

Golf Illawarra Code of Conduct (2017)

This Code of Conduct applies to amateur golfers and caddies, managers, club administrators and supporters in all Championships, major activities, events and competitions conducted by Golf Illawarra in addition to any other requirements of Players and Caddies as set out in tournament conditions, local rules or by-laws of clubs hosting Golf Illawarra events.

Each Player, Caddie, Manager or Supporter must also adhere to commonly accepted standards of golfing etiquette and sportsmanship. In order to ensure proper standards of behaviour during a competition any Player, Caddie, Manager or Supporter 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 A of this document
Caddie	means the definition as per the Rules of Golf
Code	means this Code of Conduct
Committee	means the Committee of Management of Golf Illawarra
Competition	means a Championship, event, competition, practice session or major activity conducted or sanctioned by Golf Illawarra
Conduct Officers	means two officials of Golf Illawarra appointed at any time to consider, hear and determine a report during or after the conclusion of a competition
Investigative Officer	means a person appointed by Golf Illawarra to administer a report
District Representatives	means Teams or Players selected by Golf Illawarra to represent at selected events.
Notice	means notice in writing by letter, facsimile, other written means of communication, or email
Manager/Administrator	Means any person nominated by or acting as a representative of any Competing club
Player	means a player or participant in a competition. Player also includes a caddie and/or parent
Report	means any oral or written statement by any person of an alleged offence by a player under this Code
Supporter	Means any person identified as supporting any competitor or Club in a Golf Illawarra event.

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 event at that course; or
- d) at any time day or night 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 Golf Illawarra.

2.1 A Player, Caddie, Manager, Supporter is guilty of a Category A offence under this Code if they:

- a) physically attack or abuse, 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 Golf Illawarra. This includes excessive consumption of alcohol or no alcohol if under 18 years of age; or
- l) brings the game of golf into disrepute.

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

- 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 (player, caddy, manager) under the Golf Illawarra Doping Policy during the course of any round played in a competition;
- f) does not 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 is guilty of a Category C offence if the Player:

- a) fails to comply with the Rules of Golf as amended by Local Rules in force at any competition, or fails to comply with any other rules, by-laws, directions or instructions, including dress regulations, as specified by Golf Illawarra or the Championship Play Committee for that competition or any other duly authorised official;
- 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 during the course of play in a competition or allows the player's caddy to do so; or
- g) 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;
 - ii. in the case of a match play event, a finalist or semi-finalist.

2.4 If a Player, Caddie, Manager or Supporter commits two or more Category C offences during a competition, they are deemed to have committed a Category B offence and subject to penalties prescribed for a Category B offence. If they commit two or more Category B offences during a competition, they are 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. Penalties for continued breaches during this period will be at the sole discretion of the Conduct officers and Golf Illawarra.

3. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

3.1 Any report made to Golf **Illawarra** 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.

3.3 Should the offence be considered to have an appropriate penalty as per Clause 3.2 b) then the Parties are to be informed and:

- a) be presented with the details of the offence;
- b) be permitted to present his/her explanation;
- c) the Conduct Officers will take into account all the facts when issuing the appropriate penalty; and
- d) this penalty will be communicated to the Player, Caddie, Manager, Supporter by Golf **Illawarra** (Notice).

4. PENALTIES

4.1 If a Player, Caddie Manager or Supporter is found guilty of a Category A offence, any of the following penalties, a minimum of 3 months and not normally exceeding more than 2 years duration, may be imposed:

- a) disqualify the them from the competition;
- b) an order that the they attend appropriate counseling sessions as specified by Golf **Illawarra**;
- c) a recommendation to the offenders home club that their membership be suspended for a set period of time;
- d) a recommendation to the their District Association that the they not be permitted to enter District Events;

- e) a recommendation to the their District Association that the player be suspended from a District Squad;
- f) suspension of the their Australian Handicap;
- g) suspension from the State Squad;
- h) in the case of an offence under clauses 2.1(d) or (e) of this Code, an order that the they 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, Caddie, Manager or Supporter 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) disqualify them from the competition;
- b) an order that they attend appropriate counseling sessions as specified by Golf **Illawarra**;
- c) a recommendation to the their home club that the their membership be suspended for a set period of time;
- d) a recommendation to the player's District Association that the they not be permitted to enter District Events;
- e) a recommendation to the their District Association that the they be suspended from a District Squad;
- f) a penalty under the Doping Policy of Golf **Illawarra** (if applicable);
- g) suspension of the their Australian Handicap;
- h) suspension from the State Squad; or
- i) such other penalty as determined from time to time.

4.3 If a Player, Caddie, Manager or Supporter is found guilty of a Category C offence, any of the following penalties may be imposed:

- a) a severe reprimand;
- b) an order that they attend appropriate counseling sessions as specified by Golf **Illawarra**; or
- c) suspension of their Australian Handicap
- d) such other penalty as determined from to time.

5. APPEAL PROCEDURE

The appeal procedure for determination of breach by a Player Caddie, Manager or Supporter is detailed in Appendix A of this document.

6. CENTRAL REGISTER

6.1 Golf Australia will retain a record of all breaches that have been found against a Player, Caddie, Manager or Supporter the results of any appeals from such findings and any pending appeals. Golf **Illawarra** will forward to Golf NSW the details of any breaches that have been found against a them, the results of any appeals from such findings and any pending appeals.

6.2 Where a Player, Caddie, Manager or Supporter commits a breach, Golf **Illawarra** must forward a copy of the Notice and notice of any appeals in relation to the breach to the their Home District Association and Home Club which must be kept on register.

6.3 A breach is only to be kept on a Player, Caddie, Manager or Supporter record for a period of 24 months from the date such breach was committed or, 12 months after the period of which the penalty expired. In the case where the breach is the subject of an appeal, from the date the appeal is upheld.

6.4 Golf **Illawarra** will comply with the Privacy Act (1988) when collecting or receiving information under this Code.

