

IT'S YOUR HONOR

NEW AMATEUR RULES CRITICIZED

TO THE USGA:

I would like to refer to the recent change you made regarding the violation of the amateur code effective January 1, 1963. This new rule which makes it possible for an amateur golfer to repair and sell golf merchandise in a pro shop is a mockery to amateur golf.

You have based your rule change on an old rule that is a poor premise itself. This old rule, which declares a greenskeeper an amateur, is based on the theory that a greenskeeper has no more advantage in amateur golf than does a person working outside of golf. This is ridiculous!

It would have been much more wise (and fair) to alter your rule on the amateur status of a greenskeeper rather than base a new rule on an old premise that should have been changed in the first place.

Also, with your new rule, you imply a person working in a pro shop has no great advantage in amateur golf. Surely no one on your Executive Committee, which is composed of men so learned in the game of golf, is so naive to believe this.

Another point: Do you believe men all over the country are going to work in pro shops selling golf merchandise and assuming the full duties of a club professional with the exception of taking compensation for golf lessons?

I sincerely hope the Executive Committee reconsiders the steps they have taken toward the amateur golf violation rules. Beginning January 1, there will be little distinguishing difference between a professional on the tour and a "pro-shop" amateur. I hope the USGA will return "Amateur" golf to the state it has so long enjoyed, that is, a game for *Amateurs*.

DONALD J. VAN PELT
El Paso Country Club
El Paso, Texas

TO THE USGA:

I was surprised and saddened by the new Amateur Rules on the caddies, et al . . .

Certainly caddies would rather play golf than get an education or go into business, so they will play golf to the assassination of their lives. And according to my way of thinking, I don't know how a fellow in business working downtown could compete with the caddie who spends long hours on the golf course. I am very much afraid of this rule. I don't believe in it . . .

The course of Amateur Golf is downward and I fear its consequences. Letting people be amateurs who spend their whole days around golf courses, their whole minds thinking and planning and studying golf, will consequently scare the business man amateur; and all of the amateurs working in legitimate business will realize this new rule threatens a deluge.

CHARLES EVANS, JR.
Chicago, Ill.

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