

PART 6B

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. **General**

- 1.1 The following shall be the official regulations governing tournaments run under the auspices of the Association and the WPGA.
- 1.2 No rule herein shall be amended or rescinded and no new rules may be included without the approval of the appropriate committee.
- 1.3 Tournament conditions may be permitted to vary with the different types of tournaments stated but nevertheless the conditions that govern the said tournaments shall fall within the framework of these Tournament Regulations.
- 1.4 Conditions special to each tournament shall be published with the draw which shall be binding unless circumstances make a change necessary when such changes as authorised by the appropriate committee shall amend the aforesaid conditions and become binding. Publication of the conditions on the tournament noticeboard shall be considered proper notice to all competitors.

2. **Tournament Supervision**

- 2.1 Supervision at tournaments shall normally be in the hands of the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary who shall be responsible to the appropriate committee for the scoring, decisions on the Rules of Golf and other tournament regulations, the distribution of prizes and overall smooth administration of the tournament.
- 2.2 In the event of doubt on any decision the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary shall consult the Chief Executive or his appointed deputy whose decision having been given shall be final.

3. **Tournament Rules**

- 3.1 Association tournaments shall be governed by the Rules of Golf as published by R & A Rules Limited, the PGA Conditions of Competition and Local Rules card as well as the additional Local Rules for each event, save that certain alterations and additions that may be deemed necessary and stipulated from time to time by the Executive Committee.
- 3.2 Local Rules specific to the tournament will be available to all competitors at each event and may be obtained from the Official Starter or the PGA Tournament Office.

4. **Course Unfit for Play**

- 4.1 In the event of a hole or holes becoming flooded or otherwise unfit for play the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary may authorise the cutting of a fresh hole

or holes even if a round is in progress if it is considered that by doing so the tournament may be saved.

- 4.2 In the event of a round being cancelled because of unplayable conditions the tournament may be reduced to a stipulated number of rounds or holes to be played if an additional day, or days, is impracticable for the tournament to continue. For detailed guidance refer to paragraph 5 of this Regulation below.

5. **Play Foreshortened or Cancelled**

- 5.1 The Tournament Director or Regional Secretary may, following consultation with the Chief Executive or his appointed Deputy, vary the following procedures in exceptional circumstances:

- (a) If in the judgement of the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary adverse weather conditions or any other occurrence beyond the control of the Association renders the commencement or continuation of the tournament impracticable play shall be postponed until such time as the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary after consultation with the sponsor considers that play can be continued.
- (b) If it becomes necessary to suspend play for a period during a tournament the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary will cover the course informing players of the suspension.

To signal a suspension of play for a *dangerous situation* (for example, lightning) one prolonged blast of the siren shall be sounded. On the blast of the siren, players must discontinue play **immediately** (and if they have commenced playing a hole, each player may lift his ball but only after marking the position in which it lay) and shall not resume play until the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary has ordered a resumption of play. If a player fails to discontinue play **immediately** (or recommences play before resumption of play has been ordered) he shall be disqualified, unless the circumstances warrant waiving the penalty in the opinion of the Tournament Director or the Regional Secretary (as the case may be) at their absolute discretion.

To signal the suspension of play for a *non-dangerous situation* (for example, heavy rain or wind) three consecutive blasts of the siren shall be sounded (repeatedly). On these blasts, players shall discontinue play immediately unless they have commenced play of a particular hole in which case they may (at their discretion) complete the hole that is being played (following which they shall immediately discontinue play). Should a player decide to discontinue play immediately whilst his ball is in play, the player may lift his ball in play but only after marking the position in which it lay).

- 5.2 As soon as conditions allow play to be resumed the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary will cover the course again (to determine whether or not play should be

resumed) and play will be resumed immediately by all competitors on the course as soon as two short blasts on the siren are sounded.

5.3 For the avoidance of doubt, play shall remain suspended until such time as the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary (as the case may be) determine otherwise. If play is to be abandoned altogether for the day (at the discretion of the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary), the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary shall endeavour to advise players accordingly.

5.4 The following procedures shall apply:

- (a) as a fundamental priority the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary shall adopt the policy which offers the most likely opportunity to complete the Tournament over the number of holes stipulated in the conditions for the Tournament;
- (b) if half the field has completed a round the round must stand and the round is completed the next day;
- (c) if less than half the field finish a round that round may be disregarded (at the discretion of the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary);
- (d) in Tournaments scheduled for 72 holes to be played over four days paragraphs 5.4(b) and 5.4(c) above will be applied with the object of completing a minimum of two rounds by the end of the third day's play;
- (e) in Tournaments scheduled for 54 holes to be played over three days paragraph 5.4(b) and 5.4(c) above will be applied with the object of completing a minimum of one round by the end of the second day's play;
- (f) in the event of play being foreshortened so that two rounds have to be played on the last day, then the field may (at the discretion of the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary) be cut to the leading forty (40) players and those tying for 40th place (or such other number as is specified in the entry conditions for the relevant Tournament);
- (g) in Tournaments scheduled for 36 holes over two days paragraph 5.4(b) and 5.4(c) above will be applied (If paragraph 5.4(b) is applied in a Tournament scheduled for 36 holes over two days, the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary shall decide the number of players qualifying for the final round).
- (h) if it is not possible to complete play on the final day the Tournament shall be decided on the scores achieved in completed rounds;
- (i) professional individual prize money in Tournaments can only be declared on scores achieved in completed rounds. Pro-Am prize money allocated for professional team and individual prizes may be declared on the maximum number of holes completed by all professionals.

- (j) in the event of the curtailment or cancellation of a Tournament prize money shall be distributed as agreed between the Sponsors and the Association and may vary from that published in the Tournament Conditions. However, if bad weather causes the abandonment of a one-day Pro-Am after all teams have commenced play, the result shall be declared over 6 holes completed by all teams; and
- (k) the Tournament Controller or Regional Secretary may authorise the resiting of a hole or holes if the course becomes waterlogged during play.

6. Tournaments for Professionals

- 6.1 Any Member representing his Country at international level in the Ryder Cup or World Cup, and in the top one hundred of The European Tour Order of Merit at the time of selection, shall be ineligible to play in tournaments for Professionals for three years after the date of last selection or failure to make the top one hundred of The European Tour Order of Merit in any year subsequently, which ever period is greater (subject to the entry conditions for the relevant tournament).
- 6.2 The provisions of 6.1 shall not apply to Members who are invited to represent their in nominated Professional/Amateur team events.

7. Overseas Tournaments

- 7.1 Any overseas tournament advertised as a regional event is open exclusively to Members of that region until a specific date as detailed in the tournament brochure/details has passed, after which entry shall be open to all Members of the Association.
- 7.2 Regional Secretaries must obtain approval of dates from the Chief Executive to ensure that there is no clash with tournaments administered by National Headquarters.

8. Eligibility of Members and Assistants

- 8.1 All Members and Assistants may compete in tournaments provided they are eligible under the conditions of entry of the tournament and are not under suspension at the time.

9. Player's Agreement

- 9.1 A player's entry for a tournament shall not be accepted until such time as his Player's Agreement has been duly completed and received by the PGA National Headquarters. The Player's Agreement is printed on the annual subscription form.

10. Entry Method - Tournaments

- 10.1 All entries shall arrive at National Headquarters by noon of the closing date of the event in question either by fax, email or mail only.

- 10.2 Entries shall be accompanied by the appropriate entry fee. Entrants should view the Tournament Information Centre on the PGA website www.pga.info to confirm their entry has been received.
- 10.3 In Regional Pro-Am tournaments the entry fee may be deducted at source from the declared prize fund on the day. However if a player does not receive a copy of the draw he is responsible for ascertaining whether or not the entry has been received.
- 10.4 Late entries will be accepted on payment of double the entry fee and only if there are vacant times in the draw.

11. **Entry Fees**

- 11.1 Appropriate committees shall from time to time review the entry fee for tournaments which shall be published on the appropriate entry form and must be paid if the entry is to be accepted.

12. **Tournament Withdrawals**

- 12.1 A player who withdraws his entry after the closing date for entries will be charged a withdrawal fee of £35.
- 12.2 A player whose withdrawal is notified only within seven (7) days of his starting time shall be charged a withdrawal fee of £70.
- 12.3 A player whose withdrawal is not notified by noon on the day before the start of the tournament or who is absent from a tournament without notice of his withdrawal shall be fined the sum of £250 and shall be liable to suspension.
- 12.4 For a second or subsequent offence of clause 12.3, in the same playing year, the fine shall be £500. For a third offence in the same playing year it will be mandatory for the facts to be reported to the NDC and action taken as a breach of the Code of Ethics.
- 12.5 Any player winning prize money in regional qualifying events will be liable to repay such winnings to the Association in the event of not playing in the subsequent Championship proper.
- 12.6 Any competitor who qualifies to play in a tournament and then fails to play in the final stages will be charged a withdrawal fee of £70, unless the withdrawal occurs within 7 days of his starting time in which case a withdrawal fee of £150 will be charged.
- 12.7 Any competitor who fails to notify his withdrawal at all from the tournament, or who fails to complete all rounds for which he has entered, or fails to record a score for a round may forfeit any prize money won in respect of that tournament and may be fined up to £250 by the appropriate committee. A second or subsequent offence or one which in the opinion of the appropriate committee, constitutes a breach of the Code of Ethics must be reported to the National Disciplinary Committee for disciplinary action.

12.8 Any competitor who fails to record a score for any round or is disqualified, shall not be eligible for prize money or Order of Merit points if applicable.

12.9 Exceptions to these rules may be made in the case of sickness and other special circumstances subject always to the discretion of the appropriate committee and to the provision of satisfactory evidence to the Association within 7 days of withdrawal from the tournament. The Member must obtain a 'withdrawal number' from the Association and must quote such reference in all relevant correspondence with the Association.

13. **Entry Fees - Refund**

13.1 A competitor in any PGA tournament who withdraws before the closing date for entry shall be eligible for a refund of entry fee.

13.2 Any player withdrawing after the closing date shall not be eligible for a refund of his entry fee unless the appropriate committee is satisfied:

- (a) that the withdrawal enabled the Member to enter a higher ranking tournament; or
- (b) that exceptional circumstances have arisen outside of the reasonable control of the player prompting his withdrawal, which the committee considers (at its absolute discretion) to justify the refund of his entry fee.

14. **Women Competitors**

14.1 **Tournaments**

- (a) Women Members/Assistants playing in PGA Tournaments and Pro-Ams for the same prize money as male Members may play a course dependent on the total yardage and terrain of the course played by the male competitors which is not less than 10% or more than 14% shorter. The Tournament Director will vary tees as necessary to ensure the fairness of the holes and the event. If a separate prize-fund is provided solely for women Members/Assistants then tournament conditions can vary from the above.
- (b) If a Tournament or Order of Merit placing subsequently results in qualifying for any 'Restricted Event(s)' (as listed below) where a woman Member/Assistant plays from the women's forward tees, the woman Member/Assistant will not be eligible to qualify for participation in the Restricted Event(s). Women Members/Assistants electing to play from the tournament tees played by male Members would be eligible to qualify for a Restricted Event, provided such an event does not have any gender restrictions to participation.

Restricted Events

- a: European Tour events
- b: European Challenge Tour events
- c: European Seniors Tour events
- d: PGA Europro Tour events

- e: PGA Play-Offs
- f: PGA Seniors Championship
- g: PGA Cup
- h: Or any other event conducted by an organisation other than The Professional Golfers' Association

Note:

The above list of Restricted Events is not definitive and the Association may from time to time add events to this list. Should this be the case, notification to Members that such a tournament is to be classed as a Restricted Event will be included within the Tournament Condition for the applicable qualifying tournament or Order of Merit.

15. **Prize Money: Allocation**

- 15.1 Appropriate committees shall be responsible for deciding the allocation of prize money for each tournament subject to agreement with the sponsor. This allocation shall be published in the tournament conditions.

16. **Prize Presentations**

- 16.1 Appropriate committees shall normally publish for each tournament the number of leading players required to attend the prize presentation and in the case of Pro-Am tournaments, the number of professionals in leading teams who will be required to attend. In the absence of published conditions the three leading players and those tying in professional tournaments and Pro-Am tournaments and the professionals in the three leading teams in Pro-Am tournaments will be required to attend.
- 16.2 Unless otherwise specified in the conditions for any tournament or by special dispensation of the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary, all Members must observe the dress rules operating in the clubhouse at the time of any PGA tournament. All male Members involved in any prize presentation must wear a jacket, collar and tie. All women Members involved in such a presentation must dress with equivalent formality to their male counterparts. A Member who fails to comply with these Regulations may be fined up to £100 by the appropriate committee. A second or subsequent offence, or one which in the opinion of the appropriate committee constitutes a breach of the Code of Ethics, must be reported to the National Disciplinary Committee for disciplinary action.
- 16.3 A player who fails to attend a prize presentation may be fined a minimum of £200 by the appropriate committee. A second or subsequent offence or one which, in the opinion of the appropriate committee constitutes a breach of the Code of Ethics, must be reported to the National Disciplinary Committee for disciplinary action. Special dispensation to be absent is only given in exceptional circumstances by the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary.

17. **Suspension of Playing Privileges**

17.1 A Regional Committee or the committee of the Women's Section (WPGA) may refer a breach of the Regulations which does not constitute a breach of the Code of Ethics to the Executive Committee, who may suspend the rights of a Member to play in tournaments run under the jurisdiction of the relevant region or the Women's Section (WPGA) as the case may be.

18. Conflicting Advertising

18.1 No Member, or his caddie, during the playing of a tournament will be permitted to wear or display any advertising matter, which in the opinion of the Tournament Director or Regional Secretary, may embarrass a Sponsor or place in jeopardy the conduct of a tournament. In all cases, approval to wear conflicting advertising matter must be obtained from the Regional Secretary/Tournament Director, or his appointed representative, prior to the commencement of the tournament.

19. Alcohol Consumption

19.1 The abuse of alcohol on the course during any round of an Association-approved tournament is not permitted. A penalty of £250 shall be imposed with the fine being doubled for subsequent offences.

20. Official Recorders

20.1 Members must co-operate when asked for details of their scores by the Official Recorders on the course.

20.2 The Scoreboard Officials and TV Recorders are regarded as Official Recorders on the course.

21. Caddies

21.1 Caddies are the responsibility of the Member employing them. Any breach of the following Regulations will be deemed to be a breach by the Member and the minimum penalty of £50 shall be imposed, which shall be doubled for subsequent offences:

- (a) Caddies are not permitted to wear denim jeans.
- (b) Caddies must not behave in a socially unacceptable way.
- (c) Caddies are required to wear and display the caddy-bib or uniform issued to them for the duration of the round.
- (d) A professional golfer may only caddy for another professional golfer or amateur in an Association-administered event if he/she has not participated at any stage in the event at which he/she will caddy. Except in Europro events – see Europro Regulations.
- (e) Caddies are not permitted to mark players' scorecards.

22. **Standard of Dress**

(Members should note that the general standards set out in paragraph 2.4 of Part 5 apply to all tournaments in addition to the requirements set out in this paragraph 22)

22.1 The wearing of shorts by Members at a PGA event is not permitted.

Exceptions:

22.2 paragraph 22.1 does not apply to:

- (a) WPGA Professionals; or
- (b) to Overseas Pro-Am events.

22.3 The wearing of denim jeans by Members at a PGA event is not permitted.

22.4 Members may not wear training shoes at a PGA event. An exception to this rule is the Europro Tour – see Europro Regulations.

22.5 For the purpose of this rule the PGA event is the course, clubhouse and environs.

22.6 For breach of this rule a player shall be fined £50.

23. **Breaches of Etiquette**

23.1 If any Member is seen, or reported for, breaking any of the undernoted rules of etiquette, whether in practice, qualifying or in the PGA event proper, he shall be fined a minimum of £50. Repeated breaches may be considered by the appropriate committee as a breach of the Code of Ethics:

- (a) Removing the ball from a hole with a putter, or any other club.
- (b) Not repairing pitch marks on the green.
- (c) Not raking bunkers.
- (d) When playing a practice round behind a pre-qualifying event, not keeping two clear holes between himself and the last match.
- (e) Having more than one ball in play - other than in accordance with the Rules of Golf - in a practice round, with the following exception: - if a player misses the green with his shot to the green he may play one additional practice shot.

- (f) Commencing a practice round, other than on the official practice day, without first having obtained permission from the Club Secretary or Professional at the venue.
 - (g) Using a mobile phone inappropriately whilst on the course.
- 23.2 A minimum fine of £50 shall be imposed on any Member seen, or reported for, throwing a golf club or any other item or for swearing or any other act other act of temper anywhere within the environs of the Club or course. The fine shall be doubled on each subsequent occasion. Repeated breaches may be dealt with by the appropriate committee as a breach of the Code of Ethics.
- 23.3 The Tournament Controller/Director/Regional Secretary shall be empowered to impose such fines at his discretion. Members fined in this way shall have the right to appeal to the appropriate committee.

24. **Public Relations**

- 24.1 Members must co-operate with the Association by attending any function that may be organised with a sponsor or by a local civic authority. To ensure maximum goodwill it is vital that competitors make every effort to support all public relations activities and fully co-operate with press, radio and television.

25. **Returning of Scorecard**

- 25.1 In all PGA events the Members must return their scorecard in person to the Official Recorder. In the case of Pro-Am events the professional is responsible for returning the team scorecard in person to the Official Recorder. For a breach of this rule a Member shall be fined £50.

26. **Pro-Am Tournaments**

26.1 **Starting Times**

- (a) The draw may be amended in exceptional circumstances and starting times changed after publication at the request of the sponsor.
- (b) When a Member and one amateur play as a team the late arrival by both players incurs a penalty of two shots on the team. The team shall be permitted to commence play at a later time where possible in accordance with 26.1(a) unless specific tournament conditions are in place which dictate otherwise.
- (c) When both professional and team are subject to a two stroke penalty for lateness on the tee, the team total for the first hole will be increased by two shots prior to any penalty being added to the professional's individual score for that hole.
- (d) If there is no individual professional score and one or other partner is ready to commence play at the designated starting time he should do so and his partner should join him on the course upon arrival.

- (e) If there is an individual professional score then the amateur shall not commence play without the professional except as allowed for in 26.1(f). Provided that the amateur was ready to commence play at the designated starting time, no penalty will be applied to the team for late arrival by the professional but a two shot penalty shall be applied to the professional's individual score.
- (f) When a team comprises of more than a Member and one amateur the team will incur a penalty to two strokes, if at the designated starting time they cannot fulfil the scoring requirements of the event:
 - (i) if there is no individual professional score the team should commence play at the designated starting time if they can fulfil the scoring requirements of the Pro-Am and the missing player may join his team on the course upon arrival; or
 - (ii) if there is an individual professional score and the professional is late then no penalty is applied to the team score providing that the team could fulfil the Pro-Am scoring requirements assuming that the professional was present. A penalty of two strokes shall be applied to the professional's individual score. The team shall only commence play should the professional and the minimum number of amateur partners required to fulfil the scoring requirement be present.
- (g) Once a Member is late for his tee-off time in a Pro-Am and his team is ready to play at their designated start time and in the opinion of the Tournament Controller the Member will be unacceptably late, the Tournament Controller may disqualify that Member from the event, place him on disciplinary report and replace him with a substitute professional.

26.2 Scoring Requirements

If a team cannot fulfil the scoring requirements of the event 20 minutes after the last starting time the team shall be disqualified. Exception to this paragraph will be in the instance of a professional not being ready to commence play by this time and if in these circumstances the team can fulfil the scoring requirements of the event then they will be permitted to play without the professional. If a team commences play under these circumstances then the player may join the team on the course upon his arrival.