

## Proposed Rules of Amateur Status Explanations

### Professionalism

**Current Rule:** An amateur may not take any action to identify or work as a professional golfer; amateurs may not enter into a golf-related contract except as it applies to future plans as a professional golfer.

Rule 2 defines a professional golfer as one who:

- Plays the game as his or her profession;
- Works as a professional golfer;
- Enters a golf competition as a professional;
- Holds or retains membership of any Professional Golfers' Association (PGA); or
- Holds or retains membership of a Professional Tour limited exclusively to professional golfers.

**Proposed New Rule:** The proposed new code no longer defines a "professional golfer." Rule 2 prohibits an amateur golfer from accepting:

- Employment (including being self-employed) as a golf club or driving range professional; or
- Membership of an association for professional golfers (such as a PGA).

Simply identifying oneself as a professional golfer would, of itself, no longer result in loss of amateur status, including entering and playing in a competition as a professional, and there would no longer be any restrictions on an amateur golfer entering into a contract and receiving benefit from that contract as an amateur.

### **Explanation for Proposal:**

- The proposed Rules for 2022 look to reduce the ways in which an amateur becomes a non-amateur, but certain acts remain very much part of the traditional role of the professional.
- This is most clear with respect to employment – that is, someone employed as a golf professional is not considered an amateur, and this also applies to someone who is a member of an association for professional golfers.
- This employment-related distinction would remain present in the modernized code, largely so that the code can be simplified in other areas while carrying forward this well understood principle that employment as a golf professional is distinct from an amateur.
- However, while the above distinctions both relate to employment and membership, the proposed new Rules would treat the manner in which one plays the game differently, and instead would rely solely on whether or not a golfer has accepted a prize above the prize limit (see "Prizes").
- This means that simply identifying oneself as a professional golfer or competing as a professional in a competition would not, by themselves, change an individual's status under the proposed new Rules (see "Prizes").
- Contracts primarily define how an individual's use of a product or service is compensated and or relate to playing the game, and as the proposed Rules no longer restrict an amateur golfer from benefiting from lending his or her name, image or likeness, all contract-related restrictions in this area have been removed (see Promotions; Name, Image and Likeness).