**DECISIONS ON THE RULES OF AMATEUR STATUS 2012**

## Foreword to the 2012 Rules of Amateur Status

Amateurism in sport is much less common today than in the past. As the governing authorities for the Rules of the game, R&A Rules Limited ("R&A") and the United States Golf Association ("USGA") have, therefore, conducted a fundamental review of the Rules of Amateur Status ("the Rules") over the past four years.

The R&A and USGA have concluded that the distinction between amateur and professional golf should be maintained and that the wholesale removal of the limits and restrictions placed on amateur golfers is not in the best interests of the modern game. In particular, it is agreed that because amateur golf is largely self-regulating, both in terms of the playing Rules and handicapping, uncontrolled financial incentive could place too much pressure on these important features and could be detrimental to the integrity of the game.

The fundamental aims of the new Rules are:

- an internationally accepted position that is in the best interests of the game;
- a modern Code that, where appropriate, is faithful to the traditions of the game;
- a Code that has longevity and is enforceable; and
- a Code that works for all aspects of the game (i.e. club golf, elite amateur golf and professional golf (at its various levels)).

Through appropriate limits and restrictions, the Rules are intended to encourage amateur golfers to focus on the game's challenges and inherent rewards, rather than any financial gain.

The R&A and USGA believe that this new Code strikes the right balance in preserving the traditional character of the amateur game whilst acknowledging that young, talented golfers may need more support. At the same time, it recognises that varying social and economic conditions create different challenges for individuals and organisations from country to country and that emerging golfing countries, in particular, may need more liberal and flexible structures to help the game develop.

It is against that background that the R&A and USGA have formulated these new Rules of Amateur Status.

Clive Edginton
Chairman
Amateur Status Committee
R&A Rules Ltd

Christie Austin
Chairman
Amateur Status Committee
United States Golf Association

# AMENDMENTS TO 2008-2011 EDITION

## DEFINITIONS

### Amateur Golfer
The Definition is amended to establish more clearly that an "amateur golfer", regardless of whether he plays competitively or recreationally, is one who plays golf for the challenge it presents, not as a profession and not for financial gain.

### Golf Skill or Reputation
A time limit of five years is introduced for the retention of "golf reputation" after the player's golf skill has diminished.

### Prize Vouchers
The Definition is expanded to allow prize vouchers to be used for the purchase of goods or services from a golf club.

## RULES

### Rule 1-3 Amateurism; Purpose of the Rules
Rule 1-3 is amended to re-state why there is a distinction between amateur and professional golf and why certain limits and restrictions are needed in the amateur game.

### Rule 2-1 Professionalism; General
The existing Rules on professionalism are consolidated and re-formatted into new Rule 2-1.

### Rule 2-2 Professionalism; Contracts and Agreements
National Golf Unions or Associations - New Rule 2-2(a) is added to allow an amateur golfer to enter into a contract and/or agreement with his national golf union or association, provided he does not obtain any financial gain, directly or indirectly, while still an amateur golfer.

Professional Agents, Sponsors and Other Third Parties - New Rule 2-2(b) is added to allow an amateur golfer, who is at least 18 years of age, to enter into a contract and/or agreement with a third party solely in relation to the golfer's future as a professional golfer, provided he does not obtain any financial gain, directly or indirectly, while still an amateur golfer.

### Rule 3-2b Hole-in-One Prizes
New Rule 3-2b excludes from the general prize limit prizes (including cash prizes) awarded for achieving a hole-in-one while playing a round of golf. This exception is specific to prizes for holes-in-one (not longest drive or nearest the hole) and neither separate events nor multiple-entry events qualify.

### Rule 4-3 Subsistence Expenses
New Rule added to allow an amateur golfer to receive subsistence expenses to assist with general living costs, provided the expenses are approved by and paid through the player's national golf union or association.

## NEW DECISIONS

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| 2-1/13 | Meaning of "Non-Amateur" Golfer |
| 2-2/1 | Contracts and Agreements; Examples of Permissible and Non-Permissible Contracts |
| 2-2/2 | Amateur Golfer Enters Contract and/or Agreement with Equipment Manufacturer and Uses Manufacturer's Equipment Whilst Still Amateur |
| 2-2/3 | Amateur Golfer in Receipt of Educational Golf Scholarship Enters into Contract and/or Agreement with Third Party |
| 3/1 | Prizes and Informal Gambling |
| 3-1/7 | Playing for Poker Chips |
| 3-2a/23 | Prizes Awarded for Golf Played on Video Games |
| 3-2b/1 | Clarification of Hole-in-One Prizes and Eligible Competitions |
| 4/2 | Meaning of "Junior Golfer" |
| 4-1/5 | Approval of Expenses to Play in Pro-Am Competitions |
| 4-3/1 | Meaning of "Reasonable Subsistence Expenses" |
| 4-3/2 | Meaning of "Applicable Socio-Economic Conditions" |
| 4-3/3 | Golf-Related Expenses |
| 6/3 | Whether Amateur Golfer Retains Golf Skill or Reputation |
| 6/4 | Amateur Golfer Regains Golf Skill or Reputation |
| 6-2/22 | Commercial Websites |
| 6-6/5 | Player Offered Financial Assistance by Club |
| 7-2/5 | Participation in Online Golf Competition |
| 8-3/1 | Appeals Procedures |
| 9-3/1 | Applicant for Reinstatement Provides False or Incomplete Information |

## REVISED DECISIONS

The following Decisions have been substantially revised:

2-1/1 Professional Intent: Making Enquiries About Prospects
*Amended to reflect the ability to enter into a contract and/or agreement with a third party relating to the golfer's future as a professional.*

2-1/8 Conditions Under Which Loan to Pay Expenses Permissible
*Expanded to confirm that there are no restrictions to accepting commercial loans.*

2-1/10 Membership of Professional Golfers' Association by Amateur Golfer
*Amended to confirm that membership of a Professional Golfers' Association in a category that does not confer any playing rights and is purely for administrative purposes is acceptable.*

2-1/11 Professional Intent: Application to Become Tournament Player
*Amended to include the recommended wording for prize money waiver.*

3-1/1 Nearest to the Hole, Long Drive and Putting Contests Offering Prize Money
*Amended to reflect the Rule change to hole-in-one prizes.*

3-1/3 Cash Prize to Club of Winning Player or Team
*Amended to clarify that the Rule applies to individual prizes as well as team prizes.*

3-2a/1 Symbolic Prizes
*Amended to clarify that utilitarian prizes are not symbolic prizes regardless of any engraving or markings.*

3-2a/16 Prize Limit – Foreign Currency
*Amended to clarify that variances in currency are inevitable and when a review of the prize limit is appropriate.*

3-2a/17 Prize of Invitation to Play in Pro-Am
*Amended to clarify the particular circumstances in which an amateur can accept a prize of an invitation to play in a pro-am competition.*

3-2a/21 Policy on Prize Vouchers
*The guidelines have been updated to reflect the revised, more liberal, Definition of Prize Vouchers.*

3-2a/22 Prize of Year's Subscription to Golf Club
*Amended to permit a prize of a subscription provided its value is within the prize limit.*

3-2b/2 Insurance Policy for Hole-in-One
*Amended to reflect the Rule change to hole-in-one prizes.*

3-2b/3 Hole-in-One Sweepstakes
*Amended to reflect the Rule change to hole-in-one prizes.*

4/1 Clarification of "Competition Expenses"
*Amended to distinguish between golf-related, subsistence and competition expenses.*

4-1/4 Expenses Organised or Covered by Competition Sponsor
*Amended to clarify what expenses a sponsor can cover.*

4-2c/1 Invitation to National Amateur Championship with Competition Expenses Paid
*Amended to clarify that expenses may be received provided they are approved and paid through the national golf union or association or the body controlling golf in the territory where the amateur is competing.*

4-2c/2 Approach to Sponsor by Amateur Golfer
*Amended to clarify that the amateur must not enter into any contract and/or agreement unless it relates to the golfer's future as a professional.*

4-2c/4 Approval and Payment of Competition Expenses for International Individual Events
*Amended to clarify the procedure for approval and payment of expenses.*

6-5/1 Guidelines for Educational Grants, Scholarships and Bursaries
*The guidelines have been updated to provide guidance to amateur golfers in receipt of an educational grant, scholarship or bursary.*

6-5/2 Administration of Golf-Related Educational Grants, Scholarships and Bursaries
*Revised to permit the university or college to administer expenses for (i) external events and (ii) individual events, with the permission of the Governing Body.*

6-6/2 Player of Golf Skill or Reputation Offered Honorary Membership or Free or Reduced Subscription
*Amended to clarify that it is only a breach of the Rules when the offer is made as an inducement to play for that Club.*

The following Decisions contain only minor amendments:

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| 2-1/2 | Employment as Shop Assistant in Professional's Shop |
| 2-1/5 | Employment as Salesman of Golf Equipment |
| 2-1/6 | Former Golf Professional Wishes to Run Retail Golf Shop and Join Golf Club |
| 2-1/7 | Educational Courses: Participation in Courses for Prospective Professionals or Golf Coaches |
| 2-1/12 | Amateur Golfer Enters for Professional Tour; When Breach Occurs |
| 3-1/2 | Prize Money Placed in Trust Fund |
| 3-1/5 | Amateur Golfer Plays for Cash Prize in a Golf Skills Challenge |
| 3-1/6 | Shares, Stocks or Bonds as a Prize |
| 3-2a/2 | Whether "Retail Value" Includes Discount Prices |
| 3-2a/3 | Participation in Event with Improper Prize |
| 3-2a/5 | Prize for Quiz Not Involving Playing Golf |
| 3-2a/6 | Prizes at Driving Ranges or Golf Simulators |
| 3-2a/7 | Definition of "Golf Course" |
| 3-2a/8 | Award of Prize to Club by Commercial Sponsor |
| 3-2a/10 | Clarification of "Total Prizes or Prize Vouchers in Any One Competition or Series of Competitions" |
| 3-2a/11 | Two 36-Hole Competitions Also Run as 72-Hole Event; Prizes Individuals May Accept |
| 3-2a/12 | Prize for Order of Merit |
| 3-2a/13 | Policy on Raffles, Prize Draws, etc. |
| 3-2a/18 | Club Permitting Competition for Excessive Prizes |
| 3-2a/19 | Conditions Under Which Expenses-Paid Trip as Prize Permissible |
| 3-3/1 | Examples of Testimonial Awards |
| 4-1/3 | Loan of Motor Car by Sponsor |
| 4-2a/1 | Family Member of Player Accepts Money from Outside Source to Pay Player's Competition Expenses |
| 4-2b/1 | Junior Golfer Accepting Expenses from Sponsor for Golf Visit to Another Country |
| 4-2c/3 | Competition Expenses of Junior Golfers to Non-Junior Events |
| 4-2c/5 | Payment of Competition Expenses in Kind |
| 4-2c/6 | Payment of Competition Expenses by University or College |
| 4-2c/7 | Expenses Limited to Specific Number of Competitive Days |
| 4-2c/8 | Meaning of "Other Similar Source" |
| 4-2c/9 | Approval of Competition Expenses for Disabled Amateur Golfers |
| 4-2d/2 | Clarification of "Team Competition" |
| 4-2d/3 | Meaning of "Union", "Association" and "Golf Club" |
| 4-2d/4 | Sponsorship of International Team Match |
| 4-2d/5 | Sponsored Club Team Competition with Final Abroad |
| 4-2d/6 | Payment of Expenses to Club Teams at Training Camps |
| 4-2d/7 | Payment of Substitute Teacher When Representing Regional or County Golf Union or Association |
| 4-2g/1 | Guidelines for Organisers and Commercial Sponsors of Amateur Golf Events; Whether Expenses May be Paid |
| 5-1/4 | Donation to Charity at Suggestion of Instructor |
| 5-2a/2 | Meaning of "Educational Institution or System" and "Camp or Similar Organised Programme" |
| 5-2b/1 | Payment for Golf Instruction as Part of Approved Programme |
| 5-3/1 | Conditions Under Which Well-Known Amateur May Write Instructional Articles for No Compensation |
| 6/1 | Meaning of "Competes at an Elite Level" |
| 6/2 | Definition of Golf Skill for Disabled Amateur Golfer |
| 6-2/1 | Writing Articles to Advertise Own Business |
| 6-2/2 | Employee Appears as Golfer in Company Advertisement |

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| 6-2/3 | Company Brochure Containing Reference to Golfing Achievements |
| 6-2/4 | Amateur Golfer Promotes Own Company in Magazine |
| 6-2/5 | Amateur Golfer Appears in Advertisement Without Payment or Compensation |
| 6-2/6 | Magazine Competition |
| 6-2/7 | Celebrity Advertising Golf Wear |
| 6-2/8 | Proposal to Invite Leading Golfers to Advertise Golfing Holidays |
| 6-2/9 | Policy on Issue of Free Equipment to Amateur Golfers |
| 6-2/10 | Guidelines for Issue of Free Equipment to Amateur Golfers |
| 6-2/11 | Gift of Golf Clubs and Clothing to Encourage Amateur Golfer |
| 6-2/12 | Meaning of "Equipment" |
| 6-2/13 | Policy on Names on Golf Equipment and Clothing |
| 6-2/14 | Commercial Logos on Golf Bags |
| 6-2/15 | Commercial Sponsorship of Amateur Golf – Policy on Publicity for Sponsors |
| 6-2/16 | Clothing or Equipment Supplied for Team/Squad Used in Individual Event |
| 6-2/17 | Vehicle with Advertising Slogan Used by Amateur Golfers Representing Team or Squad |
| 6-2/18 | Names on Motor Car |
| 6-2/19 | Fund Raising to Create Trust Fund for Amateur Golfer |
| 6-2/20 | Meaning of "Golf Competition or Other Event" and "in the Best Interests of, or Would Contribute to the Development of the Game" in Exception to Rule 6-2 |
| 6-3/1 | Amateur Golfers Offered Free Meals and Remission of Entry Fee |
| 6-3/2 | Amateur Golfer Accepts Expenses as Leader of Golf Tour |
| 6-3/3 | Payment of Fee and Expenses for Television Appearance |
| 6-3/4 | Amateur Golfer Offered Free or Reduced Subscription for Representing Club |
| 6-3/5 | Personal Appearance by Celebrity for Fee |
| 6-4/1 | Writing Article on Fitness and Golf |
| 6-4/2 | Royalties for Instructional Publications Written Prior to Reinstatement to Amateur Status |
| 6-5/3 | Golfer in Receipt of NCAA Scholarship Accepts Expenses from Other Source |
| 7-2/1 | Deferring Acceptance of Excessive Prize |
| 7-2/2 | Meaning of "Sweepstake", "Auction Sweepstake" and "Calcutta" |
| 7-2/3 | Participation in Auction Sweepstake/Calcutta |
| 7-2/4 | Acceptance of Compensation for Competing in Calcutta |
| 8-1/1 | Whether Committee Should Consider All Possible Breaches of Rules |
| 8-1/2 | Procedure for Enforcement of Rules When Breach Occurs Outside Country in Which Amateur Golfer Resides |
| 9-2b/1 | Applicant for Reinstatement Worked as Professional Golfer During Summer Only |
| 9-2b/4 | Guidelines for Breaches of Rules Not Relating to Professionalism |
| 9-2e/2 | Prize Limits for Applicants Awaiting Reinstatement |

**RE-NUMBERED DECISIONS**

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| 2-1/9 | Players' Ability Test (Formerly 2-2/1) |
| 2-1/10 | Membership of Professional Golfers' Association by Amateur Golfer (Formerly 2-2/2) |
| 2-1/11 | Professional Intent: Application to Become a Tournament Player (Formerly 2-2/3) |
| 2-1/12 | Amateur Golfer Enters for Professional Tour; When Breach Occurs (Formerly 2-2/4) |
| 3-1/4 | Amateur in Televised Match with Professionals for Money Prizes; Proceeds Donated Directly to Charity (Formerly 3-1/6) |
| 3-1/5 | Amateur Golfer Plays for Cash Prize in Golf Skills Challenge (Formerly 3-1/7) |
| 3-1/6 | Stocks, Shares or Bonds as a Prize (Formerly 3-1/8) |
| 3-2a/21 | Policy on Prize Vouchers (Formerly 3-2c/1) |
| 3-2a/22 | Prize of Year's Subscription to Golf Club (Formerly 3-2c/3) |
| 3-2b/2 | Insurance Policy for Hole-in-One (Formerly 3-2b/3) |
| 3-2b/3 | Hole-in-One Sweepstakes (Formerly 3-2b/5) |

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| 4-2c/9 | Approval of Competition Expenses for Disabled Amateur Golfers (Formerly 4-2c/10) |
| 4-2g/1 | Guidelines for Organisers and Commercial Sponsors of Amateur Golf Events; Whether Expenses May be Paid (Formerly 4-2g/2) |
| 6-5/2 | Administration of Golf-Related Educational Grants, Scholarships or Bursaries (Formerly 6-5/4) |
| 6-5/3 | Golfer in Receipt of NCAA Scholarship Accepts Expenses from Other Source (Formerly 6-5/5) |

**WITHDRAWN DECISIONS**

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| 3-1/4 | Cash Prize to Club of Player Making Hole-in-One |
| 3-1/5 | Prominent Golfer Taking Part in Other Sports to Win Cash Prize for Golf Union or Association |
| 3-2b/1 | Prize for Hole-in-One, Longest Drive, Nearest the Hole, etc. |
| 3-2b/2 | Clarification of Hole-in-One Prize Limit |
| 3-2b/4 | Quiz Limited to Players Who Achieve a Hole-in-One |
| 3-2c/2 | Voucher to Open Investment Account |
| 3-2c/4 | Exchanging or Selling Prize |
| 4-2c/9 | No Regional, State or County Union or Association Exists |
| 4-2g/1 | Sponsorship of Amateur Golf Events; Whether Free Meals or Refreshments Permitted |
| 6-5/2 | Subsistence Allowance |
| 6-5/3 | Administration of Monies Given to Amateur Golfer to Assist With Golf Related Expenses |