

PROPOSED RULES OF AMATEUR STATUS FEBRUARY 2021

Rule 1: Purpose of the Rules

Amateur golf has a well-established tradition in the game, including a history of competitions limited to amateur golfers. The Rules of Amateur Status define who is eligible to compete as an amateur golfer.

Golf is largely self-regulating and to help protect the integrity of the game by minimising pressure on the Rules of Golf and the Rules of Handicapping, the Rules of Amateur Status limit the value of prizes an amateur golfer is allowed to accept based on performance in competition.

The Rules of Amateur Status also make a distinction between amateur golfers and non-amateur golfers who accept employment as a golf professional or give instruction for compensation.

Rule 2: Amateur Golfer

All golfers are amateurs unless they accept:

- A prize above the **[\$750 USD]** limit (see Rule 3: Prizes);
- Payment or compensation for giving instruction (see Rule 4: Instruction);
- Employment (including being self-employed) as a golf club or driving range professional; or
- Membership of an association for professional golfers.

An amateur who takes any of these actions becomes a non-amateur and remains a non-amateur until being reinstated as an amateur (see Rule 5: Reinstatement as an Amateur Golfer).

Rule 3: Prizes

An amateur is allowed to accept any prize, including money or other currency, up to a limit of **[\$750 USD]** in value, per competition, unless the national governing body has set a lower limit. For a non-monetary prize, the value of that prize is the price that the item is generally available to purchase from a retail source at the time the prize is accepted.

The prize limit applies to the following:

- Any tee to hole golf competition involving a score for a hole, regardless of where that competition is played (for example, on a golf course or a golf simulator).
- Any skills competition where the shot is played during a tee to hole golf competition
- The total prizes accepted in a single competition or multiple competitions being conducted at the same time (for example, scratch and handicap competitions).

The prize limit does not apply to the following:

- The value of trophies and other similar prizes.
- Long drive competitions, target competitions, competitions involving specific skills, trick shots and competitions that solely involve putting (unless the shot is played during a tee to hole golf competition).
- A prize for a hole-in-one made during a round of golf on a golf course or during contests held outside a round of golf, provided the length of the shot is at least 50 yards.
- Gambling or wagering among individual golfers or teams of golfers. See the **["R&A and USGA Policy on Gambling"]**.
- Expenses to compete in a subsequent stage of the same competition (but for handicap competitions with prizes to compete at subsequent stages, see the **["R&A and USGA Policy on Handicap Competitions with Prizes to Compete in Subsequent Stage of Competition"]**).

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Rule 4: Instruction

Instruction means teaching the mechanics of swinging a golf club and hitting a golf ball. The Rules of Amateur Status do not apply to other forms of teaching or coaching (for example, physical fitness and mental aspects of the game).

An amateur who accepts payment or compensation for giving instruction, including as part of salaried duties, becomes a non-amateur.

But, an amateur may accept payment or compensation for giving instruction in the following circumstances:

- As part of a programme that has been approved in advance by a national governing body (see **[The R&A and USGA guidelines on approved programmes]**).
- As an employee of a school, college, or camp, provided the time spent giving instruction is less than 50% of the time spent in performance of all duties as an employee.
- When the instruction is given in writing or online, and not to a specific individual or group.

Rule 5: Reinstatement as an Amateur Golfer

A non-amateur may be reinstated as an amateur by the applicable national governing body.

Each national governing body has the sole authority to:

- reinstate a non-amateur who lives within its area of authority,
- require a waiting period prior to reinstatement, or
- deny reinstatement.

A national governing body's decision on reinstatement is final, subject to any appeal process established by that body.

Rule 6: Applying the Rules

The national golf union or association is the national governing body responsible for administering and applying the Rules of Amateur Status within its area of authority, including issues that arise in another area but involve a person or people who live within its area of authority.

If there is uncertainty or doubt about the application of the Rules, including whether a person is an amateur or non-amateur, the national governing body has the authority to make a final decision but it may also refer the matter to The R&A [USGA] prior to making a decision.

The national governing body's decision about the application of the Rules is final, subject to any appeal process established by that body.