

# Amateur Status in College Golf

After a prolonged investigation, the USGA Executive Committee concluded last winter that several golfers associated with North Texas State College, in Denton, Texas, had not conducted themselves in conformity with the Rules of Amateur Status.

The policy in such cases is to so inform the individuals and, in due course, any associations directly concerned, but not to initiate public announcement of the action. The USGA does not want to embarrass any individual publicly. If the individual chooses to make the matter public, the Association has no objection.

In this case, several of the individuals concerned did make public the fact that they had received letters from the Association informing them that they were no longer amateur golfers under USGA Rules. They also were told that they could apply for reinstatement if they so desired.

Since the case as a whole is now a matter of public knowledge and interest, the Association is no longer constrained on its broad aspects.

As a starting point, it should be clear that the action was taken against a group of individuals, and not against the College. The College has been entirely cooperative in the matter and has undertaken to conduct its golf activities in conformity with the Rules of Amateur Status in the future.

### Three Principles Involved

While the cases of almost all the individuals involved varied in detail, the violations concerned two principles:

**"Rule 2-3: Receiving compensation for giving instruction in playing golf . . .**

**"Rule 2-9: Accepting expenses, in money or otherwise, in connection with a golf competition or exhibition (except from**

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE USGA

### REGULAR

Antioch Golf Course, Cal.  
 Blythe Country Club, Cal.  
 Cuyuna Country Club, Minn.  
 Detroit Amateur Golf Club, Pa.  
 Eagles Mere Golf Club, Pa.  
 Grand Rapids Country Club, Mich.  
 Greenwood Country Club, N. J.  
 Griffin Ladies Golf Association, Ga.  
 Island Hills Country Club, N. Y.  
 Maui Country Club, Hawaii  
 Meadow Brook Golf Club, Utah  
 Oakwood Country Club, Okla.  
 Tam O'Shanter Country Club, Mich.  
 Temple Country Club, Tex.

### ASSOCIATE

Casselberry Country Club, Fla.

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one or whom the player is normally dependent) . . . Exception: (c) As a representative of a recognized educational institution . . . in (1) team events or (2) other events which are limited to representatives of recognized educational institutions . . . "

The Association has long considered that "an amateur golfer is one who plays the game solely as a non-remunerative or non-profit-making sport." It believes that anyone who receives any form of compensation for his ability to play golf violates this definition. The Association's objective, of course, is to protect those who play solely for pleasure from having to compete against a group which is subsidized.

In this case, the evidence that some individuals had been compensated by work scholarships for instructing classes in golf and/or that some had accepted expenses in connection with a non-college golf competition was conclusive. It also appeared that some of the individuals had committed the violations knowingly, since their attention had been brought directly to the Rules of Amateur Status in previous communications. The action, therefore, became mandatory.