

SECTION 7 – AMATEUR STATUS

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PART I – AMATEUR STATUS

1. PREAMBLE

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

2. GENERAL

This section does not purport to be a summary of all the *Rules of Amateur Status*, and all players are urged to make themselves conversant with the Rules which are printed in full with the *Rules of Golf*, copies of which are available through all Clubs. The definition of an amateur golfer is set out in the Rules as 'one who plays the game solely as a non-remunerative or non-profit making sport'. Any player who considers that any action he is proposing to take might endanger his Amateur Status should submit particulars to New Zealand Golf for advice.

The *Rules of Amateur Status* are printed with the *Rules of Golf* and the purpose of this Section is to explain the role of New Zealand Golf in the administration of these Rules, and the procedure for reinstatement.

3. RULES OF AMATEUR STATUS

New Zealand Golf abides by the *Rules of Amateur Status* as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and, as the governing body of golf in New Zealand, has the authority to administer such Rules. In cases of doubt, application for a ruling, or an expression of opinion, is made to the R&A. The United States Golf Association confers with the R&A on all aspects of the *Rules of Golf*, and that Association's *Rules of Amateur Status* are, apart from certain minor variations, the same as those administered by the R&A. All major golfing countries in the world abide by either the *Rules of Amateur Status* of the R&A, or the USGA. These Rules have been evolved over the years to preserve the finest traditions of the game, which call for individual integrity on the part of each player and to ensure that, as regards amateur competition, no player receives rewards or inducements other than those permitted under the *Rules of Amateur Status*.

Every player should make a point of being conversant with the *Rules of Amateur Status*, and with growing commercial interest in and sponsorship of golf competitions, increasing vigilance is required by both player and administrator alike to ensure that breaches of the Rules do not occur.

New Zealand Golf is not constituted to function as a police agency with surveillance over all golfing activities, but will act when violations are brought to its attention. It must rely for information upon the co-operation of Clubs, District Associations and golfers who wish to maintain the high standards of the game, and it urges Clubs and District Associations to see that the Rules are enforced.

New Zealand Golf co-operates with the Professional Golfers' Association of New Zealand, and a very useful and pleasing standard of exchange of information has been reached. The following is a summary of the procedure adopted by New Zealand Golf:

1. Any amateur golfer who commits a breach of the Rules forfeits his amateur status and becomes ineligible for any amateur golf competition; he does not automatically become a professional. Whether or not such a player remains a member of his Club is a matter for the Club concerned.
2. Any complaint or question concerning a possible violation of the Rules should be forwarded to the Chief Executive of New Zealand Golf.
3. The matter is then referred to the Rules and Amateur Status Committee of New Zealand Golf which has the power to make whatever decision is necessary, on the merits and facts of the case and the Committee reports such decisions to the Board of Directors. The decision of the Committee is immediately reported to the Club, District Association and player concerned. In cases of doubt, the matter may be referred to the Board of Directors and/or the R&A for guidance as above stated.
4. The Committee has similar authority to deal with applications for reinstatement and such applications with full details of the circumstances must be forwarded through the District Association concerned. Each application again is dealt with on its merits. Application forms for reinstatement are available from the office of New Zealand Golf.
5. If a player has been found to have forfeited his Amateur Status he may be informed that he may apply for reinstatement after a specified period, but it does not follow that he will be automatically reinstated at the expiration of such period. The decision will depend upon the conduct of the player during such period and reports from the Club and District Association concerned will again be called for before a decision on reinstatement is made.

New Zealand Golf is charged with the duty of ensuring that the *Rules of Amateur Status* are respected and enforced and this section concludes with comments on certain aspects of the Rules that are of particular and current concern:

- a. Illegal prizes and gambling continues to be a perennial problem. Small wagers are not condemned, but New Zealand Golf urges all Clubs to prohibit gambling in open tournaments, as a violation of the Rules, and cheating on handicaps is more likely to occur whenever there is a motive other than the play of the game for the game's sake.

- b. The Rules prohibit playing for prize-money or its equivalent and limit acceptance of a prize other than money to one with a retail value which does not exceed NZ\$1,500.00 including GST.

This limit applies to the total prizes or prize vouchers received by an amateur golfer in any one competition or series of competitions, excluding any hole-in-one prize.

Sponsors of tournaments offering illegal prizes do a great disservice to the game and afford as great a temptation for handicap manipulation as excessive gambling, and a competing player may be placed in a position of deciding whether to forfeit his Amateur Status or to forfeit a valuable prize.

Clubs are urged to offer prizes only within the allowable limit and to refuse the use of their facilities or their support for tournaments conducted by sponsors, which exceed this limitation.

- c. There also appears to be a growing tendency for sponsors to offer travel and accommodation expenses whether within New Zealand or overseas as prizes and again if the value of such expenses exceeds the limit of that stated above, a violation of the Rules occurs.
- d. New Zealand Golf is also concerned with the problem of young players turning professional without adequate consideration or advice. In making these comments New Zealand Golf shares such concern with the PGA and urges administrators and Club officials to use their influence and experience to see that young players reach a proper decision based on their ability and potential. Numerous cases have occurred where a young player, having found that he is not suited to the tests of professional golf, is then required to wait for a period of 1-2 years before he can be reinstated as an amateur.

PART II – A GUIDE TO THE RULES OF AMATEUR STATUS RELATING TO HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZES

1. GENERAL

The Amateur Status Committee of the R&A has the task, in co-operation with other golfing bodies around the world, of maintaining the strength of amateur golf so that it can be enjoyed by participants at all levels, and kept as free as possible of the abuses which can come in the wake of uncontrolled sponsorship and financial incentive. It is necessary to safeguard amateur golf so that it may be fully enjoyed at Club and International level alike by people who play golf for pleasure, not for profit.

In furtherance of this, golf has a strict Amateur Code and this guide is designed to clarify the Rules as they apply to hole-in-one prizes. As various insurance schemes make it easier and cheaper to offer large prizes for a hole-in-one, it is more important than ever that golfers, organisers and sponsors of amateur events are aware of the limits on such prizes.

A hole-in-one is not considered to be purely a 'lucky shot' and it is not similar to a lottery. A skilled player clearly has a greater chance of achieving a hole-in-one than a high handicap player. Consequently, Rule 3-2b of the *Rules of Amateur Status* provides that an amateur golfer must not accept a prize for a hole-in-one which has a retail value in excess of \$1,500 inclusive of GST. However a prize within this limit may be accepted in addition to any other prize won in the same competition.

When do the Rules Apply?

The Rules of Amateur Status apply when such competitions take place on a driving range or some other area prepared for the purpose of playing golf, as well as on a golf course itself. However, the Rules do not apply to events at a fun fair or similar venue.

The prize limits with regard to holes-in-one also apply to other feats in which golf skill is a factor, such as longest drive or nearest to the pin competitions.

2. IMPROPER PRIZES

A common example of an improper prize offered for achieving a hole-in-one is a motor car. If an amateur golfer wins such a prize he must make the choice between accepting the prize causing forfeiture of Amateur Status and refusal of the prize enabling him to retain his Amateur Status. It is important to note that, in such cases where a player accepts an improper prize and subsequently applies for re-instatement, he may be required to serve a period of 2 years awaiting re-instatement.

3. CASH PRIZES

Although Rule 3-1 prohibits an amateur golfer competing for prize money, if a cash prize is offered for a hole-in-one it is not considered that all those competing are in breach of Rule 3-1. However, it is considered that the player that accepts the prize would be liable for forfeiture of Amateur Status under Rule 3-1.

The Amateur Status Committee takes the view that an amateur golfer should not be put in the awkward and embarrassing position of having to make such a choice. Therefore, the Committee is strongly opposed to the offering of excessive prizes for holes-in-one.

Is there any way around the Rules?

An amateur golfer may retain his Amateur Status if he accepts an improper prize, but at the same time makes it a condition of his so doing that it is donated directly to a nominated and well known charity. It is important to note that if this is done, the winner must not take possession of the prize.

However, the following are considered to be attempts to circumvent the Rules. They are unacceptable and would cause a player to be in breach of Rule 3-2b:

1. Accepting an improper prize in a raffle or prize draw limited to players who had achieved a hole-in-one.
2. Accepting an improper prize in a quiz limited to players who had achieved a hole-in-one.
3. Awarding an improper prize to an associate of the person achieving a hole-in-one so that the player achieving the hole-in-one is not accepting the prize himself.

4. INSURANCE POLICIES

An amateur golfer is traditionally expected to buy a round of drinks having holed-in-one and therefore he is quite entitled to insure himself against this eventuality, provided it is a genuine insurance policy and not part of a scheme to circumvent the prize Rule.

It is important to distinguish this case from one where an insurance policy is the prize for a hole-in-one, which is not permitted.

5. CONCLUSION

It is easy for an amateur golfer to overlook or forget the benefits of being an *'amateur'*, particularly when he is offered the keys to a new car for a hole-in-one. But acceptance of such a prize may have certain consequences which may cause him to regret his decision – his official handicap will lapse, any Club or Society of which he is a member may review his eligibility for continued membership, and participation in amateur competitions is a thing of the past. The game he used to enjoy so much may be changed significantly.

The danger of taking a more lenient attitude towards hole-in-one prizes is that this would almost certainly lead to a proliferation of such prizes, with the hole-in-one competition becoming more important than the main event. In addition and as already mentioned, the high financial incentive to win such a prize may well give rise to abuses of the Rules of play in a game, which currently benefits from being largely self-regulating.

Consequently, the Amateur Status Committee holds the view that offering improper prizes for holes-in-one is contrary to the best interests of the game and seeks the continued support of all concerned with amateur golf competitions in keeping prizes offered within the Rules.

PART III – GUIDELINES FOR GOLF SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

1. GENERAL

The Definition of an amateur golfer provides as follows:

'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.'

The Rules of Amateur Status cover acts which would cause an amateur golfer to breach the above Definition, thereby causing forfeiture of Amateur Status.

Rule 6-5 of the Rules of Amateur Status concerns the acceptance of grants, scholarships and bursaries and states as follows:

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

The Governing Body in New Zealand is New Zealand Golf Inc. The Amateur Status Committee of New Zealand Golf has adopted the following guidelines established by the R&A in order to assist those who wish to donate a scholarship or a bursary, or establish such a fund, and for those who wish to accept the benefit of a scholarship or bursary while attending an educational establishment (i.e. school, college or university).

2. ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS OR BURSARIES

Scholarships or bursaries awarded purely on academic ability do not require the approval of the Amateur Status Committee of New Zealand Golf. Acceptance of such a scholarship or bursary is not a breach of the Rules of Amateur Status.

3. GOLF RELATED SCHOLARSHIPS OR BURSARIES

The Amateur Status Committee of New Zealand Golf must approve all scholarships or bursaries awarded in New Zealand where golf skill is a factor in the selection process for such an award. Acceptance of a golf scholarship or bursary which has not been approved may constitute a breach of Rule 6-5 of the Rules of Amateur Status.

4. APPROVAL OF GOLF SCHOLARSHIPS OR BURSARIES

Any donor or individual who wishes to receive approval of a golf scholarship or bursary, or any individual who wishes to know if a golf scholarship or bursary has

been approved, should write (giving full details of the scholarship or bursary concerned) to:

Amateur Status Committee
New Zealand Golf
PO Box 331 678
Takapuna
North Shore City 0740

5. PROCEDURAL CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF GOLF SCHOLARSHIPS OR BURSARIES

In order for a golf scholarship or bursary to be approved by the Amateur Status Committee of New Zealand Golf, the procedure for payment of the fund must meet the following criteria:

- a. If the fund is not created by the educational establishment concerned, it must be paid in the first instance to the educational establishment; and
- b. The scholar or bursar may only receive the money directly or indirectly through the educational establishment.

6. PERMITTED PURPOSES OF GOLF SCHOLARSHIPS OR BURSARIES

A golf scholarship or bursary may be used for the following purposes:

- a. Educational purposes, including tuition fees, room and board;
- b. Costs for coaching (including coaching fees and travel and living expenses);
- c. Golf equipment (including any clothing worn on a golf course);
- d. Golf Club subscriptions;
- e. Medical treatment (e.g. physiotherapy) for conditions specifically affecting the playing of golf; and
- f. Travel, living costs and caddie fees at individual or team university, college or school events.

Although not exhaustive, the following are examples of expenses which may not be funded on behalf of an amateur golfer:

- a. Travelling costs not related to golf;
- b. General living expenses, e.g. food, accommodation etc;
- c. Non-golf related clothing
- d. General medical treatment
- e. Caddie fees at non-university, non-college or non-school individual or team events, except in accordance with Rule 4-2.

7. GOLF SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

It is the current policy of the Amateur Status Committee of New Zealand Golf to permit amateur golfers to accept golf scholarships at universities or colleges in the USA, provided they comply with the United States Golf Association's Rules of Amateur Status. The USGA's Rules permit a scholarship or grant-in-aid to be accepted if it accords with the regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association or the Association of Inter-Collegiate Athletics for Women. Separate approval from the Amateur Status Committee of New Zealand Golf is not required.

In general terms, a University or College in the USA may provide a student attending the institution on a golf scholarship with financial assistance that may include tuition, room and board, required course-related books and incidental fees (i.e. essentially everything a student would normally pay at such institution).

A university or college may not pay for:

- a. Fees for services offered on an optional basis (e.g. health insurance);
- b. Fees for non-university or non-college costs (e.g. costs of typing reports); and
- c. Fees and related expenses for prospective students unless such benefits generally conform to the university or the college policy for other students receiving financial aid.

Note 1: An amateur golfer, normally a resident of New Zealand, who accepts a scholarship in the USA under the USGA Rules of Amateur Status, is permitted to play in amateur or open events in New Zealand or elsewhere during vacations.

Note 2: The following are other restrictions under the Rules of Amateur Status placed on an amateur golfer accepting a scholarship in the USA:

- a. If travelling to play in amateur events in New Zealand or elsewhere he must not accept free transport to or from New Zealand or elsewhere at the beginning or end of his university or college course or during vacations.
- b. He must on no account enter into any contracts to become a professional golfer at the end of his university or college course (Rule 2-1).
- c. He must comply with the Rules of Amateur Status applicable to both the country where he is playing and the country in which he resides.

PART IV – A BRIEF GUIDE FOR ‘LOW HANDICAP’ GOLFERS

1. GENERAL

For golfers in the ‘low handicap’ category their greater skill raises their profile and increases the potential for problems with the Amateur Code. A number of the Rules of Amateur Status apply only to players with ‘golf skill or reputation’. A player is considered to have golf skill if he has had competitive success at a local or national level, he has gained representative honours at district or national level, or if he competes at an elite level, but it is a matter for the governing body to decide whether a particular amateur golfer has ‘golf skill or reputation’.

The following lists are intended to provide the briefest of guides in order to prevent an inadvertent breach of the Rules of Amateur Status.

It should be noted that some of the following prohibitions apply to all amateur golfers irrespective of ability and that there are certain exceptions to these guidelines which apply to events exclusively limited to junior golfers.

2. RETAINING AMATEUR STATUS

A ‘low handicap’ golfer wishing to retain Amateur Status may not:

- a. Apply to become a professional golfer.
- b. File an application to any stage of a qualifying competition for a Professional Tour without waiving his right to prize money.
- c. Play golf for prize money.
- d. Receive payment or compensation for giving instruction in playing golf (other than as part of an ‘approved programme’).
- e. Accept a prize or prizes of retail value in excess of \$1500.
- f. Exchange any prize or prize voucher for cash.
- g. Use a voucher for items such as travel or hotel expenses, petrol or a bar bill (unless the voucher has been submitted to a national or district association who may reimburse such expenses in connection with participation in a golf competition from the value of the voucher).
- h. Use a voucher to pay for all or part of a Club subscription.
- i. Accept a prize of an expense paid trip to take part in golf competition.
- j. Use his name or identity to advertise or sell anything.
- k. Display any advertising on his golf bag, bag cover or hold-all bag other than the name of the manufacturer of that item and/or his own name.
- l. Sell any equipment received free of charge from manufacturers.
- m. Have his own name, or if sponsored the sponsor’s name on a motor car.
- n. Accept incentives to participate in a golf competition, such as free meals and remission of entry fees, which are not offered to all competitors.
- o. Accept payment or compensation for broadcasting, writing, or allowing his name to be used as author, on any material concerning golf unless he is actually the author of a commentary, article or book and instruction in playing golf is not included.
- p. Receive expenses to play as an individual in a golf competition from anyone other than a member of his family or his legal guardian, unless such funds are lodged with, and disbursed by, the national or district association.
- q. Accept honorary membership, or membership at a reduced rate, as an inducement to play for a Club.
- r. Conduct himself in a manner detrimental to the amateur game or take any action, including actions related to golf gambling, which is contrary to the purpose and spirit of the Rules.

A ‘low handicap’ golfer wishing to retain Amateur Status may:

- a. Enquire as to likely prospects as a professional golfer.
- b. Work as a shop assistant with a professional golfer, provided he does not infringe the Rules in any other way.
- c. Work as a caddie, golf administrator or golf course designer.
- d. Play in any stage of a qualifying competition for a Professional Tour provided he waives his right to any prize money, in writing and in advance of play.
- e. Enter a voluntary sweepstake.
- f. Give instruction on playing golf on a voluntary basis.
- g. Accept a prize of retail value of not more than \$1500.
- h. Accept symbolic prizes which are permanently and distinctively engraved and are, therefore, exempt from the prize limit.
- i. Accept equipment free of charge from a manufacturer, provided no advertising is involved.
- j. Have his name on his golf bag in addition to the name of the manufacturer of the bag.

- k. Accept free food and drink at a golf competition, provided the same is offered to all competitors.
- l. Receive financial support from a member of his family.
- m. Receive expenses while playing in a team event.
- n. Receive financial assistance for participation in individual events provided such funds are lodged with, and disbursed by, the national or district association.
- o. Receive expenses for participating in an exhibition in aid of a recognised charity.
- p. Accept a golf scholarship if its terms and conditions have been approved by the Governing Body of the golfer's country.
- q. Accept a grant or award to assist with golfing expenses provided such funds are lodged with, and disbursed by, the national or district association.

3. APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT

If a professional golfer wishes to be reinstated as an amateur golfer, he must complete an application for reinstatement and undergo a period awaiting reinstatement. Generally, this period awaiting reinstatement starts from the date of the player's last breach of the Rules.

Guidelines on periods awaiting reinstatement are contained in Rule 9-2b(i) in the Rules of Amateur Status, but normally no applicant is eligible for reinstatement until he has conducted himself in accordance with the Rules for at least one year.

4. CONCLUSION

It must be stressed that these guidelines do not cover all aspects of the Rules of Amateur Status.

Where any doubt arises concerning a proposed course of action, the Governing Body of the Rules in the player's own country should be consulted.



PART V – COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP OF AMATEUR GOLF – POLICY ON PUBLICITY FOR SPONSORS

QUESTION

National Unions, County Unions and Clubs sometimes accept commercial sponsorship for international, inter-club or similar important events for teams or individuals. To what extent may commercial sponsors receive publicity, both on and off the course?

ANSWER

1. GOLF BAGS

a. **Individuals**

The name of a commercial sponsor must not appear anywhere on a golf bag (unless the sponsor is also the manufacturer). A golf bag may bear both the player's name and the name and/or logo of the –see Decision 6-2/13.

b. **Teams**

Where a National or County Union or Club team is sponsored, the members of the team may have on their golf bags the name/emblem of the team and/or logo of either or both the sponsor and the bag manufacturer. However, the golf bag must be of a type that is normally available at a retail source and must not bear both the player's name and the name and/or logo of a sponsor and/or manufacturer (other than the bag manufacturer – see Decision 6-2/13).

Note: If the sponsor is not the bag manufacturer, the sponsor's name or logo must not appear more than once on the bag and must not exceed a perimeter measurement of 500mm.

c. **Prizes**

The sponsor's name and/or logo should not appear on a golf bag presented as a prize in a sponsored event unless the sponsor is also the bag manufacturer.

2. LUGGAGE CARRIED BY TEAMS

When off the course e.g. in transit, the name and/or logo of the team sponsor and the name and/or logo of the team may appear on luggage belonging to a team member e.g. over-bag, hold-all, etc. Such luggage bearing the name and/or logo of the sponsor may bear the name of the player in small letters for identification purposes only (or it may appear on the bag tag). This is not applicable to individual events.

3. GOLF CLOTHING (INCLUDING GOLF SHOES AND HEAD GEAR)

a. **Individuals**

Clothing (including golf shoes and head gear) issued by a commercial sponsor to individuals may only bear the small name and/or logo of the clothing (or golf shoes/head gear) manufacturer and the event concerned (which may or may not include the name and/or logo of the sponsor of the event). Clothing (including golf shoes and head gear) supplied by the manufacturer of that clothing, shoes or head gear may bear both the player's name and the name and/or logo of the manufacturer, provided the name or logo of any other sponsor (including the sponsor of the event) is not displayed.

If the clothing, golf shoes or head gear is issued by a sponsor to individuals in an event, it must be available to all and not just selected players.

Note: The player's name must not appear more than once on each shoe or each garment and must not exceed a perimeter measurement of 220mm – see Decision 6-2/13.

b. **Teams**

Where a National or County Union or Club team is sponsored, the members of the team may have on their uniforms the name and/or logo of the team and the small name and/or logo of either or both the sponsor and the manufacturer. However, the clothing, golf shoes or head gear must be of the type that is normally available at a retail source and must not bear both the player's name and the name and/or logo of a sponsor and/or manufacturer (other than the clothing, shoes or head gear manufacturer) – see Decision 6-2/13.

Note: A sponsor's name and/or logo must not exceed a perimeter measurement of 220mm. Each garment may have multiple sponsors' names and/or logos, provided the total perimeter measurement of all names and/or logos does not exceed 220mm.

4. UMBRELLAS

An individual player may carry an umbrella bearing the name of a commercial firm including that of either team or event sponsor or a manufacturer, but such name must not be linked with a particular team or individual e.g. the name of a commercial firm may appear on the umbrella, but the words "The GB and I Team flies/uses....." must not appear. The name of an individual player must not appear on an umbrella bearing the name of a commercial firm unless the firm concerned is the actual manufacturer of the umbrella.

5. CADDIE SMOCKS

Caddie smocks bearing the name and/or logo of a sponsor may not be worn by those caddying for a single team or player; a sponsor's name and/or logo may appear on smocks made available by the tournament sponsor to the caddies of all the players.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PUBLICITY

a. ***Team and Individual Events***

Commercial sponsors may receive acknowledgements through the press, official programmes etc and their names or emblem may appear on banners, flags, tee-markers and scoreboards if approved by the organisation staging the event.

b. ***Team Events Only***

When a team for event is commercially sponsored, an acknowledgement to the team sponsor may be published along the following lines:

"Thanks to the generosity of..... (commercial sponsors) theGolf Union/Association is sending a team to to take part in the World Amateur Team Championship for the Eisenhower Trophy."

7. EXHIBITION TENTS

Sponsors may have a tent etc at the course displaying their business.

8. PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs may not be published by commercial sponsors with the names of individual team members or competitors for advertising or promotional purposes, but normal coverage by the press or other media cannot be prevented.

9. HOSPITALITY

Sponsors may give hospitality (i.e. meals and drinks, but not accommodation) to all competitors at the course



