



The Rules of Amateur Status:

Guidelines for Golf Scholarships and Bursaries

An official publication of R&A Rules Limited

Introduction

The Definition of an amateur golfer provides as follows:

“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.”

The Rules of Amateur Status cover acts which would cause an amateur golfer to breach the above Definition, thereby causing forfeiture of Amateur Status.

Rule 6-5 of the Rules of Amateur Status concerns the acceptance of grants, scholarships and bursaries and states as follows:

“An amateur golfer of golf skill and reputation must not accept the benefits of a grant, scholarship or bursary, except one whose terms and conditions have been approved by the Governing Body.”

The Governing Body in Great Britain and Ireland is The R&A. The Amateur Status Committee of The R&A has established the following guidelines in order to assist those who wish to donate a scholarship or a bursary, or establish such a fund, and for those who wish to accept the benefit of a scholarship or bursary while attending an educational establishment (i.e. School, College or University).

Academic Scholarships or Bursaries

Scholarships or bursaries awarded purely on academic ability do not require the approval of the Amateur Status Committee of The R&A. Acceptance of such a scholarship or bursary is not a breach of the Rules of Amateur Status.

Golf Related Scholarships or Bursaries

The Amateur Status Committee of The R&A must approve all scholarships or bursaries awarded in Great Britain and Ireland where golf skill is a factor in the selection process for such an award. Acceptance of a golf scholarship or bursary which has not been approved may constitute a breach of Rule 6-5 of the Rules of Amateur Status.

Approval of Golf Scholarships or Bursaries

Any donor or individual who wishes to receive approval of a golf scholarship or bursary, or any individual who wishes to know if a golf scholarship or bursary has been approved, should write (giving full details of the scholarship or bursary concerned) to:

Amateur Status Committee
R&A Rules Limited
Beach House, Golf Place
St Andrews, Fife,
Scotland,
KY16 9JA

Procedural Criteria for Approval of Golf Scholarships or Bursaries

In order for a golf scholarship or bursary to be approved by the Amateur Status Committee of The R&A, the procedure for payment of the fund must meet the following criteria:

- (i) if the fund is not created by the educational establishment concerned, it must be paid in the first instance to the educational establishment; and
- (ii) the scholar or bursar may only receive the money directly or indirectly through the educational establishment.

Permitted Purposes of Golf Scholarships or Bursaries

A golf scholarship or bursary may be used for the following purposes:

- (i) for educational purposes, including tuition fees, books, room and board;
- (ii) costs of coaching (including coaching fees and travel and living expenses);
- (iii) golf equipment;
- (iv) Golf Club subscriptions; and
- (v) travel, living costs and caddie fees at individual or team University, College or School events.

A golf scholarship or bursary may not be used for travel, living costs and caddie fees at non-University, non-College or non-School individual or team events, except in accordance with Rule 4-2.

Golf Scholarships in the United States of America

It is current policy of the Amateur Status Committee of The R&A to permit amateur golfers to accept golf scholarships at Universities or Colleges in the USA, provided they comply with the United States Golf Association's Rules of Amateur Status. The USGA's Rules permit a scholarship or grant-in-aid to be accepted if it accords with the regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association or the Association of Inter-Collegiate Athletics for Women. Separate approval from the Amateur Status Committee of The R&A is not required.

In general terms, a University or College in the USA may provide a student attending the institution on a golf scholarship with financial assistance that may include tuition, room and board, required course-related books and incidental fees (i.e. essentially everything a student would normally pay at such institution).

A University or College may not pay for:

- (i) fees for services offered on an optional basis (e.g. health insurance);
- (ii) fees for non-University or non-College costs (e.g. costs of typing reports); and

- (iii) fees and related expenses for prospective students unless such benefits generally conform to the University or the College policy for other students receiving financial aid.

Note 1: An amateur golfer, normally a resident of Great Britain or Ireland, who accepts a scholarship in the USA under the USGA Rules of Amateur Status, is permitted to play in amateur or open events in Great Britain and Ireland or elsewhere during vacations.

Note 2: The following are other restrictions under the Rules of Amateur Status placed on an amateur golfer accepting a scholarship in the USA:

- (i) If travelling to play in amateur events in Great Britain or Ireland or elsewhere he must not accept free transport to or from Great Britain or Ireland or elsewhere at the beginning or end of his University or College course or during vacations.
- (ii) He must on no account enter into any contract to become a professional golfer at the end of his University or College course (Rule 2-1).
- (iii) He must comply with the Rules of Amateur Status applicable to both the country where he is playing and the country in which he resides.

January 2006

The R&A is golf's world rules and development body and organiser of The Open Championship. It operates with the consent of more than 125 national and international, amateur and professional organisations, from over 110 countries and on behalf of an estimated 28 million golfers in Europe, Africa, Asia Pacific and The Americas (outside the USA and Mexico). The United States Golf Association (USGA) is the game's governing body in the United States and Mexico.

For further information or advice, please contact:

The Amateur Status Committee,

R&A Rules Limited, Beach House, Golf Place, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland, KY16 9JA

Tel: 01334 460000 Fax: 01334 460001