



THE IGU'S ADVISORY TO AMATEUR GOLFERS ON COACHING
EFFECTIVE 1st APRIL, 2016

A. INTRODUCTION

With the IGU launching several initiatives to exponentially grow the game in India over the last few years; the need for more coaches to teach the basics to those taking up the game for the first time and to those seeking to enhance their skills, as well, has become more pronounced. The IGU's National Golf Academy of India (NGAI) has made efforts to accelerate its TRAIN THE TRAINERS program and it is expected that there will be available a large panel of qualified Coaches dotting the country.

To assist these coaches, the Council of the IGU had deliberated on this and reached a conclusion that it was necessary for top amateurs, not only at the elite level but also at the Club level to participate in this expansion. Such top amateurs who are usually low handicap golfers have a deeper understanding of the mechanics of the game and will be ideally suited to impart basic training to beginners at the Club level.

However as the R&A's Amateur Status Rules, in effect in India and administered by the IGU, are abundantly clear of Amateurs receiving compensation for instruction, it had become necessary for the IGU to put out an advisory detailing how Amateur Golfers may receive compensation for providing instruction without being in default of their Amateur Status.

With the Rules on amateur Status seeing a change, effective 1st April, 2016, this amended advisory is now set out.

B. GOVERNING RULE

The governing Rule is RULE 5 : INSTRUCTION

5-1 – General

Except as provided in the Rules, an amateur golfer must not receive payment or compensation, directly or indirectly, for giving golf instruction.

5-2 - Where Payment Permitted

a. Schools, Colleges, Camps, etc

An amateur golfer who is (i) an employee of an educational institution or system or (ii) a counsellor at a camp or other similar organised programme, may receive payment or compensation for golf instruction to students in the institution, system or camp, provided that the total time devoted to such instruction comprises less than 50 per cent of the time spent in the performance of all duties as such an employee or counsellor.

b. Approved Programmes

An amateur golfer may receive expenses, payment or compensation for giving golf instruction as part of a programme that has been approved in advance by the Governing Body.

5-3 - Instruction in Writing

An amateur golfer may receive payment or compensation for golf instruction in writing, provided his ability or reputation as a golfer was not a major factor in his employment or in the commission or sale of his work.



C.DEFINITIONS

a. Educational Institution or System: An educational institution or system may be a school, college or university or a similar body

b. Camp: A camp or other similar organised programme may be a day or overnight camp in which there may or may not be activities other than Golf included in the programme, such as summer camp organised for young people.

c. Club : As defined by the IGU

d. Approved Programmes: The Rule is written in deliberately broad terms to enable it to apply to a variety of coaching programmes. The intention of the Rule is to encourage the involvement of volunteers with programs aimed at introducing young people to golf which such volunteers providing support to qualified members of the NGAI. However the Rule is not limited in its application to apply only to the coaching of Junior Golfers and is, therefore, applied by the IGU to programmes aimed at developing the game at all levels. It is considered reasonable to compensate volunteers for their time in coaching as part of such a programme. It is a condition of Rule 5-2. b that the program must be approved in advance by the IGU thereby ensuring the program is co-ordinated or sanctioned appropriately.

It is a matter for the IGU's Technical, Rules & Amateur Status Committee (TRASC) to decide whether a particular program qualifies for approval under the Rule and the IGU is setting the undernoted criteria for a program to follow in order for it to be approved.

Criteria:

- 1) The NGAI will be consulted to coordinate the program
- 2) Such coaching shall be provided to those over the age of 18 only.
- 3) An amateur Golfer shall not coach for more than 20 hours in a month
- 4) For this an amateur Golfer shall not receive payment or compensation worth more than INR 300.00 (Indian Rupees Three Hundred Only) or part thereof per hour of instruction.
- 5) Should there be a Junior program in the Club or institution, the amateur Golfer shall offer pro bono service, under the guidance of a qualified coach for such Juniors for a minimum of 6 hours per month.
- 6) Every approved program will be given a unique identification number and will be valid for a period of 1 year only and shall be reviewed annually by the IGU.



D.WHAT AN AMATEUR GOLFER MAY DO

An amateur golfer may:

1. Give a series of basic lessons in playing golf at a golf centre provided he does not receive any payment or compensation.
2. Give voluntary golf instruction and suggest to his pupils that they make a donation (without any obligation to do so) to a recognized charity after each lesson provided he does not directly or indirectly benefit from such donation.
3. As a full time teacher in a school or educational institution, employed by an education authority, receive separate payment to teach Golf provided:
 - a. The classes are held at the institution or other education authority by whom the teacher is employed and not by any other authority.
 - b. Only students within the jurisdiction of the particular authority are taught
 - c. Payment is to be made by the education authority and not directly by the students themselves.
 - d. The total time devote to Golf instruction during the year comprises less than 50 % of the time spent during the year in the performance of all duties in the Institution.
4. Give instruction for payment as a summer camp counsellor of an educational institution subject to 3. D, above.
5. Write a single instructional article for a publication for with which the player has no connection.
6. Write an instructional pamphlet for free distribution such as for junior clinics and programmes

E.WHAT AN AMATEUR GOLFER MAY NOT DO

An amateur golfer may not:

1. Give instruction when employed by a Golf Club, such as a Club Manager even in the absence of any direct payment.
2. Travel with a teaching professional and give instruction while working as a shop assistant even in the absence of any direct payment.
3. Accept playing or practice privileges at a Golf Club in return for giving Golf instruction.
4. Be employed to teach golf instruction to students such as professional, volunteers etc
5. Write instructional articles or tips in any promotional material (including newsletters to clients) for a player's firm or any other business
6. Write a series of instructional articles for a publication
7. As a golfer of skill or reputation, lend his name or likeness to the promotion or advertisement of an approved program



F. CONCLUSION

It must be stressed that these guidelines do not cover all aspects of the Rules of Amateur Status. Where any doubt arises concerning a proposed course of action, the Indian Golf Union, the Governing Body of the Rules in India, should be consulted.

For more information on the points above, please refer to the Rules of Amateur Status and Decisions on the Rules of Amateur Status at www.randa.org

G. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

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