**Etiquette; Behavior on the Course**

**Introduction**

**This section provides guidelines on the manner in which the game of golf should be played. If they are followed, all players will gain maximum enjoyment from the game. The overriding principle is that consideration should be shown to others on the course at all times.**

**The Spirit of the Game**

**Golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.**

**Safety**

**Players should ensure that no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by the club, the ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs or the like when they make a stroke or practice swing.**

**Players should not play until the players in front are out of range.**

**Players should always alert green staff nearby or ahead when they are about to make a stroke that might endanger them.**

**If a player plays a ball in a direction where there is a danger of hitting someone, he should immediately shout a warning. The traditional word of warning in such situations is "fore."**

**Consideration for Other Players**

**No Disturbance or Distraction**

**Players should always show consideration for other players on the course and should not disturb their play by moving, talking or making unnecessary noise.**

**Players should ensure that any electronic device taken onto the course does not distract other players.**

**On the teeing ground, a player should not tee his ball until it is his turn to play.**

**Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball, or directly behind the hole, when a player is about to play.**

**On the Putting Green**

**On the putting green, players should not stand on another player's line of putt or, when he is making a stroke, cast a shadow over his line of putt.**

**Players should remain on or close to the putting green until all other players in the group have holed out.**

**Scoring**

**In stroke play, a player who is acting as a marker should, if necessary, on the way to the next tee, check the score with the player concerned and record it.**

**Pace of Play**

**Play at Good Pace and Keep Up**

**Players should play at a good pace. The Committee may establish pace of play guidelines that all players should follow.**

**It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. If it loses a clear hole and it is delaying the group behind, it should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group. Where a group has not lost a clear hole, but it is apparent that the group behind can play faster, it should invite the faster moving group to play through.**

**Be Ready to Play**

**Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn to play. When playing on or near the putting green, they should leave their bags or carts in such a position as will enable quick movement off the green and towards the next tee. When the play of a hole has been completed, players should immediately leave the putting green.**

**Lost Ball**

**If a player believes his ball may be lost outside a water hazard or is out of bounds, to save time, he should play a provisional ball.**

**Players searching for a ball should signal the players in the group behind them to play through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not easily be found. They should not search for five minutes before doing so. Having allowed the group behind to play through, they should not continue play until that group has passed and is out of range.**

**Priority on the Course**

**Unless otherwise determined by the Committee, priority on the course is determined by a group's pace of play. Any group playing a whole round is entitled to pass a group playing a shorter round. The term "group" includes a single player.**

**Care of the Course**

**Bunkers**

**Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others. If a rake is within reasonable proximity of the bunker, the rake should be used for this purpose.**

**Repair of Divots, Ball Marks and Damage by Shoes**

**Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any damage to the putting green made by the impact of a ball (whether or not made by the player himself). On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes should be repaired.**

**Preventing Unnecessary Damage**

**Players should avoid causing damage to the course by removing divots when taking practice swings or by hitting the head of a club into the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason.**

**Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick.**

**In order to avoid damaging the hole, players and caddies should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during the handling of the flagstick and the removal of a ball from the hole. The head of a club should not be used to remove a ball from the hole.**

**Players should not lean on their clubs when on the putting green, particularly when removing the ball from the hole.**

**The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before the players leave the putting green.**

**Local notices regulating the movement of golf carts should be strictly observed.**

**Conclusion; Penalties for Breach**

**If players follow the guidelines in this section, it will make the game more enjoyable for everyone.**

**If a player consistently disregards these guidelines during a round or over a period of time to the detriment of others, it is recommended that the Committee considers taking appropriate disciplinary action against the offending player. Such action may, for example, include prohibiting play for a limited time on the course or in a certain number of competitions. This is considered to be justifiable in terms of protecting the interests of the majority of golfers who wish to play in accordance with these guidelines.**

**In the case of a serious breach of etiquette, the Committee may disqualify a player under Rule** [**33-7**](http://www.usga.org/rules/rules-and-decisions.html#%21rule-33,33-7) **Disqualification Penalty; Committee Discretion**

**A penalty of disqualification may in exceptional individual cases be waived, modified or imposed if the** [**Committee**](http://www.usga.org/rules/rules-and-decisions.html#%21rule-14253,Committee) **considers such action warranted.**

**Any penalty less than disqualification must not be waived or modified.**

**\*\*\*If a** [**Committee**](http://www.usga.org/rules/rules-and-decisions.html#%21rule-14253,Committee) **considers that a player is guilty of a serious breach of etiquette, it may impose a penalty of disqualification under this Rule.**

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**Disqualification**.

1. **If a team is disqualified from any 18-hole segment of the conference tournaments, their team score will be 10 strokes better than worst score shot during tournament for #1 position and then 10 strokes more for each of the next four scores.**

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct/Breach of Etiquette**

 **Consequences for the following Unsportsmanlike Conduct and/or Serious Breach of Etiquette can be applied to golfers. These are directly taken from the USGA Rules Book:**

 **Examples of Unsportsmanlike Conduct:**

 **-Swearing or vulgar language**

 **-Obscene gestures**

 **-Throwing clubs in anger**

 **-Damaging any part of the golf course**

 **-Displaying continuous poor attitude or poor behavior.**

 **If unable or unwilling to abide by these, the player will be given the following:**

 **First Infraction: Warning**

 **Second Infraction: 2 stroke penalty**

 **Third Infraction: Disqualification from current match and the next one. (WIAA Rule)**

 **Fourth Infraction: Disqualification from current match and season.**

 **Examples of a Serious Breach of Etiquette:**

 **-Cheating (trying to gain an advantage on the rest of the field)**

 **-Intentionally distracting another player**

 **-Intentionally threatening or offending another player, coach or spectator**

 **-Smoking, using tobacco, alcohol or drugs (unless with medical authorization)**

 **If the Committee determines that the facts prove any of the above to be correct, the player will be given the following:**

 **First Infraction: Disqualification from current match and next one. (WIAA Rule)**

 **Second Infraction: Disqualification from current match and the next two matches**

 **Third Infraction: Disqualification from current match and the rest of the season**

 **If a player consistently disregards the spirit and etiquette of the game of golf during a round or over a period of time to the detriment of others, the Committee will consider taking appropriate disciplinary action against the offending player. Such action may include prohibiting play for a limited time on the course or in a certain number of competitions. This is considered to be justified in terms of protecting the interests of the majority of players that wish to play in accordance of the rules (Rules of Golf, Section I – Etiquette).**

**Coaching: The coaches will be allowed to coach from Tee to Green to do the following:**

1. **Help players with course management and strategy {speeds up play}**
2. **Help players handle emotional issues**
3. **Provide rule interpretations**

**\*\*If the coach provides the wrong information or advice to their player and the advice is wrong, then the player will be sanctioned as per the rules of golf.**

**\*\*If the coach provides the wrong information or advice to a player from another school and the advice is wrong, then the player will NOT be sanctioned.**

**Coaches will not read greens or give advice when players are on the greens.**

**Coaches are encouraged to return to the attesting area during the time the tournament begins to finish. All coaches are encouraged to take an active role in supervising groups during the attesting process and adding scorecards.**