

# PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY AND APPLICABLE PENALTIES



Golf Québec has established a Code of Conduct outlining the attitudes and behaviors expected of players. (See the attached document entitled Player Code of Conduct.)

To ensure the smooth running of its competitions, Golf Québec has adopted this Code of Conduct as a Local Rule under Rule 1.2b of the Rules of Golf, hereby establishing the penalties applicable in cases of breaches of expected attitudes and behaviors.

The player is responsible and may be penalized for any infraction committed by their caddie during a competition.

## **All players must act and play in the spirit of the game by:**

- Acting with integrity – for example, by respecting the Rules of Golf, applying all penalties, and demonstrating honesty in all aspects of the game.
- Showing consideration for others – for example, by playing at a prompt pace, ensuring the safety of others, and not distracting the play of other players.
- Compliance with the rule prohibiting listening to content of any kind on personal audio or video devices.
- Taking care of the course – for example, by replacing divots, raking bunkers, repairing ball marks, and avoiding unnecessary damage to the course during competition or official practice rounds.

## **Breaches of the Player Code of Conduct**

Behaviors or actions that would be considered contrary to the Code of Conduct and therefore subject to the sanctions described in this document include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Unsportsmanlike behavior, including bullying, harassment, discrimination, abusive or offensive language, throwing clubs, misuse of equipment, disrespect towards volunteers, referees, host club staff, other competitors, spectators, or damage to property.
- Failure to take care of the course, such as failing to fill or replace divots, rake bunkers, or repair ball marks.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages, cannabis, or any illegal substances on the competition course or in any designated practice area. Please note that the use of prescribed medications is permitted if the medication complies with applicable anti-doping rules.
- Possession or consumption of alcohol and tobacco products (smoking, vaping, or chewing) by players in **junior competitions** or by minors in any competition, on or off the course and during the competition.
- Failure to adhere to the dress code policy on the host club property.
- Failure to attend a sanctioned Golf Québec competition or withdraw from a round without notifying the committee.
- Any act of vandalism at a host hotel or abusive behavior toward the host family or their property.

- Any other conduct deemed unbecoming of a player participating in a Golf Québec competition as determined by the Tournament Committee.

### **Penalties for Breaching the Player Code of Conduct**

Any potential breach of this Local Rule may be reported to a member of the Tournament Committee, the Rules Committee, or a federation employee.

The Golf Québec Tournament Rules Committee may impose one or all of the penalties described below based on the severity and frequency of the infraction during a competition round:

- A warning
- A one-stroke penalty
- General penalty
- Disqualification

### **Disciplinary Measures**

The severity and frequency of current or past violations of the Player Code of Conduct may result in one or more of the following disciplinary measures:

- Withdrawal of a player's registration at any time (including during the competition) by Golf Québec.
- Suspension of the player's participation in all future Golf Québec competitions or sanctioned activities, whether they have already been accepted or not.

Note: In the event of a suspension, the player and/or their parents or legal guardian will be notified in writing of the sanction and may appeal the decision of the Golf Québec Discipline Committee in writing within ten (10) days following the suspension. The Committee will determine the duration of the suspension after reviewing all submitted documents, including the incident report provided by Golf Québec's tournament staff. Any suspended player will be excluded from all awards given at the end of the season.

### **ABUSE, HARASSMENT, NEGLECT, OR VIOLENCE**

No abusive, harassing, discriminatory, offensive, or violent behavior will be tolerated (see the [Policy on the Protection of Integrity in Sports](#) available on the Golf Québec website).

Anyone should report without delay any act committed against another person or themselves.

Any report to a Golf Québec representative will be documented by the Tournament Committee and forwarded to the Executive Director of Golf Québec. The Executive Director will determine the appropriate authority to handle the matter.

## APPENDIX A

### **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT:**

To fully enjoy sports or recreational activities, players must demonstrate an attitude and behavior that reflects true sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Winning or losing is not what matters most. It is how one plays the game that counts. Players should always remember that it is just a game. To maximize enjoyment, every player should:

- a. Play for fun while remembering that sports or recreational activities are not an end in themselves, but a means.
- b. Strictly follow the rules of the game and the principles of sportsmanship.
- c. Always accept and respect the decisions of officials and/or referees.
- d. Always show respect to officials, referees, other players, and their supporters, who should never be treated as enemies.
- e. Always maintain self-control.
- f. Exhibit exemplary behavior both on and off the field, using language that is free from insults, vulgar expressions, or profanity.
- g. Respect your coach and team leaders and follow their instructions.
- h. Avoid discouragement in failure and arrogance in victory.
- i. Respect other people's property. Theft and vandalism are prohibited.
- j. Refuse and do not tolerate the use of drugs, medications, or any stimulants to enhance performance.
- k. Use social media, the Internet, and other electronic platforms in an ethical and respectful manner towards teammates, coaches, and staff, and never to provoke an opponent or another member.
- l. Ensure that everyone is treated with respect and fairness.
- m. Understand that abuse, harassment, neglect, violence, or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated, and promptly report to the coach or any authority any act committed against another person or yourself.
- n. Refer to the "Athlete" section of the platform [www.sportbienetre.ca](http://www.sportbienetre.ca).