GUIDELINES ON GAMBLING

General

An "amateur golfer", whether he plays competitively or recreationally, is one who plays golf for the challenge it presents, not as a professional and not for financial gain.

Excessive financial incentive in amateur golf, which can result from some forms of gambling or wagering, could give rise to abuse of the Rules both in play and in manipulation of handicaps to the detriment of the integrity of the game.

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 permissible 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.

Sweepstakes

A sweepstake is one of the most common forms of gambling or wagering in golf in which each player has an option of placing a sum of money on himself. The same sum of money is placed by each player and the total sum collected is normally disbursed among the leading players who have opted to enter the sweepstake.

Sweepstakes are approved provided entry is optional and the amount of money involved is not excessive.

Hole-in-one sweepstakes, where the money collected accumulates from one competition to the next until a participant achieves a hole-in-one, are permitted.

Auction Sweepstakes

An auction sweepstake or "calcutta" is a form of gambling or wagering in which the players or teams are sold by auction beforehand to the highest bidder. Bidding is not restricted to the players and each player or team is generally offered the right to purchase a percentage of the bet from the successful bidder before play commences.

An auction sweepstake or calcutta can often involve considerable sums of money and such gambling or wagering is considered contrary to the purpose and intent of the Rules (Rule 7-2).

As auction sweepstakes or calcuttas are not approved, participation in an auction sweepstake or calcutta may lead to the forfeiture of Amateur Status.

Other Forms of Gambling

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 organised for professional golfers.

Websites featuring online competitions in which anyone can participate and where money can be won based on scores achieved in Club competitions or the like are contrary to the purpose and intent of the Rules.

For more information, please refer to the Policy on Gambling (see the Appendix in Rules of Amateur Status)

Effective 1 January 2012