

No Expenses in Amateur Team Match

Last year the Pacific Northwest and the California Golf Associations sought USGA approval to finance, from their respective Association funds, certain expenses of players in the Morse Trophy Match series between the two groups.

After extensive consideration the USGA Executive Committee disapproved, by a large majority, a proposal to amend the USGA By-Laws to permit amateurs to accept expenses in such situations. The vote was overwhelmingly against the proposal.

The USGA advised the Pacific Northwest and the California Associations in part as follows:

"The Executive Committee's action was taken after serious consideration and investigation covering almost a year. While the individual members of the Committee were not obliged to express their views in casting their votes, it may be said that by and large the sentiment was that

any relaxation in the present Rules of Amateur Status would be contrary to the best interests of golf.

"A number of members of the Committee felt that although acceptance of expenses in your case might be well controlled, to make a further exception to the Rules of Amateur Status would set up a precedent whose end results could not be foreseen. Such an exception could, it was pointed out, be used as a subterfuge to pay an individual's expenses to an individual competition closely related with a team competition.

"The Committee was mindful of the general breakdown in standards of amateurism which seems to afflict many games today. They felt that now more than ever those who have golf's best interests at heart should uphold amateur standards."

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Rivals in Morse Cup Match



Here are the participants in the 1951 Morse Cup Match, an annual team contest between the Pacific Northwest and the California Golf Associations. Standing, left to right: Ray Weston, Bill Mawhinney, Bob Atkinson, Dick Yost, Harry Givan, Al Mengert, Forest Watson, non-playing captain, all of the Northwest; Ken Venturi, California; Erv Parent, Northwest; John Dawson, Bruce McCormick, Chapin Hunt, non-playing captain, all of California. Kneeling: Jack Westland, Northwest; John B. Morse, whose father, S. F. B. Morse, donated the trophy; Tal Smith, Jim Ferrie, Bob Gardner, Bob Cardinal and Dr. Bud Taylor, all of California.