

This Code applies to all Players and Caddies competing in all SWGA Competitions.

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

To ensure proper standards of behaviour during all SWGA Competitions a Player or Caddie who commits an offence under this Code will face disciplinary action as determined by the appropriate SWGA Golf Operations Committee.

## 1. DEFINITIONS

**Association** – means the South Western Golf Association Incorporated, also known as SWGA.

**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 SWGA competitions including pennant, representative events and other competitions conducted under the auspices of the SWGA.

**Disciplinary Appeal Meeting** – means a meeting of the Member Clubs of the Association convened to hear a disciplinary appeal.

**Disciplinary Meeting** – means a meeting of the Golf Operations Committee convened for disciplinary action.

**Board** – means full Board of the South Western Golf Association

**Golf Operations Committee** – means the appropriate Men's or Women's Golf Operations Committee of the SWGA.

**Member** – means a club which is a member of the Association.

**SWGA** - means South Western Golf Association Inc.

**Player** - means a player or participant in a competition, where the context so admits, the word 'player' includes caddie.

## 2. OFFENCES

It is expected that all players and caddies will be subject to certain behaviour.  
SWGA will consider it an offence if a player or caddy:

**2.1 LOW GRADE OFFENCE** – means failure to comply with:

- Throwing or deliberately in anger breaks golf equipment.
- Publicly criticise the golf course, the Competition, the organisers, and sponsors.
- Utter audible obscenities during a Competition.
- Behaves in a manner that is detrimental to the performance of other Players.

**2.2 HIGH GRADE OFFENCE** – means failure to comply with:

- Physically attacks, verbally threatens, or racially vilifies a player, an official or person during a Competition.
- Sexual harassment of any kind that is likely to cause offense or humiliation
- Wrongfully removes or damages the facilities (course or clubhouse) of the Competition golf club.
- Wrongfully removes or damages property belonging to another player, an official or the tournament organiser.
- Deliberately breaks a Rule (as defined in the Rules of Golf).
- Commits an act to deliberately disqualify themselves or another player from the Competition.
- Deliberately returns a false score card.
- Cheating in any form.
- During a competition deliberately seeks to manipulate the player's Australian handicap.
- Consumes a prohibited substance during a Competition.
- Fails or refuses to co-operate with or obstructs any investigation by the Golf Operations Committee of the Player or Caddies conduct.
- Fails or refuses to co-operate with or obstructs a hearing by the Golf Operations Committee or the Appeal Tribunal.
- Behaves in a manner detrimental to the good name and reputation of the SWGA; or
- Brings the game of golf into disrepute.

**3. PENALTIES**

Please be aware that SWGA has a zero-tolerance policy for breaches of the Code of Conduct.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct may range from disqualification from an event, or a reprimand, to a maximum of 24 months suspension. Disqualification penalties may be imposed without prior notice or warning.

Subsequent breaches of the Code within a 12-month period will result in the maximum penalty.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

### **1. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

1.1 If the Golf Operations Committee is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a Player or Caddie the Golf Operations Committee must hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the Player or Caddie.

1.2 The Golf Operations Committee must not be biased against, or in favor of the Player or Caddie concerned.

### **2. NOTICE TO PLAYER OR CADDIE**

2.1 Before disciplinary action is taken against Player or Caddie the Golf Operations Committee must give written notice to the Player or Caddie:

2.1.1 Stating that the Association proposes to take disciplinary action against the Player or Caddie; and

2.1.2 Stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and

2.1.3 Specifying the date, place, and time of the meeting at which the Golf Operations Committee intends to consider the disciplinary action; and

2.1.4 Advising the Player or Caddie that they may do one or both of the following:

2.1.4.1 Attend the Disciplinary Meeting and address the Golf Operations Committee at that meeting.

2.1.4.2 Give a written statement to the Golf Operations Committee at any time before the Disciplinary Meeting.

2.1.5 Setting out the Player or Caddie appeal rights.

2.2 The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days and no later than 14 days before Disciplinary Meeting is held.

### **3. DECISION of GOLF OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

3.1 At the Disciplinary Meeting the Golf Operations Committee must –

3.1.1 Give the Player or Caddie an opportunity to be heard; and

3.1.2 Consider any written statement submitted by the Player or Caddie.

3.2 After complying with sub-rule (3.1) the Golf Operations Committee may –

3.2.1 Take no further action against the Player or Caddie: or

3.2.2 Subject to sub-rule (3.3)

3.2.2.1 Reprimand the Player or Caddie; or

3.2.2.2 Suspend the Player or Caddie for a specified period.

#### **4. APPEALS RIGHTS**

4.1 A Player or Caddie who has been suspended by the Association may give notice to the effect that he wishes to appeal against the suspension.

4.2 The notice must be in writing and given –

4.2.1 To the Board via the SWGA Secretary no later than 7 days after the vote.

4.3 If the Player or Caddie has given notice under sub-rule (4.2) a Disciplinary Appeal Meeting must be convened by the Board as soon as practicable but in any event not later than 21 days after the notice is received.

4.4 Notice of the Disciplinary Appeal Meeting must be given to each Member Club of the Association who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must –

4.4.1 Specify the date, time, and place of the meeting; and

4.4.2 State –

4.4.2.1 The name of the Player or Caddie against whom the disciplinary action has been taken; and

4.4.2.2 The grounds for taking that action; and

4.4.2.3 That at the Disciplinary Appeal Meeting the Member clubs present must vote on whether the decision to suspend the Player or Caddie should be upheld or revoked.

#### **5. DISCIPLINARY APPEAL MEETING**

5.1 At the Disciplinary Appeal Meeting –

5.1.1 No business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and

5.1.2 The Board must state the grounds for suspension of the Player or Caddie and the reasons for taking that action: and

5.1.3 The Player or Caddie who has been suspended must be given an opportunity to be heard.

5.2 After complying with sub-rule (5.1) Member clubs present and entitled to vote at the meeting must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the decision to suspend the Player or Caddie should be upheld or revoked.

5.3 The decision is upheld if not less than three quarters of the Member clubs voting at the meeting vote in favour of the decision.

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