

## **MGA Rules of Golf and Amateur Status Sub Committee 2018-2019**

The Malaysian Golf Association (MGA) has continued to play an active role in promoting Rules of Golf education in Malaysia under the leadership of its Rules Sub-Committee chairman, Mr CC Boo who is also the Vice President of MGA.

Besides educating the golfers in general, MGA through its concerted efforts in organizing the various Rules School has also produced many qualified Rules Officials who are capable of officiating not only the domestic golfing events but also in international and prestigious golf events.

The Rules Committee has concluded another Level 2 Rules School held on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Kelab Golf Perkhidmatan Awam (KGPA), Kuala Lumpur. There were 18 enthusiastic golfers with 2 foreign delegates from Cambodia who attended the 2 full days classroom and on-course demonstration followed by 2 hours of classroom examination.

The L2 was conducted by experienced and qualified Rules instructors, namely, Ms Deborah Wong, Mr Harbans Singh and Mr Yeoh Chin Nam. The school ended with Rules Chairman, Mr CC Boo sharing the important subject on “The art of Refereeing” drawing from his wealth of referee experience in international golfing events including the Majors at USGA and British Open.

Upon the request of KGNS committee for a Level 1 to be conducted for their marshals and caddies in January 2018, The Rules Committee will use the modified Level 1 program and syllabus to cater to their level of understanding and comprehension.

MGA welcomes request from any golf clubs or corporate golf organizers to conduct Rules briefing or Rules seminar for the benefits of their members or public at large.

Over the past many years, MGA has repeatedly received positive feedbacks from past delegates whom have enjoyed the Rules School particularly the on-course demonstration and has resolved and help golfers to clarify the many myths and doubts on the Rules of Golf.

In 2018, The Rules committees will continue to promote Rules education and work closely with R&A on the implementation of the new Rules that will take effect from Jan 2019.

Current Rules Committee comprised the following:-

- Mr CC Boo
- Mr FRITZ KATZANGRUBER
- Ms DEBORAH WONG
- Mr HARBANS SINGH
- Mr YEOH CHIN NAM
- En MOHD FAIZAL AMINUDDIN
- En ROM MUSLIM
- Ms HELENE TEO
- Mr. CORNELIUS MOREIRA

Amateur golfers, whether playing competitively or for recreation, play golf for the challenge it presents, not as a profession or for financial gain.

The MGA Rules and Amateur Status Committee, has been continuously vetting through application from various parties on awarding of prizes especially affecting the Amateurism. At the same time MGA uses various channels to disseminate information on Amateur Status.

In this article, we share some Q&A for easy reference by Amateurs:

**Q1: An amateur golfer may not receive expenses to play in a golf competition overseas. Under what circumstances may an amateur golfer accept an expenses-paid golf trip as a prize?**

**A1:** A prize of an overseas expenses-paid golf trip is acceptable provided:

- the prize is not in the form of cash
- the prize does not have a retail value in excess of the prize limit, and
- the golf trip does not form part of a golf competition, including a subsequent stage of the same event.

**However**, where applicable, it is permissible for an amateur golfer to accept expenses to play in a subsequent stage of the same event, provided the Organizer has obtained prior approval from MGA.

**Q2. What is the prize limit for an Amateur?**

**A2.** An amateur golfer may accept prize in form of voucher/s with a total retail value of not more than RM3, 500.00 or equivalent. *MGA 's admin and Am Status Sub Committee regularly referring to golf magazine and media report to identify if any Amateur golfer/s is in breach of Am Status for receiving such prize. His/her Amateur Status will be forfeited for period of between 1-2 years or more which depend on the exceeded value of the permissible prize received accordingly.*

**Q3: May an amateur win a few prizes in the same golf competition amounting to a higher limit but each individual prize is not above the permissible limit?**

**A3:** No, the retail total value of prizes won in an event must not be more than RM3, 500.00 or equivalent.

**Q4: May an amateur golfer accept a scholarship as a prize?**

**A4:** No, regardless of the amount of the scholarship.

**Q5: May an amateur golfer accept as a prize of a year's subscription at his/her golf Club?**

**A5:** Yes, provided the value of the subscription is less than the prize limit.

**Q6: As a Professional, how can I reinstate my Amateur Status?**

**A6:** Firstly, if you have held membership in such a Professional organization and/or tour, you must resign your membership. Next, you submit your written application for reinstatement of Amateur Status to Malaysian Golf Association (MGA). MGA will process and revert to you accordingly.

**Note:** Application for reinstatement of Amateur Status from a Professional to an Amateur may depends on your involvement in the organization/tour, winning prize money, other earnings and etc.

We will be glad to assist you in any enquiries pertaining to the Rules and Amateur Status. You may email to [info@mgaonline.com.my](mailto:info@mgaonline.com.my) attention to MGA Rules and Amateur Status Sub Committee or call us at MGA Tel: 03-92837300 for further assistance/information.

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