



GOLFING UNION OF IRELAND (ULSTER BRANCH)

CLUB

INFORMATION MEETINGS

Venues

CAFRE Greenmount Campus - Monday 12 December at 7.30pm

Foyle Golf Club – Tuesday 13 December at 7.30pm

Shandon Park Golf Club – Wednesday 14 December at 7.30pm

Co.Armagh Golf Club – Thursday 15 December at 7.30pm

Agenda

1. Consider Changes to the following for 2012 and Discuss Implications
 - a. Rules of Golf
 - b. Rules of Amateur Status
 - c. CONGU Unified Handicapping Scheme
2. Questions and Answers

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Rules of GOLF
2012 - 2015

2012 – 2015 Changes

1. *Definitions*
2. *Exerting Influence on Movement of Ball*
3. *Time of Starting*
4. *Seeing Ball; Searching for Ball*
5. *Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions*
6. *Ball Moving After Address*
7. *Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped; By Outside Agency*
8. *Playing from Wrong Place; Stroke Play*
9. *Appendix IV*

1. Definitions

Addressing the Ball

The Definition is amended so that a player has addressed the ball simply by grounding his club immediately in front of or behind the ball, regardless of whether or not he has taken his stance.

2. Exerting Influence on Movement of Ball

The Rule is amended to establish more clearly that, if a player intentionally takes an action which affects the playing of a hole that is not permitted by the Rules, Rule 1-2 only applies when the action is not already covered in another Rule.

3. Time of Starting

Rule 6-3a is amended to provide that the penalty for starting late, but within five minutes of the starting time, is reduced from disqualification to;

Loss of the first hole in match play
or

Two strokes at the first hole in stroke play.

4. Seeing Ball; Searching for Ball

Rule 12-1 is reformatted for clarity and is amended to confirm

- a) **No Penalty** - A player moves his ball, when searching for it anywhere on the course, when it may be covered by sand
- b) **One Stroke Penalty** - A player moves his ball in a hazard, when searching for it, when it is believed to be covered by loose impediments.

5. Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions

Exception 2 to Rule 13-4 is amended to **permit** a player to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, including **before playing** from that hazard, provided it is for the sole purpose of **caring for the course** and Rule 13-2 is not breached.

R&A Explanation Video on Next Slide

R & A Video

Rule 13-4

Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions



6. Ball Moving After Address

A new exception is added that exonerates the player from penalty if his ball moves, after it has been addressed, when it is known or virtually certain that **he did not** cause the ball to move.

R&A Explanation Video on Next Slide

R & A Video
Rule 18 – 2b
Ball Moving after Address



7. Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped; By Outside Agency

The note in Rule 19 is expanded to prescribe the various outcomes when a ball in motion has been **deliberately deflected or stopped** by an outside agency.

8. Playing from Wrong Place; Stroke Play

Note 3 in Rule 20-7 is amended so that if a player is to be penalised for playing from a wrong place, in most cases the penalty will be limited to **two strokes**, even if another Rule has been breached prior to his making the stroke.

9. Appendix IV

A new Appendix is added to prescribe general regulations for the design of devices and other equipment, such as tees, gloves and distance measuring devices.

B

RULES

OF

AMATEUR STATUS

2012 – 2015 Changes

1. Definitions
2. Distinction between Amateur & Pro Golfer
3. Prize Limits/Money
4. Use of Prize Vouchers
5. Hole in One Prizes
6. Payment of Competition Expenses
7. Subsistence Expenses
8. Honorary Membership
9. Educational Grants & Bursaries

1. Definitions

1. Amateur Golfer

2. Golf Skill or Reputation

3. Prize Vouchers

2. Distinction between Amateur & Pro Golfer

Why there is a distinction

1. Amateur Golfer

Scheme sets out why certain limits and restrictions are needed in the amateur game.

2. Professional Golfer

An amateur golfer must not conduct or identify himself as a professional golfer.

A professional golfer is one who:

- a) plays the game as his profession; or*
- b) works as a professional golfer; or*
- c) enters a golf competition as a professional; or*
- d) holds or retains membership of any Professional Golfers' Association (PGA); or*
- e) holds or retains membership of a Professional Tour limited to Pro's*

3. Prize Limits/Money

An amateur golfer must not accept a prize or prize voucher of **Retail Value** in excess of £500

Prize Limit applies to all forms of Golf Competitions

The responsibility to prove the **Retail Value** of a particular prize rests with the Committee in charge of the competition.

The **Retail Value** of a prize is the price at which the prize is generally available from a retail source at the time of the award.

4. Use of Prize Vouchers

Voucher may be credited to a **Club Account** and be used for items such as a **Bar Bill, Club Subscription, Entry Fees** and other **Goods and Services** at the Club

Organising Committee strongly encouraged to define accurately the purpose for which the voucher may be used

Duty of the organising committee to satisfy itself that the conditions of the voucher have been complied with

In certain circumstances, a player may submit a voucher to GUI (Ulster Branch) and thereafter be reimbursed from the voucher for expenses incurred in competing in a golf competition run by GUI.

Prize of Year's Subscription to Golf Club

An amateur golfer may accept as a prize, a year's subscription to a Golf Club if the value of the subscription is less than the prize limit

Symbolic Prizes

Symbolic prizes may be awarded as prizes even if the value exceeds the prize limit provided they are permanently and distinctively engraved. Note: Prizes such as watches, music systems, luggage, golf bags, clothing or other merchandise, are not symbolic prizes even if they are permanently and distinctively engraved or marked.

Prize of Invitation to Play in Pro-Am

An Amateur Golfer may accept an invitation to play in a Pro-Am as a competition prize. The prize is deemed to be equal to the prize limit, in certain conditions

5. Hole in One Prizes

Hole in One Prizes are only excluded from the general prize limit while playing a round of golf.

Insurance Policy for Hole-in-One

An amateur golfer may insure himself against achieving a hole-in-one?

Hole-in-One Sweepstakes

Clubs can organise a hole-in-one sweepstake in conjunction with its competitions with the money collected accumulating from one competition to the next until a participant achieves a hole-in-one

6. Payment of Competition Expenses

An amateur golfer may receive reasonable competition expenses, to play in a competition

a) Family Support

b) Junior Golfers

c) Individual Events

d) Team Events in certain circumstances

e) Invitation Unrelated to Golf Skill

f) Exhibitions in aid of a Charity

g) Sponsored Handicap Competitions

c) and g) require agreement of GUI

7. Subsistence Expenses

An amateur golfer may receive reasonable subsistence expenses

Expenses not to exceed the actual cost incurred

Expenses to assist with General Living costs

Must be paid through the GUI

8. Honorary Membership

An amateur golfer of golf skill or reputation **may accept** an offer of Honorary or Reduced Fee Membership of a Golf Club, **unless** such an offer is made as an inducement to play for that Club

Golf Skill or Reputation

This is a matter for the Governing Body to determine

9. Educational Grants & Bursaries

An amateur golfer of golf skill or reputation **may accept** the benefits of an educational grant, scholarship or bursary, which have been approved by the Governing Body.

An amateur golfer is advised to contact the GUI and/or the relevant educational institution to ensure that any third party contracts and/or agreements or competition expenses are allowable under the applicable scholarship regulations.

R & A Video
General Overview of the
Rules of Amateur Status Changes





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CONGU®

Unified Handicapping Scheme

2012 – 2015

Manual

Effective 1 January 2012

2012 – 2015 Changes

1. Non Qualifying Scores
2. Exceptional Qualifying Scores
3. Change to CSS Calculation
4. Change to suggested adjustments within Annual Review Process
5. Change to Small Field Competitions
6. Nine Hole Competitions
7. Acquiring a Handicap
8. Other Issues

1. Non Qualifying Scores

- Single Scores to count for immediate consideration under clause 23b (new)
- Competition Play Conditions must exist over a measured course
- Players responsibility to return all qualifying and non qualifying scores to Home Club (current)
- Clubs to deal with player who fails to return such scores in a timely manner

2. Exceptional Qualifying Scores

- Additional adjustment based on two nett scores of -4 or better
- Not applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 can only be reduced to 5.5
- Player to be cut for the two scores (as now) & amount of additional reduction dependant upon the nett scores & number of qualifying rounds between the 2 scores

Exceptional Score Table Additional Decreases

Average of the two scores	4 or fewer qualifying scores between scores	5 to 9 qualifying scores between scores	10 or more qualifying scores between scores
Between 4 and 5	1 shot	0.5 shot	No change
5 to 10	2 shots	1 shot	No change Cat 2, otherwise 0.5 shot
Greater than 10	3 shots	1.5 shots	0.5 shot Cat 2, otherwise 1 shot

Ireland directs that all Clubs implement the additional decrease when offered by the Handicapping Software

3. Change to CSS Calculation

- CSS Calculation will take into account all scores which equal or better SSS +Buffer Zone for the player concerned (New)
- Scores in CSS calculation will reflect player's playing ability in Handicap Categories 1, 2 & 3 (4)
- The lower your handicap, the greater the probability of playing to SSS.
- Predicted Outcome of Change
 - Fewer reduction only Competitions
 - Increase in CSS during challenging weather conditions due to more difficult Category 1 target

4. Changes to suggested adjustments within Annual Review Process

Further guidance to be issued where player record has few scores.

Best practice still looks to be examining the player's handicap register alongside the AHR report. Special attention must be paid to no returns or players stopping after less than 18 holes as these will skew the calculation for suggested increases.

Handicap committees need to take everything into account before making their determination.

5. Change to Small Field Competitions

- Defined as less than 10 players
- Where 5 or fewer players are competing, minimum CSS is SSS – no change
- CSS calculation can be significantly influenced by a single player in small field
- Too many Reduction Only Competitions
- New Table to be introduced if CSS calculation = R/O

6. Nine- Hole Competitions

- Club must apply to Branch for separate SSS (Standard Scratch Score) for 9 Hole Course to be used in Competitions
- Players to be permitted to return Nine-hole Qualifying Scores at all clubs of which the player is a 'Member' as opposed to just at his/her Home Club

7. Acquiring a Handicap

- Preferred method is 3 cards, each played over 18 holes however the following can also be used
 1. A combination of 18-hole and 9-hole scores
 2. Whatever combination is chosen by the player a total of 54 holes still to be used
- Use better of either 2 best 9-hole scores or an 18-hole score
- Same rules as used for 18-hole allocation apply re adjustments

8. Other Issues

- Four-ball Handicap Allowance
 - Currently $\frac{3}{4}$further research being undertaken
 - No change for the 2012 scheme

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2012 - 2015

Rules of Golf

Rules of Amateur Status

Unified Handicapping Scheme

QUESTIONS

&

ANSWERS