



THE INDIAN GOLF UNION

THE IGU'S GUIDELINES ON SPONSORED HANDICAP TOURNAMENTS EFFECTIVE 1st JANUARY, 2016

The President/Captain,

IGU Constituent Golf Clubs,

Sub: Sponsored Handicap Tournaments

Greetings from the Indian Golf Union!

We take this opportunity to discuss with you an issue that concerns us greatly, which is the violation of the prize limits and expenses rules, in sponsored golf events around the country

Amateur Golf is a sport that, per force, needs to be free from uncontrolled financial incentive and the R&A's Amateur Status Rules that are in effect in India and administered by the IGU, need to be strictly complied with.

The IGU has taken several initiatives to educate Clubs and Amateur Golfers and ensure that they are not in breach of their status by willfully or unknowingly following practices that are against the established norms.

The IGU is, therefore, issuing this advisory, on the running of a sponsored event that needs to be approved and or sanctioned by the IGU.

The governing Rule of the R&A's Amateur Status is Rule 4-2, which is reproduced, hereunder, verbatim:

Amateur Status- Rule 4-2g

Sponsored Handicap Competitions

An amateur golfer may receive expenses when competing in a sponsored handicap competition, provided the competition has been approved as follows:

- (i) Where the competition is to take place in the player's own country, the annual approval of the Governing Body must first be obtained in advance by the sponsor; and
- (ii) Where the competition is to take place in more than one country or involves golfers from another country, the approval of each Governing Body must first be obtained in advance by

the sponsor. The application for this approval should be sent to the Governing Body in the country where the competition commences.

GUIDELINES

1. The organiser or sponsor must obtain the approval of the event, in advance, from the IGU.
2. The event's proposed conditions of competition (including the venue of the final) and an estimate of the level of expenses to be paid by a sponsor on behalf of amateur golfers competing in the event is to be submitted.
3. If the final is to be played elsewhere, it is the responsibility of the IGU to seek the approval of the Governing Body where the final of the event is to be played.
4. The event must be a handicap individual or a handicap team event where the handicaps are applied. Events designed primarily for low handicap players where gross scores count, will not be approved.
5. The event must have a sponsor who financially supports the event for charitable or promotional reasons;
6. If an entry fee is to be paid, the event will not be approved, if it is entirely financially supported by these fees;
7. All prizes must conform with Rule 3-2 and in particular, the total prizes received by any one person throughout the event must not exceed the limit laid down in Rule 3-2a, as determined by the IGU.
8. The IGU retains the sole discretion in determining the reasonability and level of the expenses.
9. All events approved under Rule 4-2g will be given a reference number (e.g. "Approved for the payment of expenses Rule 4-2g/IGU/01/2016"), which should be included on all of the event's advertising literature and entry forms.
10. The IGU's decision is final and binding.

The IGU is confident that all stakeholders, in the conduct of sponsored handicap events, will recognize the gravity of the situation and the need to conform to Rules, so as to prevent Amateur Golfers from forfeiting their Amateur Status.

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