



North-Eastern District Golf Association

CODE of CONDUCT

This **Code** applies to all **Players** and **Caddies** competing in all **NEDGA Competitions**.

Each **Player** or **Caddie** in a **Competition** must adhere to commonly accepted standards of golfing etiquette and sportsmanship.

In order to ensure proper standards of behaviour during all **NEDGA Competitions** a **Player** or **Caddie** who commits an offence under this **Code** will face disciplinary action as determined by the **NEDGA Match Committee**.

1. DEFINITIONS

Association – means the North Eastern District Golf Association Incorporated, also known as **NEDGA**.

Caddie - means the definition as per the Rules of Golf, where the context so admits, the word 'player' includes 'caddie'.

Code - means this Code of Conduct.

Competition – means NEDGA competitions including pennant, representative events and other competitions conducted under the auspices of the **NEDGA**.

Disciplinary Appeal Meeting – means a meeting of the **Members** of the **Association** convened to hear a disciplinary appeal.

Disciplinary Meeting – means a meeting of the **Match Committee** convened for disciplinary action.

Executive Committee – means full Executive Committee of the NEDGA

Match Committee – means the full Match Committee of the NEDGA.

Member – means a club which is a member of the **Association**.

NEDGA - means North-Eastern District Golf Association Inc.

Player - means a player or participant in a competition, where the context so admits, the word 'player' includes caddie.



2. OFFENCES

2.1 LOW GRADE OFFENCE – means failure to comply with;

- Official direction or instructions;
- Rules of Golf in respect to Etiquette;
- Continually fails to play without undue delay;
- Commits an act to deliberately disqualify the **Player** from **Competition**;
- Uses a radio, recorder or mobile telephone during the course of play in a **Competition**; or
- For smokers, not maintaining a 10 metre exclusion zone from other people.

2.2 MEDIUM GRADE OFFENCE – means failure to comply with;

- Throwing or deliberately in anger breaks golf equipment;
- Publicly criticise the golf course, the **Competition**, the organisers and sponsors;
- Utter audible obscenities during a **Competition**;
- Consumes prohibited substance during a **Competition**;
- Behaves in a manner that is detrimental to the performance of other **Players**; or
- Is unable to play golf to the best of their ability.

2.3 HIGH GRADE OFFENCE – means failure to comply with;

- Physically attacks, verbally threatens or racially vilifies a player, an official or person during a Competition;
- Wrongfully damages the facilities (course or clubhouse) of the **Competition** golf club;
- Deliberately returns a false score card;
- Seeks to manipulate the player's handicap;
- Behaves in a manner detrimental to the good name and reputation of the **NEDGA**;
or
- Bring the game of golf into disrepute.

3. PENALTIES

3.1 LOW GRADE OFFENCE

Reprimand to a maximum of 1 month suspension.

3.2 MEDIUM GRADE OFFENCE

Minimum of 1 month suspension to a maximum of 3 months suspension.

3.3 HIGH GRADE OFFENCE

Minimum of 3 months suspension to a maximum of 2 years suspension.



If a **Player** or **Caddie** commits two or more Low Grade offences during a **Competition**, the **Player** or **Caddie** is deemed to have committed a Medium Grade offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Medium Grade offence.

If a **Player** or **Caddie** commits two or more Medium Grade offence during a **Competition**, the **Player** or **Caddie** is deemed to have committed a High Grade offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a High Grade offence.

Subsequent breaches of the **Code** within a 24 month period will result in a penalty prescribed for the Grade above the highest Grade of the previous breach.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 1.1 If the **Match Committee** is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a **Player** or **Caddie** the **Match Committee** must hear the matter and determine what action, if any to take against the **Player** or **Caddie**.
- 1.2 **Match Committee** must not be biased against, or in favour of the **Player** or **Caddie** concerned.

2. NOTICE TO PLAYER OR CADDIE

- 2.1 Before disciplinary action is taken against **Player** or **Caddie** the Secretary must give written notice to the **Player** or **Caddie**;
 - 2.1.1 Stating that the **Association** proposes to take disciplinary action against the **Player** or **Caddie**; and
 - 2.1.2 Stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and
 - 2.1.3 Specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the **Match Committee** intends to consider the disciplinary action; and
 - 2.1.4 Advising the **Player** or **Caddie** that it may do one or both of the following:
 - 2.1.4.1 Attending the **Disciplinary Meeting** and address the **Match Committee** at that meeting.
 - 2.1.4.2 Give a written statement to the **Match Committee** at any time before the **Disciplinary Meeting**;
 - 2.1.5 Setting out the **Player** or **Caddie** appeal rights.
- 2.2 The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days and no later than 14 days before **Disciplinary Meeting** is held.



3. DECISION of MATCH COMMITTEE

- 3.1 At the **Disciplinary Meeting** the **Match Committee** must –
 - 3.1.1 Give the **Player** or **Caddie** an opportunity to be heard; and
 - 3.1.2 Consider any written statement submitted by the **Player** or **Caddie**.
- 3.2 After complying with sub-rule (3.1) the **Match Committee** may –
 - 3.2.1 Take no further action against the **Player** or **Caddie**; or
 - 3.2.2 Subject to sub-rule (3.3)
 - 3.2.2.1 Reprimand the **Player** or **Caddie**; or
 - 3.2.2.2 Suspend the **Player** or **Caddie** for a specified period;
- 3.3 The **Match Committee** may not fine the **Player** or **Caddie**.
- 3.4 The suspension of a **Player** or **Caddie** by the **Match Committee** under this sub-rule takes effect immediately after the vote is passed.

4. APPEALS RIGHTS

- 4.1 A **Player** or **Caddie** who has been suspended by the **Association** may give notice to the effect that he wishes to appeal against the suspension.
- 4.2 The notice must be in writing and given –
 - 4.2.1 To the **Executive Committee** immediately after the vote to suspend the **Player** or **Caddie** is taken; or
 - 4.2.2 To the Secretary no later than 7 days after the vote.
- 4.3 If the **Player** or **Caddie** has given notice under sub-rule (4.2) a **Disciplinary Appeal Meeting** must be convened by the **Executive Committee** as soon as practicable but in any event not later than 21 days after the notice is received.
- 4.4 Notice of the **Disciplinary Appeal Meeting** must be given to each **Member** of the **Association** who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must –
 - 4.4.1 Specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
 - 4.4.2 State –
 - 4.4.2.1 The name of the **Player** or **Caddie** against whom the disciplinary action has been taken;
 - 4.4.2.2 The grounds for taking that action; and
 - 4.4.2.3 That at the **Disciplinary Appeal Meeting** the **Delegates** of **Members** present must vote on whether the decision to suspend the **Player** or **Caddie** should be upheld or revoked.



5. CONDUCT OF DISCIPLINARY APPEAL MEETING

5.1 At the **Disciplinary Appeal Meeting** –

- 5.1.1 No business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
 - 5.1.2 The **Executive Committee** must state the grounds for suspension of the **Player** or **Caddie** and the reasons for taking that action: and
 - 5.1.3 The **Player** or **Caddie** who has been suspended must be given an opportunity to be heard.
- 5.2 After complying with sub-rule (5.1) **Delegates** of **Members** present and entitled to vote at the meeting must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the decision to suspend the **Player** or **Caddie** should be upheld or revoked.
- 5.3 The decision is upheld if not less than three quarters of the **Delegates** of **Members** voting at the meeting vote in favour of the decision.