

THE VALUE OF BEING A TRUE AMATEUR

by

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THE United States Golf Association defines an amateur as "... one who plays the game solely as a non-remunerative or non-profit-making sport."

A true amateur plays golf for sheer enjoyment—because he loves the game. He loves its challenges, its competition; he loves being out under the sky amid the beauty of the green fairways. He loves the friendships and the comradeship of his fellow players.

He thrills at a good shot and suffers disappointment at a poor one. Each shot of an opponent either encourages or disheartens him. Yet, all this is in an atmosphere of sociability and good fellowship.

Golf presents more challenges than any other sport. Every course, every hole, each shot and each putt is a challenge.

There is competition from the first tee to the last hole. If a player is not competing against an opponent or against the field, he is competing with par or his own course record.

He is always competing against something. And while the competition is very keen, it is not a life or death struggle—it is friendly and it is fun, and is beneficial to his mental and physical well being.

The challenge of golf is just as keen to a player trying to break 100, as it is to one trying to break 70. Golf is for everyone. It was not designed for only the low scorers. Had it been there would be no courses.

The value of golf is not found in a low score. While the ability to score well may bring a certain satisfaction, it is the striving which brings the thrills and the joys of playing the game. There is an inner satisfaction from playing the game by its

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GOLF PROVERBS

He's an unwise pro that beats his only pupil.
The hole is greater than a half.
The longer the grass, the shorter the temper.
Never say "Dead."
Up all night, down all day.
Putt in haste and repent at leisure.
All holes are blind to those who cannot play.

Gerald Batchelor

Rules, and as a gentleman and sportsman—regardless of the ultimate score.

Missing the Boat

As one plays golf—so is he. If an amateur plays with an ulterior motive—if he plays for any reason other than the joy of playing—if he is so concerned with winning a dollar or so, that he will make a sharp wager, or, if to win he will violate the Rules or the Spirit of Golf (which is the spirit of fairness), he has "missed the boat."

If he can do those things and live with himself, he not only has a poor roommate, but he will never get from golf the many things it offers. He is not a true amateur, and certainly not a credit to the game, and golf would be better off without him.

Golf opens many doors to an amateur—but if he plays for the sole purpose of opening doors, he will find them closed.

The true amateur plays because he loves golf; he would rather contribute to it than take something from it.

The professional also loves golf. But it is his business, it is his work. Golf is not the business of the amateur. To him it is a release from his occupation. I firmly believe, that to be a professional in the fullest meaning of the term, he first must have been a true amateur.

The true amateur status is valuable and its rewards are many and gratifying.