

## Proposed Rules of Amateur Status Explanations

### Reinstatement

**Current Rule:** Rule 9 establishes the process by which a non-amateur can apply for reinstatement, as well as recommending guidelines for national governing bodies handling such applications.

Rule 9 also provides:

- Recommendations that non-amateurs who have gained national prominence or who have been reinstated twice are not normally eligible for reinstatement, and
- A framework for applicants who are awaiting reinstatement by clarifying they are not amateurs until the process is completed, but may have some additional playing opportunities at the discretion of a committee or tournament organizer.

**Proposed New Rule:** The important administrative processes contained in the current Rule would remain largely unchanged in the proposed Rules.

However, the minimum recommended waiting period has been reduced from one year to six months, with a national governing body left to assess whether additional time would be appropriate based on the nature of the applicant's history as a non-amateur (such as adding time based on a review of the applicant's playing record as a non-amateur).

### **Explanation for Proposal:**

- The reinstatement process provides a vital function in maintaining the distinction between amateurs and non-amateurs, and ensures golfers are not able to arbitrarily move back and forth between amateur and non-amateur status.
- A waiting period is assigned to each applicant (see the guidance note below) to allow for a certain period of time between a player's last action as a non-amateur and his or her reinstatement date and becoming eligible to compete as an amateur.
- This waiting period helps ensure amateurs give pause for thought before deciding to become a non-amateur (for example by accepting a prize above the prize limit), knowing that such an act will require a waiting period should they decide to apply to regain their amateur status.
- Lowering the minimum waiting period will allow many golf professionals and instructors the opportunity to regain amateur status more quickly, while also providing each national governing body the discretion to add additional time for applicants who have achieved success as demonstrated by their playing record as a non-amateur.
- This provides a more logical balance as compared to the current recommendations that treat all actions the same (currently, a two-year waiting period for a career golf professional is recommended regardless of his or her playing success).
- The application process itself provides a necessary framework to ensure each national governing body has an opportunity to review each application and then apply what it considers to be the appropriate waiting period based on the circumstances.
- Denying reinstatement would remain an option but is applied in limited circumstances only, such as when a player is considered to have gained national prominence.

- A decision to deny reinstatement could also be applied to an individual seeking a third reinstatement, but the applicant's national governing body would normally review the applicant's entire application history and the circumstances of previous reinstatements.

As the governing bodies' guidelines on reinstatement are not currently intended to form part of the new Rules of Amateur Status, the following draft guidance note is likely to accompany the Rules:

**Reinstatement Guidance Note:**

The Rules of Amateur Status make a distinction between amateur golfers and non-amateur golfers. Consequently, there needs to be a reinstatement process for non-amateur golfers who wish to regain their amateur status.

The reinstatement process should involve the non-amateur submitting an application for reinstatement to their national governing body, with the national governing body requiring a waiting period prior to reinstatement or, in exceptional cases, denying reinstatement.

It is recommended that the minimum waiting period for reinstatement is six months, but a national governing body may wish to increase the period based on, for example, an applicant's success in terms of prizes won in competition.

In deciding the waiting period for reinstatement, the national governing body is not required to consider the length of time the applicant was a non-amateur.