



PART B: ROLE-SPECIFIC CODES OF CONDUCT **(AS CONTAINED WITHIN THE MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY)**

Attachment B1: Player/Caddie Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to amateur golfers and caddies, in all championships, major activities, events and competitions conducted by GA in addition to any other requirements of Players and Caddies as set out in tournament conditions, local rules or by-laws of clubs hosting GA events. NB. Parents/Guardians are subject to the Code of Conduct in Attachment B5.

Each Player or Caddie in a competition must adhere to commonly-accepted standards of golfing etiquette and sportsmanship.

In order to ensure proper standards of behaviour during a competition, a Player or Caddie who commits an offence under this Code will face disciplinary proceedings.

1 DEFINITIONS

In this Code, unless the context otherwise requires:

Term	Definition
Appeal Tribunal	means the tribunal referred to in attachment D
Board	means the board of directors of GA
Caddie	means the definition as per the Rules of Golf; where the context so admits, the word 'player' includes 'caddie'
Code	means this Code of Conduct
Competition	means a Championship, event, competition, practice session or major activity conducted or sanctioned by GA
Conduct Officers	means two officials of GA appointed at any time to consider, hear and determine a report during or after the conclusion of a competition
GA	means Golf Australia Limited
Investigative Officer	means a person appointed by GA to administer a report
National Squad	means the squad by that name comprising a number (determined from time to time by the Board) of Australia's best male and female amateur players
Notice	means notice in writing by letter, facsimile, other written means of communication, or email
Player	means a player or participant in a competition; where the context so admits, the word 'player' includes 'caddie'
Report	means any oral or written statement by any person of an alleged offence by a player or caddie under this Code

An act is deemed to occur "*during a competition*" if it occurs:

- a) when travelling to or from a competition;
- b) on any qualifying or practice day for a competition;
- c) when playing at a specific course for the purpose of practicing for an upcoming competition at that course; or
- d) on any day during which the competition is conducted.

2 OFFENCES

NOTE: The use of any narcotic or other substance may constitute an offence under the Doping Policy of GA.

2.1 A Player or Caddie is guilty of a Category A offence under this Code if the Player or Caddie:

- a) physically attacks or abuses in any way, a player, an official, or person during a competition;

- b) verbally threatens a player, an official, or person during a competition;
- c) racially vilifies a player, an official, or person during a competition;
- d) wrongfully damages the facilities, including the course and the clubhouse, of the competition golf course;
- e) wrongfully removes or damages property belonging to another player, an official, the tournament organiser, or the competition golf club;
- f) deliberately breaks a Rule (as defined in the Rules of Golf);
- g) deliberately returns a false score card;
- h) during a competition, deliberately seeks to manipulate the player's Australian handicap;
- i) fails or refuses to co-operate with, or obstructs, any investigation by the Investigative Officer of the Player or Caddie's conduct or the conduct of another person;
- j) fails or refuses to co-operate with, or obstructs, a hearing by the Conduct Officers or the Appeal Tribunal;
- k) behaves in a manner detrimental to the good name and reputation of GA; or
- l) brings the game of golf into disrepute.

2.2 A Player or Caddie is guilty of a Category B offence under this Code if the Player or Caddie:

- a) in relation to a competition, publicly criticises:
 - i. *the competition golf course;*
 - ii. *the competition itself;*
 - iii. *the organisers of the competition;*
 - iv. *the sponsors of the competition; or*
 - v. *any official supervising or organising the competition during a competition;*
- b) throws or deliberately or in anger breaks golf equipment (including golf balls) during a competition;
- c) uses abusive or profane language towards another player, an official, or person during a competition;
- d) utters audible obscenities during a competition;
- e) consumes any alcohol or a prohibited substance under the GA Doping Policy during the course of any round played in a competition;
- f) is unable to play golf to the best of their ability without just cause; or
- g) behaves in a manner detrimental to the performance of other players.

2.3 A Player or Caddie is guilty of a Category C offence if the Player or Caddie:

- a) fails to comply with official directions or instructions, including dress regulations, which have been issued by GA or the Championship Play Committee or any other duly authorised official (whose action/s is/are sanctioned by GA) for that competition;
- b) fails to comply with the Rules of Golf with respect to Section I – Etiquette. NB Etiquette includes the continual failure to fill in divots or repair pitch marks;
- c) continually fails to play without undue delay;
- d) commits an act to deliberately disqualify the player from a competition or, during the course of a round picks up the player's own ball without playing out a hole;
- e) misses a tee time or withdraws from a competition before the completion of that competition without providing good reason in writing for doing so;
- f) uses a radio (of any kind), recorder or mobile telephone (except in an emergency, to access a distance measuring application or to call for a Referee) during the course of play in a competition or allows the player's caddie to do so;
- g) smokes cigarettes, cigars or the like during the course of any round played in a competition;
- h) fails, without good reason, to attend the trophy presentation at the completion of a competition where the player is:
 - i. in the case of a stroke play event, a trophy winner; or
 - ii. in the case of a match play event, a finalist or semi-finalist.

2.4 If a Player or Caddie commits two or more Category C offences during a competition, the Player or Caddie is deemed to have committed a Category B offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category B offence. If a Player or Caddie commits two or more Category B offences during a competition, the Player or Caddie is deemed to have committed a Category A offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category A offence.

- 2.5 Subsequent breaches of the Code within a 24 month period will result in a penalty prescribed for the Category one above the highest Category of the previous breach. For sake of clarity, should a Player or Caddie commit a Category B offence originally, and then commit a Category B offence 6 months later, the player is deemed to have committed a Category A offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category A offence. Should the original breach be a Category A offence, the penalty imposed will be as the Conduct Officers see fit.

3 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Any report made to GA or the Championship Play Committee during a competition or after the conclusion of the competition must be referred to an Investigative Officer and the Conduct Officers.
- 3.2 Upon receiving a report under clause 3.1, the Conduct Officers must determine whether:
- a) no further action should be taken; or
 - b) if in the course of such investigation it is evident that, in the opinion of the Conduct Officers, a breach has occurred, an appropriate penalty may be imposed, and communicated to the Player or Caddie by GA (Notice).
- 3.3 The appeal procedure for determination of breach by a Player or Caddie is outlined in attachment D.

4 PENALTIES

- 4.1 If a Player or Caddie is found guilty of a Category A offence, any of the following penalties, minimum 3 months and not normally exceeding more than 2 years duration, may be imposed:
- a) the committee in charge of the competition will assess the incident (or series of incidents) on its merits and may determine it appropriate to apply a penalty of Disqualification in accordance with Decision 33-7/8 (current R&A Decisions on the Rules of Golf) (NB a penalty of Disqualification must be imposed prior to the close of the competition);
 - b) an order that the player attend appropriate counseling sessions as specified by GA;
 - c) a recommendation to the player's home club that the player's membership be suspended for a set period of time;
 - d) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player not be permitted to enter State Events;
 - e) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player be suspended from a State Squad;
 - f) suspension of the player's Australian Handicap;
 - g) suspension from the National Squad;
 - h) in the case of an offence under clauses 2.1(d) or (e) of this Code, an order that the player should pay compensation to the player, official, tournament organiser or club who suffered loss as a result of the accused player's conduct, or
 - i) such other penalty as determined from time to time.
- 4.2 If a Player or Caddie is found guilty of a Category B offence, any of the following penalties, minimum 1 month but not more than 3 months for any one offence, may be imposed:
- a) the committee in charge of the competition will assess the incident (or series of incidents) on its merits and may determine it appropriate to apply a penalty of Disqualification in accordance with Decision 33-7/8 (current R&A Decisions on the Rules of Golf) (NB a penalty of Disqualification must be imposed prior to the close of the competition);
 - b) an order that the player attend appropriate counselling sessions as specified by GA;
 - c) a recommendation to the player's home club that the player's membership be suspended for a set period of time;
 - d) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player not be permitted to enter State Events;
 - e) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player be suspended from a State Squad;
 - f) a penalty under the Doping Policy of GA (if applicable);
 - g) suspension of the player's Australian Handicap;
 - h) suspension from the National Squad; or
 - i) such other penalty as determined from time to time.
- 4.3 If a Player or Caddie is found guilty of a Category C offence, any of the following penalties may be imposed
- a) the committee in charge of the competition will assess the incident (or series of incidents) on its merits and may determine it appropriate to apply a penalty of Disqualification in accordance with Decision

33-7/8 (current R&A Decisions on the Rules of Golf) (NB a penalty of Disqualification must be imposed prior to the close of the competition);

- b) a severe reprimand;
- c) an order that the player attend appropriate counselling sessions as specified by GA; or
- d) suspension of the player's Australian Handicap (recommendation: no more than 1 month);
- e) such other penalty as determined from time to time.

5 CENTRAL REGISTER

- 5.1 GA may retain a record of all breaches that have been found against a Player or Caddie under this Code (and any other Code of Conduct applied by a State Association), the results of any appeals against such findings and any pending appeals. The Register may be accessed (and published from time to time) by any State Association or GA for the purposes of administering Competitions or state championships, events, competitions, practice sessions or major activities conducted or sanctioned by a State Association, or any State Association or GA codes of conduct and/or other related matters.
- 5.2 Where a Player or Caddie commits a breach, GA shall forward a copy of the Notice and notice of any appeals in relation to the breach to all State Associations and the player's Home Club, which should be kept on register.
- 5.3 A breach is only to be kept on record for a period of 24 months from the date such breach was committed or, in the case where the breach is the subject of an appeal, from the date the appeal is upheld.
- 5.4 GA will comply with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) when collecting or receiving information under this Code.