

The United States Golf Association writes and maintains the Rules of Amateur Status along with the R&A. An Amateur golfer is one who plays the game as a non-remunerative and non-profit making sport, and who does not receive remuneration for teaching golf or for other activities because of golf skill or reputation, except as provided in the Rules.

Amateur golfers:

- **CANNOT play for cash in any amount.** Please note the USGA does not object to informal wagering among individual golfers or teams of golfers when the players in general know each other, participation in the wagering is optional and is limited to the players, the sole source of all money won by the players is advanced by the players on themselves or their own teams and the amount of money involved is such that the primary purpose is the playing of the game for enjoyment. However you may be in violation of state gaming laws. The USGA and SCGA urge prohibition of gambling such as Calcutta's, other auction pools, and pari-mutuels.
- **May accept \$750 maximum in scrip and/or prizes, with a retail value not exceeding \$750, per event for placing high in an event.**
- **May accept a prize of ANY value for making a Hole-In-One during the course of a golfing round.** If an event is specifically designed as a Hole-In-One contest - such as a driving range, putting contest or on a hole, but not during the course of a golfing round – the prize value is limited to \$750 in scrip. (New)
- **May accept \$750 in scrip for placing high in event, and also accept a prize for a Hole-In-One (of ANY value), possibly totaling more than \$750 scrip for one event.**
- **May accept financial aid for reasonable expenses associated with tournament fees.** If expenses total less than \$300, the money may be given directly to the player. If the total expense is more than \$300, the money must be given to the SCGA in the form of a check and the SCGA will issue a new check to the player. The player must track how the money is used and submit the itemized list to the SCGA for review.
- **Must file for the reinstatement of Amateur Status if violations occurred.**

If player violates the Rules of Amateur Status, the following steps should be taken:

- **Contact the Rules and Competitions department to discuss the potential violations, and or questions regarding clarification of the Rules of Amateur Status.**
- **Visit www.usga.org to obtain the Rules of Amateur Status and the Decisions of Amateur Status.**
- **If a violation has occurred, the individual must obtain the necessary information from the SCGA to begin the reinstatement process.** The application can be submitted online or by filling out the proper paperwork. The SCGA will review and forward its recommendation to the USGA to be approved by the USGA Amateur Status Committee. After the USGA Amateur Status Committee has made a recommendation, a letter will be sent to the individual as well as the SCGA. A period awaiting reinstatement of two years will normally be required. However that period may vary depending on the violation.
- **The individual in violation should continue to post scores and maintain his/her SCGA Handicap Index, as a Non-Amateur.** Non-Amateurs will NOT be able to participate in any USGA or SCGA sanctioned events. The Committee in charge of the competition should determine eligibility for club events.