

**Comparison of USGA Rules of Amateur Status and NCAA Rules for Collegiate Golfers**

**Prepared by the USGA Amateur Status Staff with Assistance from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)**

**(Disclaimer: This chart compares the current USGA Rules of Amateur Status, effective January 2016, with current NCAA correlating rules. Please note that this chart is not all-inclusive of NCAA rules and that NCAA rules are subject to change. Therefore, student-athletes and coaches should always work with their institutional compliance officers for information regarding the applicable NCAA rules. In addition, NCAA member conferences and institutions may have more restrictive rules.)**

**(Please note that it is possible for a golfer to forfeit their amateur status but be able to play collegiate golf if the NCAA Amateurism Code has not been breached (e.g., giving instruction for compensation). In addition, a golfer may have forfeited collegiate eligibility but not amateur status (e.g. accepted a prize that exceeded the limit allowed by the NCAA Amateurism Code but was less than the \$750 limit in the Rules of Amateur Status))**

<b>Applicable USGA Rule</b>	<b>USGA Rules of Amateur Status</b>	<b>NCAA Rules for Collegiate Golfers</b>	<b>More Restrictive Rule</b>
Identify or conduct oneself as a professional golfer (Rule 2-1)	If an amateur golfer submits an application for a competition as a professional, he forfeits his amateur status at the time he submits the application.	If a collegiate golfer submits an application for a competition as a professional, he forfeits his collegiate eligibility at the time he submits the application even if the competition will not be held until after the golfer graduates.	Same
	An amateur golfer may enter a Tour Qualifying School and retain amateur status provided, in advance of play and in writing, he waives his right to any prize money in the competition.	A student-athlete may participate in a Tour Qualifying School provided the student-athlete certifies that he or she is competing in such competitions as an amateur and waives all rights to prize money.	Same

<p>Contracts with national unions or golf associations (Rule 2-2 (a))</p>	<p>An amateur golfer may enter into a contract and/or agreement with his national golf union or association, provided that he does not obtain payment, compensation or any financial gain, directly or indirectly, while still an amateur golfer, except as provided in the Rules (e.g., the golfer could receive competition expenses).</p> <p><i>Examples of permissible contracts would include the following:</i></p> <p>1. An agreement with a national golf union or association to pay back the investment in an amateur's development when he turns professional</p> <p>2. An agreement with a national golf union or association to spend a certain amount of time on promotion or development activities once the player turns professional.</p> <p>3. A contract and/or agreement with a national golf union or association to play in certain events or attend certain training programs, to participate in promotional activities, to wear the official national golf union or association clothing when representing that union as an amateur golfer or professional golfer.</p>	<p>Whether the NCAA would allow a student-athlete to enter into a contract with his national union or golf association would depend on the terms of the contract. For example, a golfer may not enter into a contract with an individual to market the student-athlete's athletics ability (e.g., agent) or sign a professional contract.</p> <p>1. Could be permitted if the expenses paid to individuals by a national golf union are permissible and the donations back to the national golf union once the individual turns professional are also permitted.</p> <p>2. Likely not permitted.</p> <p>3. Likely not permitted. However, the NCAA would need additional information on these types of contracts (terms, etc.); more specificity on the golfer's obligation under these contracts, and whether there is a promise of future compensation to the golfer for his participation in the promotional type activities.</p>	<p>NCAA</p> <p>NCAA</p> <p>NCAA</p> <p>NCAA</p>
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<p>Contracts with a Third Party (including but not limited to a professional agent or sponsor) (Rule 2-2(b))</p>	<p><i>Examples of contracts that would not be permitted include:</i></p> <p>1. An agreement with a third party that the player will play in particular amateur or professional events while he is still an amateur golfer.</p> <p>2. An agreement stipulating that a player must play with a particular brand of equipment while he is still an amateur golfer.</p>	<p>1. In general, not permitted. However, a golfer may receive expenses from a nonprofessional sponsor to play in the sponsor's event. However, the sponsor may not be considered an agent under NCAA legislation.</p> <p>2. Not permitted for enrolled or continuing student-athletes. Permitted for high school-aged golfers to receive equipment directly from manufacturer.</p>	<p>USGA</p> <p>Same</p>
<p>Prize Limits (Rule 3-2 (a))</p>	<p>An amateur golfer must not accept a prize or prize voucher of retail value in excess of \$750 or the equivalent of \$750. (High school aged golfers should be aware that his or her state high school athletic association may place limits on the amount of prizes that may be won without forfeiting high school eligibility).</p> <p>An amateur golfer must not accept a prize or prize voucher of retail value in excess of \$750 or the equivalent of \$750. An amateur golfer may not accept a cash prize or voucher redeemable for cash.</p>	<p>A student-athlete may receive a non-cash award for winning/participating in an event, while not representing his or her institution, provided the award is permissible (i.e., merchandise or a prize voucher) under the rules of the amateur governing body for the event (e.g., USGA).</p> <p>A student-athlete may accept prize money, or an award redeemable for cash, from the sponsor of an event in which the student-athlete is competing provided it does not exceed the actual and necessary expenses incurred by the student-athlete for the event.</p>	<p>Same</p> <p>USGA</p>

<p>Prize Limits (Rule 3-2 (a)) (Continued)</p>	<p>Although the USGA discourages players from selling merchandise won in a competition, there is nothing in the Rules that prohibits such a sale, provided that if the golfer is a golfer of golf skill or reputation, he does not use his name and/or likeness as a golfer to promote or sell the product.</p>	<p>The NCAA prohibits student-athletes and/or family members from selling merchandise won as a prize in a golf competition.</p>	<p>NCAA</p>
<p>Scholarships as Prizes (Rule 3-2a – see Decision 3-2a/15)</p>	<p>An amateur golfer may not accept a scholarship as a prize, regardless of the amount of the scholarship as this is considered playing for prize money.</p>	<p>For scholarship earned as a result of a player’s performance in a competition: Prior to enrollment in a collegiate institution, a scholarship is considered an award which is subject to the regulations of the amateur sports organization governing the competition.</p> <p>After enrollment in a collegiate institution, it is considered financial aid which must be certified as permissible by a member institution. Current college players who win a scholarship in competition are strongly encouraged to contact their athletics compliance officer to determine whether or not it can be considered permissible financial aid.</p>	<p>USGA</p>

Competition Expenses (Rule 4-2)	An amateur golfer may receive reasonable competition expenses, not exceeding the actual expenses incurred	The student-athlete may only accept up to actual and necessary expenses to participate in a competition provided the competition is otherwise permissible under NCAA legislation (e.g., outside competition rules).	Same
	An amateur golfer may receive expenses from a member of his family or a legal guardian	A player (both high school and current student-athlete) may accept actual and necessary competition-related expenses from a parent or legal guardian	Same
	An amateur golfer must not receive expenses, directly or indirectly, from a professional agent or any other similar source as determined by the Governing Body.	A player (both high school and current student-athlete) may accept actual and necessary competition-related expenses from any individual or entity other than an agent, a professional sports organization, or a representative of athletics interest (i.e., a booster).	Same
	A junior golfer may receive expenses directly from an outside source when competing in a competition limited to junior golfers.	For all competitions, expenses may be paid directly to the athlete from an otherwise permissible source under NCAA legislation. (Note: the NCAA does not differentiate between junior golfers and other golfers.)	Same
	For all other competitions, the expenses must be approved by and paid through the golfer's national, regional or state golf association.	For all competitions, expenses may be paid directly to the athlete from an otherwise permissible source under NCAA legislation. NCAA legislation would not permit a golfer to receive any competition expenses from an agent nor would it permit a golfer to receive expenses directly from a booster.	USGA

<p>Golf-Related Expenses are non-competition expenses and include:  (1) coaching costs, (2) golf equipment, (3) golf club dues, (4) medical treatment for conditions specifically affecting the playing of golf, and (5) costs for fitness training.  (Rule 4-3)</p>	<p>An amateur golfer may receive reasonable expenses, not exceeding actual expenses incurred, for non-competition golf-related activity.</p> <p>Exception: An amateur golfer must not receive expenses, directly or indirectly, from a professional agent or any other similar source as may be determined by the Governing Body.</p>	<p>The NCAA would allow the national government governing body for golf in a country (e.g., USGA), USOC, or the international equivalent of the USOC, or a governmental entity) to provide the necessary expenses for training including living expenses.</p>	<p>Same</p>
<p>Subsistence Expenses are non-competition expenses to assist with general living costs.  (Rule 4-4)</p>	<p>An amateur golfer may receive reasonable subsistence expenses, not exceeding actual expenses incurred, to cover basic essentials such as food, clothing shelter, along with any essential travel costs, provided the expenses are approved by and paid through the player’s national golf union or association (USGA in U.S.).</p> <p>Exception: An amateur golfer must not receive subsistence expenses, directly or indirectly, from a professional agent or any other similar source as may be determined by the Governing Body.</p>	<p>The NCAA would allow the national governing body for golf in a country (e.g., USGA), USOC, or the international equivalent of the USOC, or a governmental entity to provide the necessary expenses for training including living expenses.</p>	<p>Same</p>
<p>Giving Instruction for Compensation  (Rule 5-1)</p>	<p>An amateur golfer must not receive payment or compensation, directly or indirectly, for giving golf instruction.</p>	<p>A student-athlete is allowed to give golf instruction for compensation provided: institutional facilities are not used; the compensation is paid by the lesson recipient (or the recipient's family) and not another individual or entity; and the student-athlete does not use his or her name, picture or appearance to promote or advertise the availability of the instruction.</p>	<p>USGA</p>

<p>Lending Name or Likeness (Rule 6-2)</p>	<p>An amateur golfer of golf skill or reputation must not use that skill or reputation to obtain payment, compensation, personal benefit or any financial gain, directly or indirectly, for (i) promoting, advertising or selling anything, or (ii) allowing his name or likeness to be used by a third party for the promotion, advertisement or sale of anything.</p> <p>Even if no payment or compensation is received, an amateur golfer is deemed to receive a personal benefit by promoting, advertising or selling anything, or allowing his name or likeness to be used by a third party for the promotion, advertisement or sale of anything.</p> <p>Exception: An amateur golfer of golf skill or reputation may allow his name or likeness to be used to promote: (a) his national, regional, state or county golf union or association; or (b) a recognized charity (or similar good cause); or (c) subject to the permission of his national golf union or association, any golf competition or other event that is considered to be in the best interests of, or would contribute to the development of, the game.</p> <p>The amateur golfer must not obtain any payment, compensation or financial gain, directly or indirectly, for allowing his name or likeness to be used. However, he may receive reasonable expenses, not exceeding actual expenses incurred, in connection with the promotional activity.</p>	<p>After becoming a student-athlete, an individual shall not be eligible for participation in intercollegiate athletics if the individual: (a) accepts any remuneration for or permits the use of his or her name or picture to advertise, recommend or promote directly the sale or use of a commercial product or service of any kind; or (b) receives remuneration for endorsing a commercial product or service through the individual's use of such product or service.</p> <p>Provided certain criteria are met, a student-athlete's name, image or likeness may be used to support the promotional activities of an NCAA institution or conference, or a non-institutional charity, educational or nonprofit entity</p>	<p>Same</p>
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<p>Policy on Gambling (Continued)</p>	<p><u>Acceptable Forms of Gambling</u></p> <p>There is no objection to informal gambling or wagering among individual golfers or teams of golfers when it is incidental to the game. It is not practicable to define informal gambling or wagering precisely, but features that would be consistent with such gambling or wagering include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the players in general know each other;</li> <li>• participation in the gambling or wagering is optional and is limited to the players;</li> <li>• the sole source of all money won by the players is advanced by the players; and</li> <li>• the amount of money involved is not generally considered to be excessive.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore, informal gambling or wagering is acceptable provided the primary purpose is the playing of the game for enjoyment, not for financial gain.</p> <p>The Rules of Amateur Status do not apply to betting or gambling by amateur golfers on the results of a competition limited to or specifically organized for professional golfers.</p>	<p>A student-athlete who participates in sports wagering would be ineligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff member's or student athlete's own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contest; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.</p> <p>A student-athlete who participates in sports wagering would be ineligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff members or student athlete's own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contest; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.</p>	<p>NCAA</p> <p>NCAA</p>
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<p>Policy on Gambling</p>	<p><u>Unacceptable Forms of Gambling</u> Organized events designed or promoted to create cash prizes are not permitted.</p> <p>Other forms of gambling or wagering where there is a requirement for players to participate (e.g., compulsory sweepstakes) or that have the potential to involve considerable sums of money (e.g., calcuttas and auction sweepstakes – where players or teams are sold by auction) may be considered by a Governing Body to be contrary to the purpose of the Rules</p> <p>It is not practical to define unacceptable forms of gambling or wagering precisely, but features that would be consistent with such gambling or wagering include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in the gambling or wagering is open to non-players; and</li> <li>• the amount of money involved is generally considered to be excessive.</li> </ul> <p>An amateur golfer’s participation in gambling or wagering that is not approved may be considered contrary to the purpose of the Rules and may endanger his Amateur Status.</p>	<p>A student-athlete who participates in sports wagering would be ineligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff members or student athlete’s own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contest; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.</p>	<p>Same</p>
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