

AN INQUIRING EYE ON GOLF SCHOLARSHIPS

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IN recent months newspapers throughout the country have given considerable space on the sports pages to the problems which have arisen with regard to the granting of scholarships and other aid to college athletes.

The USGA has also been concerned over a period of time with this problem as it relates to golfers. Effective in 1953, the Executive Committee authorized an exception for scholarships to golfers, if "approved by a regular authority of the institution awarding all scholarships." This exception, based primarily on rules and regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and of various college conferences, now provides that a student may accept a scholarship "granted and approved by the institution's regular central authority awarding all scholarships."

While this provision is reasonable and fundamentally sound, since golf ability should not prevent acceptance of a scholarship to which a student would be ordinarily entitled, there is difficulty in the application and administration of the rule.

USGA Survey

Some ten months ago, the USGA undertook to survey scholarship policies by sending a questionnaire to colleges and universities throughout the country. The 97 responses were most gratifying and enlightening. The tabulation of the answers to the following general questions is based on the total number of answers:

Who controls the grant of scholarship to athletes?

With virtual unanimity, the responses indicated that the USGA rule was followed since it was patterned after NCAA and conference regulations. However, it was apparent that the influence of the athletic departments ranged, for all prac-



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tical purposes, from little or none to the actual designation of recipients, particularly where a certain number of scholarships were to be allotted to athletes. Scholastic requirements among the colleges varied, too.

Is the grant of funds to athletes permitted, other than through an office of the university?

Except in the cases of the various cadet scholarship programs, the answers were negative, although recent publicity has indicated otherwise, at least for some sports.

In the granting of scholarships to athletes, what items of expense are paid and in what amount?

Generally, scholarships at the maximum covered tuition, room, board, laundry, books, athletic equipment and pocket money. The cost of items granted averaged approximately \$795 per year to in-state students and \$875 to out-of-state students in state universities. The range was from minor tuition charges in some state universities to a maximum of \$1,600 for a full scholarship.

Should the USGA approve college scholarships to golfers?

Eighty-two percent of the answers were affirmative.

Has the college ever awarded scholarship to a golfer?

Forty-eight percent of the answers were affirmative, but it was apparent that in a number of the colleges and universities golf is not or has not yet become an important part of the athletic program.

In scholarships awarded to golfers, what items of expense were included?

Fifty-five per cent limited expenses to tuition and fees, 27 percent to all items ordinarily granted to athletes, while 9 percent indicated partial expense and 9 percent to "need," both of which classifications apparently included tuition.

What items of expense should the USGA approve?

Sixty-five percent indicated a desire for approval of all items of expense permitted under NCAA or conference rules for any athlete. The remaining opinions were divided almost equally between a limitation to tuition, partial expense or need.

On the whole, the survey unearthed no conditions considered to be definitely harmful or detrimental to the best interests of the game, although there appeared to be some instances where, under prevailing practices, golf skill or reputation could be the determining factor in gaining a scholarship award, and others where the amount of the scholarships would be quite liberal for golfers.

It should also be noted that in recent years some colleges and universities unable to field and maintain major sports teams have profitably switched athletic emphasis to other sports, including golf, and are concentrating on the development of outstanding teams in these areas only.

Although the USGA Executive Committee has determined to make no change at this time in the existing rule as a result of the survey, it will continue to scrutinize collegiate scholarship policies and practices involving amateur golfers.

The USGA also desires to express its appreciation to the officials of the various colleges and universities for their excellent cooperation, not only in responding so promptly and completely to the questionnaire, but also in helping over the years to maintain the spirit of amateurism in the game of golf.

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