



# GOLF SA CODE OF CONDUCT



## INTRODUCTION

Golf SA Inc requires that players competing in events under its auspices adhere to a strict Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct should apply in addition to any other requirements of players specified by tournament conditions, local rules and by-laws of clubs hosting Golf Association events.

On entering a Golf SA event, each player voluntarily submits to exceptional standards of behaviour and ethical conduct. The highest degree of sportsmanship is expected from every player.

Players are under an obligation to avoid acts that are unsportsmanlike or detrimental to the game of Golf.

Violation of any provision of the Code of Conduct is regarded as unacceptable and inappropriate conduct and may render a player subject to action as determined by the Committee.

In this Code:

**'Event'** means any Event conducted by the Golf Association including championships, major events, Vardon trophy events and shall include approved practice sessions.

**'The Committee'** means the Golf SA Disciplinary Committee as appointed by the Board

**'The Course'** means any Course or clubhouse at which an Event is played.

## 2. CODE OF CONDUCT

Players shall not:

- a) during any event engage in conduct which is detrimental to the game of Golf, Golf SA or any other associated body;
- b) physically or verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person;
- c) use profane or abusive language, throw or break clubs, wilfully damage the Course, criticise the Course, the competition, the sponsors or officials connected with the competition or behave on the Course in a manner which will bring discredit to the game of Golf or Golf SA;
- d) observe a breach of the code by any other player during an Event and fail to co-operate in any inquiry;
- e) deliberately break the Rules of Golf;
- f) fail to comply with the Rules of Golf as amended by any local rules in force at any Event or fail to comply with any other rules, by-laws, directions or instructions given by Golf SA;
- g) undertake measures in order to manipulate their handicap;
- h) commit any criminal offence against the club or officials where the Event is played;
- i) repeatedly commit infringements of Golf etiquette;
- j) refuse to comply with the dress regulations and host club dress regulations;
- k) continually fail to play without undue delay;
- l) Mobile Phones – The use of a mobile or portable phone by a competitor or his/her caddy whilst on the course during a stipulated round is prohibited;
- m) Alcohol – The consumption of alcohol by players and caddies on the course during a stipulated round is strictly prohibited;

- n) commit any of the following breaches during an Event:
  - i) **Failure to complete a round:**  
Any player deliberately disqualifying himself save and except for a breach of the Rules requiring such disqualification or picking up his/her ball without playing out the hole shall be deemed not to have exercised his/her maximum golf skill nor to have played in an appropriate manner.
  - ii) **Withdrawal during a tournament**  
During a round a player may withdraw either because of illness or other physical disability which requires medical attention nor due to a serious personal emergency. The player shall immediately notify the Championship Committee representative of the reason for withdrawal. Failure to respond or submit satisfactory and acceptable evidence shall render the player liable to disciplinary action.
  - iii) **Failure to complete scorecard**  
Any player failing to hand in his/her card at the completion of a round in accordance with the Rules of Golf will be liable to a disciplinary action.
  - iv) **Failure to compete after entering**  
Any player who has entered a tournament must complete all rounds for which the player is eligible including pre-qualifying rounds. Should a player find himself/herself unable to compete for any reason, the player must give notice of inability to play prior to the day of the competition. A player will be subject to disciplinary action should no notification be received as to the withdrawal from an Event.
  - v) **Failure to attend presentation**  
The first two trophy winners in any stroke play Event and all finalists and semi-finalists in any match play competition must attend the presentation unless an adequate reason for non-attendance is given to a representative of the Championship Committee at the specific Event. Failure to comply may render the player liable to disciplinary action.

## 2 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Any breach shall be reported as soon as possible to an Association representative or an official of the Club hosting the Event.

Any breaches of the Code of Conduct reported following the conclusion of an Event shall be immediately referred to the Committee for consideration.

The infringing player will be notified of the meeting of the Committee and may attend and be heard in relation to the breach and proposed penalty.

## 3 BREACHES OF CODE OF CONDUCT - PENALTIES

Each breach of the Code of Conduct will be considered on the basis of all available facts relevant to the alleged incident.

Following consideration, the Committee has the discretion to impose an applicable penalty relevant to the particular misdemeanor committed by a player.

In general, penalties will range as follows:

- a) Recommendation to player's home club that the player's membership be suspended for a set period of time;
- b) Suspension of entry to Golf SA Events for a specified period of time;
- c) Withdrawal of a player's Australian Handicap;
- d) Suspension of a player's Australian Handicap; and
- e) Other applicable penalties as determined by the Committee.

Upon a determination that a player has breached the Code of Conduct and having imposed an applicable penalty, the Committee will formally inform the player, the player's home club and Country District Golf Association (if applicable.)

In addition, breaches that the Committee classifies as a major infringement will be tabled at the Association's Board Meetings and recorded in the Minutes.

.....  
**PLAYER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I ..... *(insert full name)*

As a Golf SA Player or Member of a representative Team/Squad hereby agree to abide by the Golf SA Code of Conduct.

Signature (Player).....Date.....

Signature (Parent/Guardian).....Date.....

(To Be Signed by the Parent/Guardian in addition to the Player if the Player is Under 18 Years)  
The Parent/Guardian signing this form agrees to bind the Player and also agrees to bind himself/herself as if the Parent /Guardian were in the place of the Player.

*A signed & dated copy of this Document is required to be lodged with the Golf SA Office*

*PO Box 356 TORRENSVILLE PLAZA 5031*  
*or*  
*249 Henley Beach Road TORRENSVILLE 5031*

[www.golfsa.com.au](http://www.golfsa.com.au)