



## CONDUCT GUIDELINES

The Estonian Golf Association (EGA) takes great pride in the quality of its participants, host facilities and broad community involvement at each championship. In order to continue making EGA Championships enjoyable for everyone, all participants are required to adhere to the EGA Conduct Guidelines. The following principles offer guidance on good practice for everyone involved in EGA Championships.

Players and other team members, such as captains or advice givers, must submit themselves to standards of behaviour and ethical conduct at all times. They must act in the best interests of the EGA and its sponsors, the hosting course and the game of golf. Players and other team members participating in EGA Championships should follow the principles of EGA Championships at all times - honesty, sportsmanship and courtesy whether on or off the golf course.

It is impossible to determine exactly the standard of behaviour expected from players or other team members in EGA Championships. It is also impossible to make a list of all the acts in violation of the standard of behaviour. In most cases, common sense should tell the player or other team member the standard of behaviour required from them. Anyone who is in doubt about the behaviour that is expected from him/her should contact the Championship Committee for guidance.

In most circumstances, the following examples of acts, omissions and negligence will be considered to be contrary to the Conduct Guidelines and will result in disciplinary action.

- Failure to comply with normally accepted standards of sporting behaviour, dress code and spirit of the game at all times.
- Acting in a way that will hurt the championship, another player or the championship management.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages by players under the age of 18 at the place of competition, and offering alcoholic beverages to the player under the age of 18.
- Disrespectful criticism of the course, sponsors, rules officials, volunteers or the Championship Committee. Any complaints shall be addressed directly to the Championship Committee only.
- Failure to comply or cooperate with Championship Committee's investigation of an offence.
- Improper behaviour on the course.
- Club abuse / smashing of tee marker.
- Not taking good care of the course - for example, by not replacing divots, not smoothing bunkers, not repairing ball-marks and causing unnecessary damage to the course.
- Audible obscenity.
- Any behaviour viewed as unethical in the opinion of the Championship Committee.



- Failure to control temper anywhere within the official championship area (club house, golf course, practice facilities, hotel etc.).
- Failure to attend a prize giving ceremony. In an individual championship, players receiving medals must be present at the award ceremony, unless otherwise permitted by the Championship Committee. In a team championship, all players must be present at the award ceremony, unless otherwise permitted by the Championship Committee.
- Rules officials and fellow competitors have the right to report a breach of conduct. The decision rests with the Championship Committee.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE AND SANCTIONS**

When a player or other team member in an EGA championship are believed to have violated the Conduct Guidelines or the Rules of Golf and the offence can result in sanctions, the Championship Committee shall conduct an investigation. The investigation shall include an interview with the subject person, his opponent, fellow competitors, marker, caddy and any others who have witnessed the offence, when the round is completed.

If the investigation indicates that a violation has occurred, the Championship Committee can come to following actions:

- (a) Give a verbal reprimand/warning; or
- (b) Disqualify a player in accordance with Rule 1.2a.

### **Serious breach of Conduct Guidelines or the Rules of Golf**

According to Golf Rule 1.2a, a player can be disqualified from the championship where a serious misconduct has occurred.

A player has committed a serious misconduct if the player:

- physically attacks or abuses in any way other players, an official or other person;
- verbally threatens or abuses other players, an official or other person;
- Wrongfully damages the facilities, including the course and the clubhouse
- wrongfully removes or damages property;
- deliberately breaks a Rule (as defined in the Rules of Golf, and Local Rules);
- deliberately returns a false scorecard.

In all cases of violations, the Chairman of the Championship Committee shall send an Incident Report to the RHCR Committee. The RHCR Committee shall furthermore have the authority to:

- (a) take no further action;
- (b) refer the incident to the player's or team's national federation;
- (c) exclude the player or team from participation in one or several EGA Championships where the player or team was otherwise eligible to participate.