

The Amateur and His Expenses

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Within the next six weeks the USGA will conduct two amateur tournaments in which contestants will be permitted to accept expense money. Lest false impressions arise, it needs to be stressed that both tournaments are exceptional.

It is still a basic rule that a player forfeits amateur status for accepting expenses, in money or otherwise. The only exemptions are:

(a) Players in the USGA Amateur Public Links Championship at Atlanta in July may accept, from funds administered by a USGA representative, money for travel and up to \$6 per day for living expenses.

(h) Boys under 18 may accept expenses. Thus, any player in the USGA Junior Amateur Championship at the University of Michigan in August may have his expenses paid. However, a special rule for this Championship limits the sources from which expenses may be accepted and prohibits receiving them from *commercial* sources.

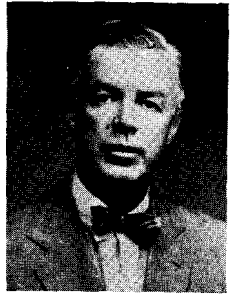
(c) The other exceptions pertain to USGA financing of the Walker Cup and the Curtis Cup Teams and to players representing schools, colleges and the military services when competing under their auspices.

The reasons for the exceptions are self-evident.

The reasons for barring expenses to amateurs generally should be equally apparent. If there were no such rule, there doubtless would arise a class of players who would wander from tournament to tournament, with their expenses paid, and who would in effect make the playing of golf their business. They would not be amateurs in any sense of the word. It would not be fair for them to compete against others who played solely for pleasure.

There you have an essential reason for having any Rules of Amateur Status at all. Their purpose is to provide a basis of fair competition.

The professional presumptively holds an advantage over the amateur by reason of devoting himself to his profession, which is an honorable one. Anyone who makes golf his business should compete with professionals.



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Actually, there is only one Rule of Amateur Status. It is the Definition of an Amateur Golfer, Section 1 in the USGA code, and it provides simply:

"An amateur golfer is one who plays the game solely as a non-remunerative or non-profit-making sport."

The rest of the Rules deal with interpretations and exceptions and with procedure for reinstatement.

Any golfer who is motivated solely by the spirit of playing the game as a sport, for pleasure and recreation, should be able to answer almost any question that can arise on the subject.

But every amateur has a further duty to know the technical Rules of Amateur Status, equally as much as he has an obligation to know the rules of play. If he does not do so, he may find himself one day in the same bewildered position as the chap who accepted expenses to the Amateur Public Links Championship — quite properly-but then accepted expenses to another tournament-and thereby disqualified himself from amateur competition.

The USGA has no police system. It expects amateurs to be as honorable in maintaining their status as they are in returning the proper score.

Golf's code applies equally off the course as on it. It is largely because of this code that the game has thrived and retained its charm. It is a code in which golfers can take justifiable pride.