all other courses. The USGA Slope System adjusts a player's USGA Handicap Index according to the difficulty of a course. As a result, no matter whom golfers play with — or where they play — they can enjoy a fair game.

- **Maintains Equipment Standards**

The USGA continually tests golf equipment for conformity to the Rules. Without such rigorous equipment testing and research programs, advances in technology could soon overtake skill as the major factor in success.

- **Funds Turfgrass and Environmental Research**

The USGA funds research that leads to improved grasses and playing surfaces that require less water and maintenance and can better endure diseases and pests. These grasses and playing surfaces can be used in a wide variety of climates. The USGA is also the largest contributor to research on the impact of golf courses on the environment.

- **USGA Turf Advisory Service**

The USGA has 18 skilled agronomists who make annual visits to more than 1,500 golf courses. These experts offer recommendations that help improve course maintenance and make it more cost-efficient.

- **Preserves Golf's History**

The USGA Museum — featuring the Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History — is the world's premier institution for the study and education of golf history. With collections that encompass more than 42,000 artifacts, a library of more than 20,000 volumes, more than half a million photographic images, and several thousand hours of film and video footage, the USGA Museum is the preeminent place for golf enthusiasts and visitors of all ages to experience the game both as it used to be and as it is today.

- **Ensures Golf's Future**

Through its Grants and Fellowship initiative, the USGA funds a variety of junior golf, caddie, physically challenged, and education programs that foster the notion that golf is a game for everyone. Since 1997, the USGA has provided more than \$65 million in support of more than 1,000 junior golf programs and programs for individuals with disabilities for the good of the game.

## Section II

### What Juniors Need to Know About The Rules of Amateur Status

#### Why is AMATEUR STATUS so important?

Have you ever thought what your life would be like if you didn't play golf competitively? What would you do during the summer? What if you couldn't play on your high school team or were ineligible for a college scholarship? What would life be like on the pro tour as a teenager if you were good enough to qualify?

The answers to those questions may become real if you lose your amateur status. Tournaments for juniors not only have an age limit, but almost all also require that contestants be amateurs, as do the rules for high school and college competition. Understanding the USGA Rules of Amateur Status (Rules) will only help you in the future as you improve your game and begin to be successful.

Having success may lead you to gain "golf skill and reputation," magic words in terms of your amateur status. Success also may lead you to be recognized as a golfer (more on this later). Like everything else in life, with greater success comes increased visibility and responsibility to yourself, those who support you and those who wish to be just like you.

Therefore, a junior golfer with a higher profile is encouraged to be even more familiar with the Rules to avoid any accidental violations. Not knowing the Rules will not excuse you from any violations of the Rules, nor from consequences, which may include losing your amateur status.

#### Who is an AMATEUR?

Every player is born an amateur and remains an amateur until he violates the Rules or chooses to give up his amateur status. An amateur plays the game for recreation and fun as well as for the thrill of competition and does not make money by teaching the game, playing it, or as a result of his golf celebrity.

#### Who is a JUNIOR GOLFER?

A junior golfer is an amateur golfer who has not reached either the September 1 following graduation from high school or his 19th birthday, whichever comes first.

## Are you a JUNIOR GOLFER?

As an example, if either of the following describes you, then you are not a junior golfer:

- graduated high school in June and the September 1 following the graduation has passed (e.g., it is now the April after high school graduation) or
- are a 19-year old who is in high school.

*(Please note that this definition is used solely for applying the USGA Rules of Amateur Status. It does not answer whether one is eligible to enter a junior competition. Check with those in charge of the specific competition for the age requirement of entering that competition, as it may vary from one tournament to the next.)*

The Rules apply to amateurs of all ages. However, there are some Rules that are specific to juniors. The following will help you learn a little about the Rules as well as answer some questions you may have. The complete Rules may be found in the back of this brochure, in the back of the USGA Rules of Golf and on the USGA's Web site, <http://www.usga.org>.

## Section III

### Questions and Answers

#### EXPENSES

##### Summary of Expenses

A junior golfer may directly accept a reasonable amount of expenses to play in a junior golf competition. If the competition is not limited to juniors, the junior may still receive expenses, however the money must be approved by and paid through the junior's state/regional golf association. The expenses may come from any source except a professional agent or sponsor. One example of a sponsorship is a player who has an agreement with a local department store which will support his golf activities.

Other occasions when an amateur may receive expenses are when he is participating in team competitions among school or college teams, golf club or golf association teams, or competitions among teams of athletic organizations such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the YMCA. The expenses in these team competitions must be paid by the group being represented.

##### What you need to know about EXPENSES

###### Q. What makes up a player's reasonable expenses?

**A.** Expenses include transportation and travel costs such as airfare or a bus ticket, and accommodation or lodging, meals, entry fee, and caddie, cart and practice fees.

###### Q. The local car dealership is offering to help with my expenses to junior events for the summer. Is this okay, and if so, may I wear a hat with the dealership's logo or put its logo on my bag?

**A.** You may accept help from the car dealership. However, there may be no advertising of the dealership's assistance. The car dealership may not advertise that it has helped you, nor may you wear the logo of the dealership. (See also Section on Golf Skill and Reputation.)

###### Q. May I solicit local businesses for help with my expenses?

**A.** Yes, juniors may receive expenses from any source, except a professional agent or sponsor, and there are no restrictions on how those expense monies are obtained. But there may not be an oral or written agreement with the source paying the expenses. (See also Section on Professionalism.)

- Q.** My mom wants to travel with me to the U.S. Junior, but it is expensive to travel across the country. What may she do?
- A.** Your family also may receive outside help with expenses for one parent or legal guardian to accompany you.
- Q.** What should my family do if there is a question about how our expenses are paid?
- A.** It is recommended that your family keep receipts or a log of the expenses received, as well as a record of how the money is spent, in case a question is raised.
- Q.** In addition to receiving expenses for playing in tournaments, may my family also receive help to send me to golf camp?
- A.** Yes, juniors may accept expenses for practice or to prepare for a competition, which includes golf camps.
- Q.** I'd like to play in the PGA Tour's Pro-Am in my town. I know this is not a junior event, and it is not limited to amateurs. Is there a way I may play without losing my amateur status?
- A.** Yes. You may play in the Pro-Am as an amateur. Therefore, you may have the entry to a Pro-Am paid by another source such as a local business, but the entry fee and any other expenses received must be approved by and paid through the state/regional golf association.
- Q.** What may I do for any events that I play in that are not amateur only, such as an open or a Pro-Am?
- A.** These events are treated the same as amateur competitions not limited to juniors (i.e., state amateur). You may receive expense monies for these events, provided the monies are approved by and paid through the state/regional golf association.
- Q.** May a hotel offer reduced rates for a competition?
- A.** Yes, a reduction of rates is permissible provided the reduction is reasonable and available to all players. For example, a 5-Star hotel may not offer a room for \$40 a night. Complimentary accommodations from a hotel for a competition not limited to juniors may be accepted provided they are approved by the state/regional golf association.
- Q.** Private housing is offered at my state girls' junior championship. Is this permitted?
- A.** You may stay in private housing provided it is offered to all players.
- Q.** My junior tour provides all our meals during their events. Is this practice okay?
- A.** Yes, as long as the meals are provided for all players at no extra cost and the entry fee is realistic.

- Q.** May I accept expenses for a future event as a prize?
- A.** Yes. If the future event is a junior competition, you may receive the expenses directly, however if the competition is not limited to juniors, you may submit a voucher to your state/regional golf association and thereafter be reimbursed for expenses incurred when competing in a golf competition.
- Q.** The local golf course in my town has a student or junior membership. May I apply for this membership at the lower rate?
- A.** If the student or junior membership is open to other than outstanding players, then paying the lower dues is permitted. The club may even offer this membership free of charge to junior golfers of any skill level, provided it is not given for the purpose of having that junior play for the club/course. (See related question under Golf Skill or Reputation.)
- Q.** What is meant when stated that the expenses must be approved by and paid through the state/regional golf association?
- A.** When accepting expense money for competitions other than those limited to juniors, the expenses must be first approved by the state/regional golf association where the player resides. The Application for Reimbursement of Tournament Expenses and the Donor Form must both be completed and submitted to the golf association. These forms are shown on the following pages and are available for download on [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org). Once the expenses have been approved, the money is sent to the golf association which will then forward the reimbursement to the junior.

(For additional information about Expenses, refer to Rule 4.)



## APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF TOURNAMENT EXPENSES

(FILE THIS APPLICATION WITH YOUR STATE OR  
REGIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION AFTER THE COMPETITION)

**Instructions:** An amateur golfer may accept up to \$300 in actual expenses for a competition directly from an outside source. If the expenses exceed \$300, the player must request for the expense reimbursement to be paid through the State or Regional Golf Association. The outside source paying expense money over \$300 must forward the money with the appropriate form to the golf association who will then reimburse the expenses to the amateur. The amateur must complete the appropriate expense report and attach receipts proving the actual expenses incurred.

The following items are deemed to be tournament expenses:

1. Round Trip Transportation/Travel
2. Accommodation/Lodging
3. Meals/Refreshments
4. Entry Fee
5. Caddie/Cart Fees
6. Practice Range/Practice Round Fees

Junior golfers are not required to apply for expenses to competitions limited exclusively to junior golfers.

**Players must be aware that Rule 6-2, Lending Name or Likeness, applies.**

The player must not allow the source of expense money to use his name or likeness in any form of advertising, nor must the player advertise the source of the expense money.



## APPLICATION

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the competition for which expenses are being requested:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Competition \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of expenses requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Complete expense report for all expenses)

### **Expense Report**

(Attach Receipts Where Available)

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Roundtrip Airfare -	_____
Personal car use - (as per current IRS rate)	_____
Accommodation/Lodging -	_____
Meals/Refreshments -	_____
Entry Fee -	_____
Caddie/Cart Fees -	_____
Practice Range/ Practice Round Fees -	_____

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Expenses



## APPLICATION TO DONATE EXPENSES TO AN AMATEUR GOLFER

(FILE THIS APPLICATION WITH YOUR STATE OR  
REGIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION AFTER THE COMPETITION)

**Instructions:** An amateur golfer may accept up to \$300 in actual expenses to defray reasonable expenses to a golf competition directly from the source of the funds. If the amount of the expense assistance is more than \$300 the funds must be paid through the state or regional golf association. The golf association will then disburse the funds to the player after the competition and the appropriate application is filed by the player. Before any money in excess of \$300 is disbursed to a player, the donor must complete this application and make payment to the appropriate golf association. Junior golfers are not required to apply for expenses to competitions limited exclusively to junior golfers.

1. Name of Donor/Club: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of the Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Address of Donor/Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name of Amateur for who  
funds are designated: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Address of Amateur: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name of the Competition for  
which expenses are designated \_\_\_\_\_

7. Total Amount of Money donated: \_\_\_\_\_  
(make checks payable to the state or regional golf association)

8. Has the player received any money  
directly from the donor? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how much money? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check this box if you want the golf association to retain any excess funds for charitable purposes.

## USE OF GOLF SKILL OR REPUTATION

### Summary of GOLF SKILL OR REPUTATION

Generally an amateur golfer is only considered to have golf skill, as the Rules define it, if he has been successful at the local level (i.e., winning the state amateur), or competes at the national level, (i.e., the U.S. Junior). A junior may not have golf skill or reputation at one time, but may have it at a later time as a result of his most recent play. Sometimes it may be difficult to determine if a junior does have golf skill or reputation. Golf skill or reputation is gained as one becomes more successful and notable as a golfer. Golf reputation may only be gained through having golf skill.

A junior who does have golf skill or reputation must not use that skill or reputation to promote, advertise, or sell anything, or to receive a financial gain. A prominent junior may not allow his name or likeness to be used for the advertisement or sale of anything. Even if a direct payment is not received, there may be an indirect benefit for appearing in an advertisement.

There is a higher standard expected of an amateur of golf skill or reputation as he is more visible as a golfer, and therefore, has added responsibility.

### Who has GOLF SKILL OR REPUTATION?

The following are examples of single accomplishments that will not result in a junior having golf skill or reputation:

- Winning your club's Junior Championship, or
- Winning your city's Par-3 Challenge for ages 12 and under.

The following are examples of single accomplishments that will result in a junior having golf skill or reputation:

- Winning your State Amateur Championship, or
- Participating in the US Junior or the US Girls' Junior Championships.

The above should only be viewed as examples, as the decision may be different for each junior.

### What you need to know if you have GOLF SKILL OR REPUTATION

- Q.** The local gym where I work out would like to include me as a golfer in one of its upcoming ads. I will not receive any payment for doing so. Is this permitted?
- A.** No. Appearing in any advertisement, even if you are not paid, will violate the Rules.
- Q.** My mother has created a personal logo for me. May I sell shirts or hats with the logo?
- A.** No. Doing so is considered advertising, from which you are prohibited.

- Q.** I've been asked to be a guest on a local radio show. The radio station has offered to pay me for my time. Is this payment permitted?
- A.** You may accept payment for broadcasting, or for writing, provided you are the author of the commentary, that golf instruction is not included, and the arrangement is not a disguised way of paying for participation in a golf competition or for expenses that otherwise may not be paid.
- Q.** I'm interested in pursuing a broadcasting career. May I work at the local radio station to get experience?
- A.** You may accept payment or compensation for part-time broadcasting or for writing only if you are the author of the commentary and golf instruction is not included.
- Q.** I just won our state junior championship, and the course where the tournament was played would like to offer me privileges there. Is this arrangement permissible?
- A.** Yes, provided the offer is not made as an inducement to play for that club/course.
- Q.** My high school team practices at Winding River Course during the season. The course has offered for us to play and practice there during the off-season. Is this okay, or would our team be considered to be accepting membership contrary to the Rules?
- A.** This would be permitted. The offer may be made for a limited or unlimited period and may include membership at the club provided the offer is not made as an inducement to represent the club. (See related question under Expenses.)
- Q.** Our high school is conducting a fundraiser and has asked the top two players of the team to station themselves on a par 3 and play in a contest when each group comes through. May I participate without affecting my amateur status?
- A.** Yes, because the event is a fundraiser for the school, and this also would apply if it were for a charity. However, the fact that you will be participating in this contest may not be advertised or promoted in an effort to promote the event as a whole.

(For additional information about Golf Skill or Reputation, refer to Rule 6. )

## OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO GOLF SKILL OR REPUTATION

### Common Questions about EQUIPMENT

- Q.** I've heard I may accept equipment without payment. Is this true?
- A.** Yes. Amateurs of any skill level or age may receive equipment without payment provided no advertising is involved.

- Q.** Will you please explain what is meant by "no advertising involved" under the equipment rule?
- A.** An amateur golfer of golf skill or reputation may accept golf balls, clubs, merchandise, clothing or shoes free of charge or at a discounted rate from a manufacturer, provided no advertising is involved. With regard to golf bags, it is permissible for the bag to bear the name of the manufacturer in large letters, but if it does, the player must not also arrange for his own name to appear on the bag in large letters. If he does, he may be deemed to be advertising the merchandise of that manufacturer and may forfeit his amateur status. The same applies to bag covers and other luggage.
- An amateur who has golf skill or reputation and wishes to place his name on a golf bag must be sure that the name of any other company (other than the bag manufacturer) does not appear on the bag. Also, collegiate players may include the name or logo of the college or university they represent.
- Q.** Is it permissible for a well-known junior to carry a golf bag or wear apparel including a hat with a commercial logo on it?
- A.** Such a bag may be carried or apparel worn in the following circumstances:
- If the player purchased the equipment and the logo is a normal part of the bag, hat or clothing.
  - If she won it as a prize and, if it carries a company name other than the manufacturer's name on it, he is not an employee of the company.

- Q.** I received a new driver from a manufacturer, but I do not like it. Is it okay to sell it on an online auction?

- A.** No. Amateurs may not sell any equipment that was received free of charge, including equipment won as a prize.

- Q.** The junior tournament I played in last week gave out shoes, a shoe bag, and a golf shirt to each contestant. Are these gifts permissible?

- A.** Yes. Tee gifts awarded to all players in a competition are permissible, even if they bear the event's name, the name of the junior tour or a small logo of the tournament sponsor.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

An amateur golfer of golf skill or reputation must not use that skill or reputation to gain the benefits of a scholarship or grant-in-aid other than in accordance with the regulations of the organizations governing athletes at academic institutions such as the NCAA, NAIA, AIAW, NJCAA, etc.

Juniors are encouraged to check with the governing organization regarding any questions on how scholarships are administered.

(See related question under Prizes.)

## PRIZES

### Summary of PRIZES

The Rules place a limit on the value of prizes to ensure that an amateur is not making a profit as the result of success on the golf course. The retail value of the prize is used to define the limit, which is the price at which the prize is generally available at the time of the award.

Not only is there a maximum value on the prize that may be won, but there also is a restriction on the types of prizes. For example, Rule 3-1 prohibits an amateur from playing for prize money. If an amateur participates in an event where prize money is awarded, he must waive his right to any prize money prior to participating in the event. If this waiver is made, it may not be cancelled; rather it must stand throughout the duration of the competition. Again, the waiver must be made before participating in the competition.

Examples of prizes that are a breach of the Prize Rule:

- A vacation with a retail value that exceeds \$750.
- Prizes that are equivalent to money are stocks and bonds, or anything that may easily be exchanged for money.
- Selling golf equipment that was won as a prize, or receiving cash in exchange for a gift certificate.

In addition to prizes won as a result of a competition, an amateur also may be awarded a prize for a number of notable performances or for contributions to golf. Such awards are known as testimonial awards. These awards must also not hold a retail value greater than \$750. More than one testimonial award may be accepted, as long as it is not accepted to avoid the \$750 limit.

### What you need to know about PRIZES:

**Q.** What are examples of prizes that are acceptable under the Rules?

- A.**
- Merchandise with a retail value not greater than \$750.
  - Gift certificates of not more than \$750 for the future purchase of merchandise.
  - Driving range use of up to \$750.
  - Use of golf carts up to \$750, provided it is not used in a competition.
  - Green fees at a public course of up to \$750, provided they are not used in a competition.
  - A voucher for expenses to a future junior competition.

It is important to remember you must not accept a cash prize of any amount.

**Q.** What are examples of prizes that would cause me to lose my amateur status?

- A.**
- Receiving expenses directly to participate in a competition not limited to juniors.
  - A spot in a Pro-Am of a retail value greater than \$750.
  - Cash.

**Q.** Will you please clarify the exception for a hole-in-one made while playing golf?

- A.** The term “playing golf” is meant to include situations where the hole-in-one is incidental to a round of golf (including a partial round.) Examples of formats to which the exception applies are during a round, or on a “19th hole.”

The following are examples of formats to which the Exception does not apply (and therefore a player would forfeit his amateur status if he accepted a hole-in-one prize whose value exceeded the prize limit):

- A contest in which a player is allowed more than one opportunity on a hole to win the prize;
- A contest conducted other than at a golf course (e.g., a simulator or driving range);
- A putting contest.

**Q.** I’ve entered an event that will be awarding cash prizes for a closest to the hole, and longest drive. Will I lose my amateur status for simply playing in the event?

- A.** No. In these types of contests, it is not considered that the player is playing for prize money in breach of Rule 3-1. Therefore, only the player who wins and accepts the cash prize(s) would forfeit her amateur status.

**Q.** The junior tour I play on gives scholarships as prizes. Is this permissible?

- A.** No. Scholarships of any amount may not be awarded as a prize.

**Q.** May I accept a prize with a retail value of \$750 or less that has been donated by a golf equipment manufacturer?

- A.** Yes. (See also Section on Golf Skill or Reputation – Equipment.)

**Q.** My father and I were partners in our city’s four-ball championship. The winning prize was a gift certificate to the local travel agent for \$1,000 for each of us. May I let my father accept my gift certificate so I will not lose my amateur status?

- A.** No. If you win a non-conforming prize, you may not accept it in the name of a relative to avoid losing your amateur status. However, you may ask that the amount over \$750 be donated to a recognized charity.

**Q.** My teammate Carrie and I won our state's high school challenge, and the prize was \$2,000 for the winning school's athletic program. Is this prize okay, since it is going to the school?

**A.** Yes. Since you are not directly accepting the prize, and the money is going to the school, the prize is permissible.

**Q.** The crystal trophy that is awarded for first place has a retail value greater than \$750. Will I lose my amateur status for accepting it?

**A.** No. A trophy that is made of gold, silver, ceramic, glass or something similar that is intended for display purposes only and has no significant practical value is known as a symbolic prize. There is no dollar limit on symbolic prizes.

**Q.** My club holds a skins game once a month and my father's friends try to talk me into playing on their team. What is the USGA's stance on skins games?

**A.** If participation in the "skins" portion of the competition is not optional (i.e., you are essentially required to pay an entry fee to be used to award cash prizes in the skins game), then you would likely be considered to be playing for prize money and thus in violation of Rule 3-1.

If participation in the "skins" portion of the competition is optional (i.e., there is an optional cash side pool in which you could contribute if you wished in order to be eligible for the "skins" prizes), involves a nominal amount of money, and is not advertised, the arrangement would appear to constitute gambling. Gambling is casual betting among friends who provide their own money for the wagers. Additionally, the amount of money that is involved when gambling is a small amount. Gambling itself is not a violation of the Rules.

It is recommended that you not play in these events so your amateur status is not even brought into question.

**Q.** I like to play in the monthly Scramble at my club. The winning team receives prize money. Will this affect my amateur status?

**A.** You may play in scrambles at your local club. However, if cash prizes are being awarded, you must irrevocably waive your right to any prize money prior to participating in each event. Additionally, your partners may not accept the cash prize that you would have won.

It is recommended that you not play in these events so your amateur status is not even brought into question.

For additional information about Prizes, refer to Rule 3.

## PROFESSIONALISM

### Summary of PROFESSIONALISM

An amateur must not take any action for the purpose of becoming a professional golfer and must not identify himself as a professional golfer. Additionally, an amateur must not apply for or receive benefit from membership in any organization of professional golfers.

An example of an action that is prohibited:

- accepting a professional's position.

Additional examples that apply only for players of golf skill and reputation:

- Receiving services from or being paid by a professional agent or sponsor. This includes accepting a loan from an agent or sponsor.
- Making an oral or written agreement with a professional agent or sponsor.
- Agreeing to accept payment or compensation for allowing one's name or likeness to be used for any commercial purpose (See Section on Golf Skill or Reputation).

The following is an exception to the above Rule that amateurs may do without losing their amateur status:

- Entering and playing in any stage of a competition to qualify for a professional tour, provided the player first waives his right to any prize money.

### What you need to know about PROFESSIONALISM

**Q.** What type of job may I have at a golf course without losing my amateur status?

**A.** You may work as a caddie, shop clerk, golf club repairman, greenkeeper, course ranger, starter, course manager, or director of golf. However, remember that while working at a golf course, you must not give or help give any lessons or instruction, including at a clinic or day camp, even if there is no direct payment. (See Section on Instruction)

**Q.** May I take the PGA's Playing Ability Test?

**A.** Participating in the PAT will not cause you to lose your amateur status. You will be in violation of the Rules when you either first identify yourself as a professional or file an application for membership in a professional organization such as the PGA of America or LPGA.

**Q.** In my job, I perform the normal duties of a shop clerk, give no instruction and otherwise do not violate the Rules except my title is "Assistant Professional." Have I forfeited my amateur status?

**A.** Yes. You have identified yourself as a professional.

**Q.** Will you please explain the exception for playing in a tour qualifying school?

**A.** An amateur may attempt to qualify for a professional tour, provided he first waives his right to any prize money (See Section on Prizes).

Please note that this Rule applies only to tour qualifying schools and does not apply to a qualifier for a particular event such as a Monday qualifier for an event on a professional tour. To maintain your amateur status in a qualifier for a professional tour, you must enter as an amateur and irrevocably waive your right to receive prize money.

**Q.** I'd like to enroll in a college that has a program that will teach the aspects of professional golf. Will doing so cause me to lose my amateur status?

**A.** No. Being in a program such as Professional Golf Management that has the purpose of preparing you to become a golf professional does not, by itself, cause you to lose your amateur status. But if you take it a step further and accept an Assistant Professional's position, apply to become a member of a professional organization (PGA of America or LPGA) or receive payment for giving instruction, then a violation will occur.

**Q.** May my family take out a loan to help pay for my expenses?

**A.** You or your family may accept a loan from an outside source provided the loan is made without any special condition other than allowing you to defer payment until you become a professional. The loan must entail no obligation on your part other than to repay it. Specifically, when you become a professional, you must be legally free to execute an agreement with a sponsor, agent or group that are not those advancing the loan. The loan must carry a reasonable interest rate.

Please note that if you have golf skill or reputation (discussed earlier) a higher standard applies to you and you may not accept a loan from a professional agent or sponsor, commercial or otherwise.

For additional information about Professionalism, refer to Rule 2.

## INSTRUCTION

### Summary of INSTRUCTION

An amateur golfer must not receive payment in any form for giving instruction in playing golf. Payments may not be made directly or indirectly such as exchanging something of value for instruction. Instruction is defined as the physical aspects of playing golf, which means the actual mechanics of swinging a golf club and hitting a golf ball. It does not cover the psychology of the game or the Etiquette or Rules of Golf.

### Examples of when INSTRUCTION is permitted

**Q.** Our golf coach is paid for giving instruction. Is this permitted?

**A.** An employee of a school or college may receive payment for giving instruction provided that the amount of time spent giving instruction is less than 50 percent of her total time in the performance of all duties as such an employee. In this situation, the golf instruction is just one part of the coach's job as an educator.

**Q.** How does the Rule apply for a counselor at a camp?

**A.** A camp counselor may receive payment for giving instruction provided that the amount of time spent giving instruction is less than 50 percent of her total time spent in the performance of all duties as the counselor. Camps that fall under this exception which permit payment are overnight camps, even if only devoted to golf, or a day camp in which there are activities other than golf.

**Q.** May I receive payment for giving instruction in writing?

**A.** Payment for giving instruction in writing is permitted provided your ability or reputation as a golfer was not the main reason you were asked to write the instruction or your work is sold.

### Examples of when INSTRUCTION is not permitted

**Q.** A shop clerk at a golf course is paid to clean clubs, operate the cash register and organize the golf carts. She occasionally gives lessons at the course but is not specifically compensated for this service. Is she an amateur?

**A.** No. She has violated Rule 5-1. No employee of the course may give instruction at the course and remain an amateur even if she is not directly compensated for the lessons. Giving lessons becomes part of the employee's job duties, for which she is paid normal wages.

**Q.** The professional at our course has asked me if I could work part-time this summer to help instruct youngsters in the junior clinics and camps. May I do so without forfeiting my amateur status?

**A.** No. Amateurs of any age or skill level can not help in this manner. In view of the previous question, the USGA does not believe that it can relax the Rules in this way. The giving of golf instruction for compensation is a primary act of professionalism and should be limited to professional golfers. In this case, the clinic is an extension of the services provided by the professional.

For additional information about Instruction, refer to Rule 5.

## ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES & REINSTATEMENT

If the USGA receives information that a player who claims to be an amateur has possibly acted contrary to the Rules of Amateur Status, it will conduct an appropriate investigation. Either the staff will make a decision, or it will forward the facts to the Amateur Status Committee for review.

If it is determined that the player in question has forfeited his amateur status, he is entitled to apply for reinstatement to amateur status.

*The preceding information is only a summary of the Rules of Amateur Status. Juniors are encouraged to contact their state high school athletic association or the governing collegiate athletic association for information on high school or college eligibility. These policies may vary between each body.*

*While the USGA makes every effort to make the Rules of Amateur Status clear and easy to understand, we recognize that situations may arise that require interpretation. Any junior golfer in doubt as to any procedure is encouraged to contact the USGA Amateur Status Department by calling (908) 234-2300 or sending an e-mail to amstat@usga.org.*

## Section IV

### Rules of Amateur Status

#### Preamble

The United States Golf Association (USGA) reserves the right to change the Rules of Amateur Status and to make and change the interpretations of the Rules of Amateur Status at any time.

In the Rules of Amateur Status, the gender used in relation to any person is understood to include both genders.

#### Definitions

The Definitions are listed alphabetically and, in the Rules themselves, defined terms are in *italics*.

#### Amateur Golfer

An “*amateur golfer*” is one who plays the game as a non-remunerative and non-profit-making sport and who does not receive remuneration for teaching golf or for other activities because of *golf skill or reputation*, except as provided in the Rules.

#### Committee

The “*Committee*” is the Amateur Status Committee of the USGA.

#### Golf Skill or Reputation

It is a matter for the USGA to decide whether a particular *amateur golfer* has *golf skill or reputation*.

Generally, an *amateur golfer* is only considered to have *golf skill* if he:

- (a) has had competitive success at a local or national level or has been selected to represent his national, state or regional golf association; or
- (b) competes at an elite level.

*Golf reputation* can only be gained through *golf skill* and does not include prominence for service to the game of golf as an administrator.

#### Instruction

“*Instruction*” covers teaching the physical aspects of playing golf, i.e., the actual mechanics of swinging a golf club and hitting a golf ball.

**Note:** *Instruction* does not cover teaching the psychological aspects of the game or the Etiquette or Rules of Golf.

#### Junior Golfer

A “*junior golfer*” is an *amateur golfer* who has not reached (i) the September 1 following graduation from secondary school or (ii) his 19th birthday, whichever comes first.

### Prize Voucher

A “prize voucher” is a voucher or gift certificate issued by the Committee in charge of a competition for the purchase of goods from a professional’s shop or other retail source.

### Retail Value

The “retail value” of a prize is the price at which the prize is generally available from a retail source at the time of the award.

### Rule or Rules

The term “Rule” or “Rules” refers to the Rules of Amateur Status as determined by the USGA.

### Symbolic Prize

A “symbolic prize” is a trophy made of gold, silver, ceramic, glass or the like that is permanently and distinctively engraved.

### Testimonial Award

A “testimonial award” is an award for notable performances or contributions to golf as distinguished from competition prizes. A *testimonial award* may not be a monetary award.

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## Rule 1. Amateurism

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### 1-1. General

An *amateur golfer* must play the game and conduct himself in accordance with the Rules.

### 1-2. Amateur Status

Amateur Status is a universal condition of eligibility for playing in golf competitions as an *amateur golfer*. A person who acts contrary to the Rules may forfeit his status as an *amateur golfer* and as a result will be ineligible to play in amateur competitions.

### 1-3. Purpose and Spirit of the Rules

The purpose and spirit of the Rules is to maintain the distinction between amateur golf and professional golf and to keep the amateur game as free as possible from the abuses that may follow from uncontrolled sponsorship and financial incentive. It is considered necessary to safeguard amateur golf, which is largely self-regulating with regard to the Rules of play and handicapping, so that it can be fully enjoyed by all *amateur golfers*.

### 1-4. Doubt as to Rules

A person who wishes to be an *amateur golfer* and who is in doubt as to whether taking a proposed course of action is permitted under the Rules should consult the USGA.

An organizer or sponsor of an amateur golf competition or a competition involving *amateur golfers* who is in doubt as to whether a proposal is in accordance with the Rules should consult the USGA.

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## Rule 2. Professionalism

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### 2-1. General

Except as provided in the Rules, an *amateur golfer* must not take any action for the purpose of becoming a professional golfer and must not identify himself as a professional golfer.

**Note 1:** Actions by an *amateur golfer* for the purpose of becoming a professional golfer include, but are not limited to:

- (a) accepting the position of a professional golfer;
- (b) receiving services or payment, directly or indirectly, from a professional agent;
- (c) entering into a written or oral agreement, directly or indirectly, with a professional agent or sponsor; and
- (d) agreeing to accept payment or compensation, directly or indirectly, for allowing his name or likeness as a player of *golf skill or reputation* to be used for any commercial purpose.

**Note 2:** An *amateur golfer* may inquire as to his likely prospects as a professional golfer, including applying unsuccessfully for the position of a professional golfer, and he may work in a professional’s shop and receive payment or compensation, provided he does not infringe the Rules in any other way.

### 2-2. Membership in Professional Golfers’ Organizations

#### ■ a. Professional Golfers’ Association

An *amateur golfer* must not hold or retain membership in any Professional Golfers’ Association.

#### ■ b. Professional Tours

An *amateur golfer* must not hold or retain membership in a Professional Tour limited exclusively to professional golfers.

**Note:** If an *amateur golfer* must compete in one or more qualifying competitions in order to be eligible for membership in a Professional Tour, he may enter and play in such qualifying competitions without forfeiting his Amateur Status, provided that, in advance of play and in writing, he waives his right to any prize money in the competition.

## Rule 3. Prizes

### 3-1. Playing for Prize Money

An *amateur golfer* must not play golf for prize money or its equivalent in a match, competition or exhibition.

**Note:** An *amateur golfer* may participate in an event where prize money or its equivalent is offered, provided that prior to participation he waives his right to accept prize money in that event.

(Conduct contrary to the purpose and spirit of the Rules – see Rule 7-2.)

(Policy on gambling – see Appendix.)

### 3-2. Prize Limits

#### ■ a. General

An *amateur golfer* must not accept a prize (other than a *symbolic prize*) or *prize voucher* of *retail value* in excess of \$750 or the equivalent, or such a lesser figure as may be decided by the USGA. This limit applies to the total prizes or *prize vouchers* received by an *amateur golfer* in any one competition or series of competitions.

**Exception:** A prize, including a cash prize, for a hole-in-one made while playing golf may exceed the above prize limit.

#### ■ b. Exchanging Prizes

An *amateur golfer* must not exchange a prize or *prize voucher* for cash.

**Exception:** An *amateur golfer* may submit a *prize voucher* to a state or regional golf association and thereafter be reimbursed from the value of that voucher for expenses incurred in participating in a golf competition, provided the reimbursement of such expenses is permitted under Rule 4-2.

**Note 1:** The responsibility to prove the *retail value* of a particular prize rests with the Committee in charge of the competition.

**Note 2:** It is recommended that the total value of prizes in a gross competition, or each division of a handicap competition, should not exceed twice the prescribed limit in an 18-hole competition, three times in a 36-hole competition, five times in a 54-hole competition and six times in a 72-hole competition.

### 3-3. Testimonial Awards

#### ■ a. General

An *amateur golfer* must not accept a *testimonial award* of *retail value* in excess of the limits prescribed in Rule 3-2a.

#### ■ b. Multiple Awards

An *amateur golfer* may accept more than one *testimonial award* from different donors, even though their total *retail value* exceeds the prescribed limit, provided they are not presented so as to evade the limit for a single award.

## Rule 4. Expenses

### 4-1. General

Except as provided in the *Rules*, an *amateur golfer* must not accept expenses, in money or otherwise, from any source to play in a golf competition or exhibition.

### 4-2. Receipt of Expenses

An *amateur golfer* may receive reasonable expenses, not exceeding the actual expenses incurred, to play in a golf competition or exhibition as follows:

#### ■ a. Family Support

An *amateur golfer* may receive expenses from a member of his family or a legal guardian.

#### ■ b. Junior Golfers

A *junior golfer* may receive expenses when competing in a competition limited exclusively to *junior golfers*.

**Note:** The acceptance of expenses may violate the eligibility rules of the National Collegiate Athletic association (NCAA).

#### ■ c. Individual Events

An *amateur golfer* may receive expenses when competing in individual events, provided he complies with the following provisions:

- (i) Where the competition is to take place in the United States, the expenses must be approved by and paid through the player's state or regional golf association.
- (ii) Where the competition is to take place in another country, the expenses must be approved by both the USGA and the national union or association in the country in which the competition is to be staged. The expenses must be paid through the player's state or regional golf association, or, subject to the approval of the USGA, by the body controlling golf in the territory he is visiting.

The USGA may limit the receipt of expenses to a specific number of competitive days in any one calendar year, and an *amateur golfer* must not exceed any such limit. In such a case, the expenses are deemed to include reasonable travel time and practice days in connection with the competitive days.

**Exception:** An *amateur golfer* must not receive expenses, directly or indirectly, from a professional agent (see Rule 2-1) or any other similar source as may be determined by the USGA.

**Note 1:** The acceptance of expenses may violate the eligibility rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

**Note 2:** An *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* must not promote or advertise the source of any expenses received (see Rule 6-2).

#### ■ d. Team Events

An *amateur golfer*, may receive expenses when he is representing:

- his country,
- his state or regional golf association,
- his golf club,
- his business or industry, or
- a similar body

in a team competition, practice session or training camp.

**Note 1:** A “similar body” includes a recognized educational institution or military service.

**Note 2:** Unless otherwise stated, the expenses must be paid by the body that the *amateur golfer* is representing or the body controlling golf in the country he is visiting.

#### ■ e. Invitation Unrelated to Golf Skill

An *amateur golfer* who is invited for reasons unrelated to *golf skill* (e.g., a celebrity, a business associate or customer) to take part in a golf event may receive expenses.

#### ■ f. Exhibitions

An *amateur golfer* who is participating in an exhibition in aid of a recognized charity may receive expenses, provided that the exhibition is not run in connection with another golfing event in which the player is competing.

#### ■ g. Sponsored Handicap Competitions

An *amateur golfer* may receive expenses when competing in a sponsored handicap competition, provided the competition has been approved as follows:

- (i) Where the competition is to take place in the United States, the annual approval of the USGA must first be obtained in advance by the sponsor; and
- (ii) Where the competition is to take place in more than one country or involves golfers from another country, the approval of the USGA and the national union of the other country must first be obtained in advance by the sponsor. The application for this approval should be sent to the national union in the country where the competition commences when it does not commence in the United States.

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## Rule 5. Instruction

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### 5-1. General

Except as provided in the *Rules*, an *amateur golfer* must not receive payment or compensation, directly or indirectly, for giving *instruction* in playing golf.

### 5-2. Where Payment Permitted

#### ■ a. Schools, Colleges, Camps, etc.

An *amateur golfer* who is (i) an employee of an educational institution or system or (ii) a counselor at a camp or other similar organized program may receive payment or compensation for *golf instruction* to students in the institution, system or camp, provided that the total time devoted to *golf instruction* comprises less than 50 percent of the time spent in the performance of all duties as such an employee or counselor.

#### ■ b. Approved Programs

An *amateur golfer* may receive expenses, payment or compensation for giving *golf instruction* as part of a program that has been approved in advance by the USGA.

### 5-3. Instruction in Writing

An *amateur golfer* may receive payment or compensation for *golf instruction* in writing, provided his ability or reputation as a golfer was not a major factor in his employment or in the commission or sale of his work.

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## Rule 6. Use of Golf Skill or Reputation

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### 6-1. General

Except as provided in the *Rules*, an *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* must not use that skill or reputation to promote, advertise or sell anything or for any financial gain.

### 6-2. Lending Name or Likeness

An *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* must not use that skill or reputation to obtain payment, compensation, personal benefit or any financial gain, directly or indirectly, for allowing his name or likeness to be used for the advertisement or sale of anything.

**Exception:** An *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* may allow his name or likeness to be used to promote:

- (a) his national, regional, state or county union or association; or
- (b) (i) any golf competition or other event that is considered to be in the best interests of, or would contribute to the development of, the game or (ii) a recognized charity (or similar good cause).

The *amateur golfer* must not obtain any payment, compensation or financial gain, directly or indirectly, for doing so.

**Note:** An *amateur golfer* may accept golf equipment from anyone dealing in such equipment, provided no advertising is involved.

### 6-3. Personal Appearance

An *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* must not use that skill or reputation to obtain payment, compensation, personal benefit or any financial gain, directly or indirectly, for a personal appearance.

**Exception:** An *amateur golfer* may receive actual expenses in connection with a personal appearance, provided no golf competition or exhibition is involved.

#### 6-4. Broadcasting and Writing

An *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* may receive payment, compensation, personal benefit or any financial gain from broadcasting or writing, provided:

- (a) the broadcasting or writing is part of his primary occupation or career and *golf instruction* is not included (Rule 5); or
- (b) the broadcasting or writing is on a part-time basis, the player is actually the author of the commentary, articles or books and *instruction* in playing golf is not included.

**Note:** An *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* must not promote or advertise anything within the commentary, articles or books and must not lend his name or likeness to the promotion or sale of the commentary, article or books (see Rule 6-2).

#### 6-5. Grants and Scholarships

An *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* must not accept the benefits of a grant or scholarship, except one whose terms and conditions have been approved by the USGA.

**Note:** The terms and conditions of grants and scholarships provided by schools that are members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics, the National Junior College Athletic Association or other similar organizations governing athletes at academic institutions are approved by the USGA.

#### 6-6. Membership

An *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* must not accept an offer of membership in a golf club or privileges at a golf course, without full payment for the class of membership or privilege, if such an offer is made as an inducement to play for that club or course.

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## Rule 7. Other Conduct Incompatible with Amateurism

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#### 7-1. Conduct Detrimental to Amateurism

An *amateur golfer* must not act in a manner that is detrimental to the best interests of the amateur game.

#### 7-2. Conduct Contrary to the Purpose and Spirit of the Rules

An *amateur golfer* must not take any action, including actions relating to golf gambling, that is contrary to the purpose and spirit of the *Rules*.

(Policy on gambling – see Appendix.)

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## Rule 8. Procedure for Enforcement of the Rules

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#### 8-1. Decision on a Breach

If a possible breach of the *Rules* by a person claiming to be an *amateur golfer* comes to the attention of the *Committee*, it is a matter for the *Committee* to decide whether a breach has occurred. Each case will be investigated to the extent deemed appropriate by the *Committee* and considered on its merits. The decision of the *Committee* is final, subject to an appeal as provided in these *Rules*.

#### 8-2. Enforcement

Upon a decision that a person has breached the *Rules*, the *Committee* may declare the Amateur Status of the person forfeited or require the person to refrain or desist from specified actions as a condition of retaining his Amateur Status.

The *Committee* should notify the person and may notify any interested golf association of any action taken under Rule 8-2.

#### 8-3. Appeals Procedure

Any person who considers that any action he is proposing to take might endanger his Amateur Status may submit particulars to the staff of the USGA for an advisory opinion. If dissatisfied with the staff's advisory opinion, he may, by written notice to the staff within 30 days after being notified of the advisory opinion, appeal to the *Committee*, in which case he must be given reasonable notice of the *Committee's* next meeting at which the matter may be heard and must be entitled to present his case in person or in writing. In such cases the staff must submit to the *Committee* all information provided by the player together with staff's findings and recommendation, and the *Committee* must issue a decision on the matter. If dissatisfied with the *Committee's* decision, the player may, by written notice to the staff within 30 days after being notified of the decision, appeal to the Executive Committee, in which case he must be given reasonable notice of the next meeting of the Executive Committee at which the matter may be heard and must be entitled to present his case in person or in writing. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

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## Rule 9. Reinstatement of Amateur Status

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### 9-1. General

The *Committee* has the sole authority to reinstate a person to Amateur Status, prescribe a waiting period necessary for reinstatement or to deny reinstatement, subject to an appeal as provided in the *Rules*.

### 9-2. Applications for Reinstatement

Each application for reinstatement will be considered on its merits, with consideration normally being given to the following principles:

#### ■ a. Awaiting Reinstatement

The professional golfer is considered to hold an advantage over the *amateur golfer* by reason of having devoted himself to the game as his profession; other persons infringing the *Rules* also obtain advantages not available to the *amateur golfer*. They do not necessarily lose such advantages merely by deciding to cease infringing the *Rules*. Therefore, an applicant for reinstatement to Amateur Status must undergo a period awaiting reinstatement as prescribed by the *Committee*.

The period awaiting reinstatement generally starts from the date of the person's last breach of the *Rules* unless the *Committee* decides that it starts from either (a) the date when the person's last breach became known to the *Committee*, or (b) such other date determined by the *Committee*.

#### ■ b. Period Awaiting Reinstatement

##### (i) Professionalism

Generally, the period awaiting reinstatement is related to the period the person was in breach of the *Rules*. However, no applicant is normally eligible for reinstatement until he has conducted himself in accordance with the *Rules* for a period of at least one year.

It is recommended that the following guidelines on periods awaiting reinstatement be applied by the *Committee*:

Period of Breach:	Period Awaiting Reinstatement:
under 5 years	1 year
5 years or more	2 years

However, the period may be extended if the applicant has played extensively for prize money, regardless of performance. In all cases, the *Committee* reserves the right to extend or to shorten the period awaiting reinstatement.

##### (ii) Other Breaches of the Rules

A period awaiting reinstatement of one year will normally be required. However, the period may be extended if the breach is considered serious.

#### ■ c. Number of Reinstatements

A person is not normally eligible to be reinstated more than twice.

#### ■ d. Players of National Prominence

A player of national prominence who has been in breach of the *Rules* for more than five years is not normally eligible for reinstatement.

#### ■ e. Status While Awaiting Reinstatement

An applicant for reinstatement must comply with these *Rules*, as they apply to an *amateur golfer*, during his period awaiting reinstatement.

An applicant for reinstatement is not eligible to enter competitions as an *amateur golfer*. However, he may enter competitions and win a prize solely among members of a club where he is a member, subject to the approval of the club. He must not represent such club against other clubs unless with the approval of the clubs in the competition and / or the organizing Committee.

An applicant for reinstatement may enter competitions that are not limited to *amateur golfers*, subject to the conditions of competition, without prejudicing his application, provided he does so as an applicant for reinstatement. He must waive his right to any prize money offered in the competition and must not accept any prize reserved for an *amateur golfer* (Rule 3-1).

### 9-3. Procedure for Applications

Each application for reinstatement must be submitted to the *Committee*, in accordance with such procedures as may be laid down and including such information as the *Committee* may require.

### 9-4. Appeals Procedure

See Rule 8-3.

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## Rule 10. Committee Decision

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### 10-1. Committee's Decision

The *Committee's* decision is final, subject to an Appeal as provided in Rules 8-3 and 9-4.

## POLICY ON GAMBLING

### General

An “*amateur golfer*” is one who plays the game as a non-remunerative and non-profit-making sport. Financial incentive in amateur golf, which can be the result of some forms of gambling or wagering, could give rise to abuse of the *Rules* both in play and in manipulation of handicaps that would be detrimental to the integrity of the game.

There is a distinction between playing for prize money (Rule 3-1), gambling or wagering that is contrary to the purpose and spirit of the *Rules* (Rule 7-2), and forms of gambling or wagering that do not, of themselves, breach the *Rules*. An *amateur golfer* or a Committee in charge of a competition where *amateur golfers* are competing should consult with the USGA if in any doubt as to the application of the *Rules*. In the absence of such guidance, it is recommended that no cash prizes be awarded so as to ensure that the *Rules* are upheld.

### Acceptable Forms of Gambling

There is no objection to informal gambling or wagering among individual golfers or teams of golfers when it is incidental to the game. It is not practicable to define informal gambling or wagering precisely, but features that would be consistent with such gambling or wagering include:

- the players in general know each other;
- participation in the gambling or wagering is optional and is limited to the players;
- the sole source of all money won by the players is advanced by the players; and
- the amount of money involved is not generally considered to be excessive.

Therefore, informal gambling or wagering is acceptable provided the primary purpose is the playing of the game for enjoyment, not for financial gain.

### Unacceptable Forms of Gambling

Other forms of gambling or wagering where there is a requirement for players to participate (e.g., compulsory sweepstakes) or that have the potential to involve considerable sums of money (e.g., Calcuttas and auction sweepstakes – where players or teams are sold by auction) are not approved.

Otherwise, it is difficult to define unacceptable forms of gambling or wagering precisely, but features that would be consistent with such gambling or wagering include:

- participation in the gambling or wagering is open to non-players; and
- the amount of money involved is generally considered to be excessive.

An *amateur golfer's* participation in gambling or wagering that is not approved may be considered contrary to the purpose and spirit of the *Rules* (Rule 7-2) and may endanger his Amateur Status.

Furthermore, organized events designed or promoted to create cash prizes are not permitted. Golfers participating in such events without first irrevocably waiving their right to prize money are deemed to be playing for prize money, in breach of Rule 3-1.

**Note:** The Rules of Amateur Status do not apply to betting or gambling by *amateur golfers* on the results of a competition limited to or specifically organized for professional golfers.

## Notes

[illegible]