



## CODE OF CONDUCT

### General

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

Players and other team members, such as captains or advice givers, must submit themselves to standards of behavior and ethical conduct, including Estonian Rules of Sports' Ethics (in Estonian - *Eesti Spordieetika Reeglid*, abbr. **ESER**) at all times. They must act keeping in mind the interests of the EGL and its sponsors, the hosting course and the game of golf. Players and other team members should follow the principles of EGL Championships at all times - honesty, sportsmanship and courtesy whether on or off the golf course.

It is impossible to determine exactly the standard of behavior expected from players or other team members during the Championships. It is also impossible to make a list of all the acts in violation of the standard of behavior. In most cases, common sense should tell the player or other team member the standard of behavior required from them. Anyone who is in doubt about the behavior that is expected from them 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 Code of Conduct and will result in disciplinary action:

- Failure to comply with normally accepted standards of sporting behavior, 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 person under the age of 18 at the place of competition, and offering alcoholic beverages to the person 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 behavior on the course.
- Club abuse or 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 behavior viewed as unethical in the opinion of the EGL.
- Failure to control temper or behavior 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 Code of Conduct. The decision rests with the Championship Committee.

### **Disciplinary procedure and sanctions**

When a player or other team member in an EGL championship are believed to have violated the Code of Conduct, or any local rule adopted by the Championship Committee, 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, caddie and any others who have witnessed the offence, when the Championship Committee considers it appropriate, but no later than after round.

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

- (a) Give a verbal warning; or
- (b) Disqualify a player in accordance with Rule 1.2a and 20.2e.

### **Serious breach of Code of Conduct 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 other 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, or if necessary, refer the incident to Estonian Center for Integrity in Sports (**ESTCIS**; in Estonian *Eesti Antidopingu ja Spordieetika SA*, abbr. **EADSE**);
- (c) exclude the player or team from participation in one or several EGL Championships where the player or team was otherwise eligible to participate.