

WHY AMATEURISM IS DENIED

PHYS. ED. TEACHER OF GOLF

A basic principle concerning compensation

Johnny B. Crasher is a fictitious but talented amateur golfer on the faculty of a small mid-western college. He is an assistant professor in the department of physical education.

Crasher's duties, until last fall, consisted of 15 hours of weekly course instruction and coaching both the swimming and the tennis teams.

The departmental chairman, Crasher's boss, decided to enlarge his curriculum by adding courses of instruction in specific sports, golf included. Well aware of Crasher's feats in sectional and club tournaments, the chairman offered Crasher the job of teaching the indoor golf class.

Crasher loved golf and was eager to be rid of a gym class stuffed with languid students in attendance only because their presence was required, so he accepted without reservations.

The college president patted the departmental chairman on the back for his ingenuity; the students were delighted with the opportunity to receive golf instruction without additional tuition charges; and Crasher found that the extra time spent with a club in his hands improved his game no end.

Is Crasher an Amateur?

But what about Crasher's relationship with the amateur golfers he competes against? It's apparent that at least part of his compensation from the college is now derived from the class he instructs in golf. Is he entitled to retain amateur status?

The USGA Executive Committee firmly says "no" and has always said "no" when asked to rule on situations closely paralleling the fictitious Mr. Crasher's.

The Committee's stand, often misunderstood by some who claim the USGA is needlessly finical in such cases, deserves a full hearing:

Fundamentally, to receive compensation for giving golf instruction is a pri-

mary violation of the amateur code, and always has been.

Teachers are Professionals

Physical education teachers at educational institutions are trained professionals at teaching sports. When they teach golf, they are not amateurs in golf. If a National Amateur Champion were to become a physical education instructor and his duties included teaching golf, it would not be fair or logical for him to compete as an amateur against amateurs.

This is a common concept in sports. A paid sports coach in, say, basketball is not allowed to play amateur basketball under A.A.U. rules.

To grant amateur status to physical educators who teach golf for compensation would be unfair not only to other amateurs but also to bona fide professional golfers. The professionals' legitimate field would thus be encroached upon. Further, would it be fair for a college golf instructor to be allowed to play amateur golf and for a club golf instructor to be barred? Both are golf instructors for compensation.

Applies to Students

The Rule applies not only to bona fide faculty members but also to student assistants who are compensated for instructing in golf. Some years ago almost the entire golf team of a college was disqualified from amateurism because, among other things, the team members were paid to teach golf classes to other students. If that were permissible, one could imagine stern competition among some colleges for the services of leading juniors as instructors, as well as playing representatives. Educational institutions would be likely to seek out skilled amateur golfers as instructors. This could produce the anomaly of a college golf teacher playing for the National Amateur Championship.

Occasionally it has been suggested to

the USGA that part-time teaching of golf by physical educators ought to be permitted under the Rules. This would still do violence to the basic principle that amateurs may not give golf instruction for compensation. There are many ways of teaching golf—the Rule cites instruction orally, in writing, by pictures or by other demonstrations. Obviously, the Rule could not consistently condone class instruction at a college and prohibit part-time instruction through writing for newspapers and magazines or appearance in television shows.

Aside from this fundamental policy, how could a fair line be drawn as to how much or how little golf teaching might be permissible? A survey of women

sports teachers in colleges a few years ago showed wide differences in percentage of time devoted to teaching golf, ranging from 5% to 100%.

A Helpful Rule

Some physical educators have said that the Rule in question is detrimental to development of golf in schools and colleges. Actually, the opposite seems true. If an instructor is qualified to give instruction in golf, he is entitled to be paid for doing so; if he is not qualified to give instruction, it would be better for the game that he not do so.

The USGA Executive Committee has no present intention of modifying the Rule.

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Frank Hannigan
Managing Editor

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