

BGU CODE OF CONDUCT

The Botswana Golf Union (BGU) has the mandate to develop the sport golf in Botswana through its affiliated clubs, which provide worthwhile golf activities that can be pursued throughout life for the purpose of leisure, health or professional career. The sport of golf helps to develop character, sportsmanship and the life values of integrity, honesty, self-discipline and competitive spirit.

The BGU and its affiliates take great pride in the quality of their competitors, their host facilities, their relationships with sponsors and their broad community involvement.

In order to continue making the BGU and affiliates tournaments enjoyable for everyone, the Union requires all members to adhere to a set of guidelines known as the **Code of Conduct**.

Its purpose is to identify expectations and clarify actions and thereby help tournament participants grow and mature by understanding and accepting the consequences of their actions. Violation of the Code of Conduct guidelines can result in tournament penalties and/or disqualification and if repeated, could result in suspension of membership.

The following is a Code of Conduct, which is a guideline for all golfers to follow throughout the tournament season, both on and off the course. It is not intended to intimidate players, but to help BGU and affiliated clubs participants understand the consequences of their actions.

1. PERSONAL CONDUCT

Competitors are expected to demonstrate respect for other tournament participants, club staff and members, employees, spectators, tournament officials, volunteers and all others by exhibiting decorum consistent with the expectations of golf competitors.

Violations include;

- Abuse of the golf course or golf property
- Disrespect of fellow competitors, spectators, volunteers and officials and other conduct that is considered detrimental to the best interests of the game.
- Cheating or failure to abide by the Rules of Golf or a decision by an official.
- Obscene or vulgar language towards spectators, fellow players or caddies.

- Club throwing
- Use of illicit drugs by a competitor or caddie during a stipulated round is prohibited.
- Use of alcohol by a caddie during a stipulated round is prohibited.
- Cell phones, audible beepers or other electronic gadgets that make noise are prohibited during competition.
- Practicing or hitting golf balls other than on property or zone specifically intended for the practice or play of golf is prohibited.
- Poor conduct or behavior in general, which may include display of bad temper.

2. DRESS STANDARDS

Competitors must be neat in personal grooming and appearance;

- Only tailored golf slacks (includes capri pants for ladies), golf shirts with collars and sleeves (ladies' golf shirts must have a collar and/or sleeves) and tailored golf shorts (no higher than approximately four inches above the knee and not extending below the knee) are acceptable.
- Shirts must be tucked in at the waist.
- Hats/visors must be worn properly with the brim forward.
- Males shall remove hats/visors indoors at the host facilities.
- Golf shoes with alternative spikeless soles, golf teaching shoes, sneakers or other soft soled shoes that will not penetrate or damage a putting green are permitted.
- Unacceptable dress includes blue jeans, cut-offs, denim shorts, athletic shorts, jammers (boarder type shorts that are usually long and flowery), warm up or sweat pants, muscle shirts, T-shirts, tank tops, shirts or pants that are rolled up, etc.

- Offensive wording on golf shirts are not permitted.

Should a host club have a stricter dress code, its policy will apply.

3. TOURNAMENT CANCELLATIONS, NO SHOWS, AND WITHDRAWALS

The largest single problem facing the BGU and its affiliates relating to tournament administration is the failure of golfers to meet their scheduled tee times. The result is confusion at tournaments and is considerable embarrassment to the Union and affiliated clubs in their important relationship with sponsors of their tournaments.

The following policy has been adopted by the BGU to impress upon participating golfers their responsibility to the Union and affiliated clubs:

Any golfer who fails to give 24 hours prior notice of cancellation (Withdrawn – WD) and does not show up (No Show – NS) is suspended from the next two (2) entered BGU tournament, one of which is hosted by their home club. A second violation in a season results in suspension from all remaining tournaments. If the violation falls on the last tournament of the season, the suspension will carry over to the following year.

To withdraw from a tournament, please contact the relevant club or the BGU Executive Officer if it is a BGU tour event. The BGU will publish to its affiliated clubs a list of NO SHOWS for all BGU Tour events.

4. TOURNAMENT CONFIRMATION AND TEE TIMES

The BGU or affiliated club **DO NOT** neither confirm acceptance in any golf tournament nor tee times for an event by mail or by phone (we do not call you). You may find all tee times and registration lists on your respective clubs notice board or by phoning the hosting clubs office.

The official tee sheet will be located at the hosting clubs notice board until the day of the event, in which case it will be at the host site. The BGU and its affiliates reserves the right to adjust your tee time by 30 minutes without notice, and with notification if more than 30 minutes.

5. CHECK-IN PROCEDURE AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

Entrants must check in at the starter's table to confirm tee time and receive scorecard 15 minutes before their scheduled tee time. The

R&A Rule 6-3 concerning disqualification may be enforced for late arrivals. In the event of inclement weather, a decision to hold or cancel the event will be made as soon as possible (usually by the first scheduled tee time) on the morning of the event. Tee times may be delayed up to 1 hour, but the event will be canceled if play cannot be started within 1 hour.

You are still expected to arrive for your scheduled tee time even if the weather looks bad - it may not be bad at the tournament site. Play will be immediately discontinued whenever there is lightning present or potential danger to participants.

6. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, CADDIES, PACE OF PLAY

The BGU and its affiliates highly encourage parents to participate in their child's progress with the game of golf. However, the BGU recommends that parents act only as observers during events, not caddies, except in the 15 & under age group, where parents may act as caddies. Parents are encouraged to help with pace of play and finding lost balls, but shall defer all rulings to the Tournament officials (Please refer to R&A Rule 8-1 regarding the 2-stroke penalty for advice).

The use of power carts is prohibited for all participants in official BGU Tour events, except in the 55 & over age group or disabled participants. Pace of Play will be monitored and appropriate penalties assessed when necessary.

7. VIOLATION PENALTIES:

If a violation occurs prior to or during an event, the individual must immediately comply with the code. This must be done without undue delay and the code must thereafter be maintained.

Penalties

The first offense may either be a warning, stroke penalty or disqualification for the initial act of unsportsmanship behavior on the golf course;

Upon a second infraction or a serious violation of the code, a player may be immediately disqualified from the tournament at which the violation occurs and may receive a suspension of membership.

Disciplinary Action

The tournament committee or affiliated club will be the final authority on discipline or disqualification matters during an event.

These standards apply to the competitor and the caddie when they are on golf course property whether for a practice round or during the competition.