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5/2/2011

NOTICE: TO ALL GOLF CLUBS AND AMATEUR TOURNAMENT ORGANIZERS

The TTGA in collaboration with the Caribbean Golf Association rules officials have found it necessary to publish the following R&A guidelines with regard to prizes and prize limits as it relates to amateur golf tournaments. Please be guided accordingly and post on your notice boards.

RULE 1 AMATEURISM

1-1. General

An *Amateur Golfer* must play the game and conduct himself in accordance with the *Rules*.

1-2. Amateur Status

Amateur Status is a universal condition of eligibility for playing in golf competitions as an *amateur golfer*. A person who acts contrary to the *Rules* may forfeit his status as an *amateur golfer* and as a result will be ineligible to play in amateur competitions.

1-3. Purpose and Spirit of the Rules

The purpose and Spirit of the Rules is to maintain the distinction between amateur golf and professional golf and to keep the amateur game as free as possible from the abuses that may follow from uncontrolled sponsorship and financial incentive. It is considered necessary to safeguard amateur golf, which is largely self-regulating with regard to the Rules of play and handicapping, so that it can be fully enjoyed by all amateur golfers.

1-4. Doubt as to the Rules

A person who wishes to be an *amateur golfer* and who is in doubt, as to whether taking a proposed course of action is permitted under the Rules, should consult the Governing Body.

An organizer or sponsor of an amateur golf competition or a competition involving amateur golfers who is in doubt as to whether a proposal is in accordance with the rules should consult the Governing Body.

Rule 3-2. Prize Limits

a. General

An *amateur golfer* must not accept a prize (other than a *symbolic* prize) or *prize voucher* of *retail* value in excess of **500 pounds** or the equivalent (**TT\$5,500**) or such a lesser figure as may be decided by the *Governing Body*. This

limit applies to the total prizes or prize vouchers received by an amateur golfer in any one competition or series of competitions, excluding any hole-in-one prize (see rule 3-2b).

RULE 4 EXPENSES

4-1. General

Except as provided in the *Rules* an *amateur golfer* must not accept expenses, in money or otherwise, from any source to play in a golf competition or exhibition.

4-2. Receipt of Expenses

An amateur golfer may receive reasonable expenses not exceeding the actual expenses incurred, to play in a golf competition or exhibition as follows:

a. Family Support

An amateur golfer may receive expenses from a member of his family or a legal guardian.

b. Junior Golfers

A junior golfer may receive expenses when competing in a competition limited exclusively to junior golfers

c. Individual Events.

An amateur golfer may receive expenses when competing in individual events provided he complies with the following provisions.

- (i) Where the competition is to take place in the players own country the expenses must be approved by and paid through the players national regional state or county union or association.
- (ii) Where the competition is to take place in another country the expenses must be approved by both the player's national union or association and the national union or association in the country in which the competition is to be staged. The expenses must be paid through the player's national, regional, state or county union or association, by the body controlling golf in the territory he is visiting.

The Governing body may limit the receipt of expenses to a specific number of competitive days in any one calendar year and an amateur golfer must not exceed any such limit. In such a case the expenses are deemed to include reasonable travel time and practice days in connection with the competitive days.

Exceptions: An amateur golfer must not receive expenses, directly or indirectly, from a professional agent (see Rule 2-1) or any other similar source as may be determined by the Governing Body.

NOTES: An *amateur golfer* of *golf skill* or *reputation* must not promote or advertise the source of any expenses received (see Rule 6-2).

d. Team Events

An *amateur golfer* may receive expenses when he is representing:

- His country
- His regional state or county union or association
- His golf club
- His business or industry, or
- A similar body

In a team competition, practice session or training camp.

Note 1: A "similar body" includes a recognised educational institution or military service.

Note 2: Unless otherwise stated the expenses must be paid by the body that the *amateur golfer* is representing or the body controlling golf in the country he is visiting.

e. Invitation Unrelated to Golf Skill

An *amateur golfer* who is invited for reasons unrelated to *golf skill* (e.g. a celebrity a business associate or customer) to take part in a golf event may receive expenses.

f. Exhibitions

An *amateur golfer* who is participating in an exhibition in aid of recognised charity may receive expenses, providing that the exhibition is not run in connection with another golfing event in which the player is competing.

g. Sponsored Handicap Competitions

An *amateur golfer* may receive expenses when competing in a sponsored handicap competition, provided the competition has been approved as follows;

- (i) When the competition is to take place in the player's own country, the annual approval of the Governing Body must be obtained in advance by the sponsor, and
- (ii) Where the competition is to take place in more than one country or involve golfers from another country, the approval of each Governing Body must first be obtained in advance by the sponsor. The application for this approval should be sent to the Governing Body in the country where the competition commences.

RECEIPT OF EXPENSES: SPONSORED HANDICAP COMPETITIONS

4-2g/1

SPONSORSHIP OF AMATEUR GOLF EVENTS; WHETHER FREE MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS PERMITTED

A sponsor may pay green fees and offer free meals to competitors, provided the same is offered to all competitors.

However, if a sponsor wishes to offer free travel or hotel accommodation, the event will require approval under Rule 4-2g.

4-2g/2

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISERS AND COMMERCIAL SPONSORS OF AMATEUR GOLF EVENTS; WHETHER EXPENSES MAY BE PAID

Under Rule 4-1 an amateur golfer is not permitted to accept expenses (e.g. free travel or hotel accommodation) to take part in a golf competition, except in certain circumstances (see Rule 4-2).

Rule 4-2g permits an amateur golfer to accept expenses, not exceeding those actually incurred, to take part in a handicap individual or handicap team event, provided the event has received the necessary annual approval.

The organiser or sponsor must obtain the approval of the event in advance from the Governing Body in the country where the qualifying events are to be played. The Governing Body may require the submission of the event's proposed conditions of competition (including the venue of the final) and an estimate of the level of expenses to be paid by a sponsor on behalf of amateur golfers competing in the event. The Governing Body may restrict all stages of the event to its own country.

If the final is to be played elsewhere, it is the responsibility of the Governing Body where the qualifying events are taking place to seek the approval of the Governing Body where the final of the event is to be played.

It is a matter for the appropriate Committee of the Governing Body to decide whether or not a particular event qualifies for the approval under Rule 4-2g and the Governing Body has considerable discretion in this respect. However, an event can only be approved if the following requirements are met:

1. It must be a handicap individual or a handicap team event where the handicaps are applied. Events designed primarily for low handicap players where gross scores count, do not qualify;
2. The event must have a sponsor who financially supports the event for charitable or promotional reasons;
3. If an entry fee is to be paid, the event must not be approved if it is entirely financially supported by these fees;
4. All prizes must conform with Rule 3-2 and in particular, the total prizes received by any one person throughout the event must not exceed the limit laid down in Rule 3-2a as determined by the governing body in the country concerned and
5. The level of expenses must be considered "reasonable". There are no specific limits referred to in the rules, but a Governing Body may deny approval on the grounds that the "level of expenses" or the number of days on which expenses are covered are excessively high.

All events approved under Rule 4-2g should be given a reference number (e.g. "Approved for the payment of expenses Rule4-2g/01/2008"0, which should be included on all of the event's advertising literature and entry forms.

Conditions Under Which Expenses-Paid Trip as Prize Permissible – see 3-2a/19

3-2a/19

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH EXPENSE PAID TRIP AS A PRIZE PERMISSIBLE

An amateur golfer may accept an expenses-paid trip as a prize provided it is worth no more than the prize limit and it is not for the purpose of participating in a golf competition, including a subsequent stage of the same event. Furthermore, no part of the prize may be in cash. Rather, it should be in the form of airline tickets, hotel vouchers, etc. (But see Exception to Rule 3-2c and Rule 4-2g for sponsored handicap competitions.)

Ref: Guidelines for Organizers and Commercial Sponsors of Amateur Golf Events; Whether Expenses May be Paid – see 4-2g/2

EXCHANGING PRIZES

3-2C/1

POLICY ON PRIZE VOUCHERS

The guidelines on prize vouchers are as follows.

1. **It is most important that the Club Committee should define accurately on the voucher itself the purpose for which it may be used e.g. purchase of goods in the Club professional's shop or any professional's shop or sporting goods shop, or from any retail source.**
2. **When making payment in respect of the voucher, it is the duty of the Committee to satisfy itself that the conditions of the voucher have been complied with and that it has not been converted into cash.**
3. **If the value of the voucher, is say \$1,000.00, the committee may, at its discretion, issue two vouchers for \$500.00, four vouchers for \$250.00 etc, if it considers that these would be simpler to administer.**
4. **To redeem the voucher it must be handed over by the winner to the retailer in exchange for goods purchased. If the committee has not already paid the retailer, the retailer will send his bill directly to the Committee for payment. The winner does not handle any cash.**

5. **While vouchers may not be used for such items as a bar bill or a Club subscription, they may be used for the purchase of clothes, shoes, furniture, suitcases, pictures, cameras, crockery, cutlery, glassware, radios, and other items which might normally be presented as prizes in a golf competition. Vouchers may also be applied toward use of a practice area, use of a golf cart, and green fees.**

6. **A voucher must not be used in such a way that it is the equivalent of money in breach of Rule 3-2c e.g. it cannot be used for payment of entry fees, crediting to a Club account, or paying a Club subscription, travel or hotel expenses, bar bill electricity and so on. However in accordance with the Exception to Rule 3-2c an amateur golfer may submit a voucher to his national or county union and therefore be reimbursed from the value of that voucher for expenses incurred when competing in a golf competition. Therefore, following the production of receipts an amateur golfer could be reimbursed for expenses such as travel and accommodation costs, entry fees, etc. Which relate directly to participating in the competition concerned.**

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