

Date: April 4, 2019
To: Butch Cope
From: Rob Ockenfuss
Manager, Amateur Status & Rules of Golf
United States Golf Association

Subject: Scholarships as a Prize

At the Golf Discussion Forum at the NFHS Annual Meeting last summer, USGA staff presented a proposed change to the Rules of Amateur Status that would allow an amateur golfer to accept an educational scholarship as a tournament prize; a change that has the possibility to have many positive benefits for young amateur golfers.

In recognition that each state high school association has independent authority in its state, and the fact that the rules, bylaws and legislation regarding prizes varies across those high school associations, it has been of primary importance to us that any Rule change does not negatively impact high school golfers. So, we have continued to engage with the high school golf community, including through a survey (delivered in August) and direct conversations with high school administrators.

Thank you for responding to that survey and offering your feedback.

Proposal:

As a reminder, the proposed Rule change would allow an amateur golfer to accept a scholarship as a competition prize, with certain conditions.

To ensure that a scholarship as a prize conforms to the Rules of Amateur Status and current NCAA legislation, the proposed change would require a tournament organizer to get approval if they want to award a scholarship (such as an amateur governing body, state golf association). This approval process would be used primarily to ensure that the organizer understands what is allowed and what is not allowed per the USGA, the NCAA, as well as the relevant high school association.

Other relevant features of the proposal:

- Scholarship values may not exceed \$750 for any one competition (matching the current maximum prize in the Rules of Amateur Status), or lower as required by a state high-school association.
- A scholarship may not be specific to a college or university, rather the funds must be open for use at any institution.
- The amateur golfer may not receive the prize directly, rather the funds must be held by a third-party and distributed directly to the educational institution once redeemed by the amateur golfer (for example, by the tournament organizer who will likely be a state or national golf association or tour).

Coordination & Support:

The USGA Amateur Status Committee and department staff continue to support a proposed change to the Rules of Amateur Status.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has expressed its support of the proposed Rule change, as indicated by the letter attached to this message.

This proposal has also been reviewed by the NCAA, which has provided a statement regarding the application of NCAA legislation to the issue of scholarships as competition prizes (attached). Specifically, NCAA Division I and II legislation permit a prospective student-athlete to receive a scholarship as a competition prize and use it toward educational expenses at a member institution, provided the

scholarship comes from a permissible source (such as a golf association) and the scholarship is paid directly to the educational institution.

Finally, this proposal has also been discussed with and is supported by:

- The R&A (the USGA's global partner in writing and interpreting the Rules of Amateur Status)
- The Allied Golf Association Council (representatives from the USGA Allied Golf Association Community)
- The Board of the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA)
- The Board of the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA)

Your Support & Our Request:

As part of last year's survey, Darren Bilberry indicated that your high school association would not support a revision to the Rules of Amateur Status that would allow an amateur golfer to accept a scholarship as a competition prize.

We recognize and respect the autonomy each state high school association has to make decisions in its best interest, and also understand that there may not be universal support for this change.

However, many state high school associations have indicated their support for such a change. Overall, we are encouraged by the support we've received and are hopeful to leverage that support to further advance our proposal at this year's NFHS Summer Meeting in Indianapolis. In advance of that meeting, we would appreciate an opportunity to speak with you and perhaps reconsider our proposal.

Contact Us:

If you'd like to discuss our request further, or hear more about the proposal itself, please contact us as soon as possible using information provided below:

USGA Amateur Status - Primary Contact:
Rob Ockenfuss
Manager, Amateur Status and Rules of Golf
rockenfuss@usga.org
908-326-1919

USGA Amateur Status - Secondary Contact:
Craig Winter
Senior Director, Rules of Golf and Amateur Status
cwinter@usga.org
908-326-1971

Attached:

- Letter from NFHS
- Letter from the NCAA



March 19, 2019

Rob Ockenfuss
United States Golf Association
77 Liberty Corner Road
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

Dear Mr. Ockenfuss

This memo is in response to the USGA's request for a letter of support regarding the proposed change to the Rules of Amateur Status that would allow a scholarship to be awarded as a deferred prize to an amateur golfer. The NFHS appreciates the opportunity to explore this change with its member state associations and the USGA's effort not to jeopardize high school golfers' athletic eligibility.

Given the NFHS holds no governing authority for high school golfers' athletic eligibility, the feasibility of awarding an academic scholarship based on performance in a golf competition would be determined by each member state association's bylaws and eligibility rules. It is of primary importance that communication and outreach continue among all associations to ensure high school golfers, coaches and administrators understand the implications of this change in their respective states.

The NFHS is committed to further educating state associations of this change and assisting states with its implementation where permissible.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CB', written over a horizontal line.

Chris Boone
Assistant Director of Publications and Communications
Staff Liaison for Golf



March 15, 2019

VIA EMAIL

P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
Telephone: 317/917-6222

Shipping/Overnight Address:
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

www.ncaa.org

Mr. Rob Ockenfuss
Mr. Craig Winter
United States Golf Association
Golf House
P.O. Box 708
Far Hills, New Jersey 07931

Dear Messrs. Ockenfuss and Winter:

The following is in response to your request on behalf of the United States Golf Association regarding the receipt of a scholarship as a competition prize. More specifically, you asked whether NCAA legislation permits a prospective student-athlete to receive an academic scholarship as a prize based on his or her performance or place finish in a golf competition, where the scholarship will be used to attend college.

Competition prizes are classified as awards under NCAA legislation. Awards received by an individual prior to initial collegiate enrollment are permissible, provided the awards conform to the rules of the amateur sports organization that governs the applicable competition. Awards cannot include cash, or items redeemable for cash, in excess of actual and necessary expenses. Permissible sources for awards include any individual or entity other than an agent, professional sports team/organization or representative of athletics interests.

NCAA Divisions I and II legislation permits a prospective student-athlete to receive a scholarship as a competition prize and use the same toward educational expenses at a member institution, provided it comes from a permissible source and the scholarship is paid directly to the educational institution. NCAA Division III legislation prohibits a student-athlete from receiving financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability, including a scholarship earned as a competition prize.

Divisions I and II institutions will analyze scholarships earned as a competition prize to ensure their student-athletes' receipt of the same complies with applicable financial aid legislation, including whether the scholarship is countable toward team financial aid limits. Finally, scholarships may not include costs associated with athletics training. General training expenses are permissible only if approved and provided directly by the U.S. Olympic Committee or the appropriate national governing body in the sport.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Supporting student-athlete success on the field, in the classroom and for life

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Mr. Rob Ockenfuss
Mr. Craig Winter
March 15, 2019
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I trust this information is helpful. Please contact me at 317/917-6572 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Stephen Clar
Associate Director of Academic and
Membership Affairs

SC:ldh

cc: Ms. Jobrina Marques



Cope, Butch <bcope@khsaa.org>

Scholarships as a Prize - USGA Request

Robert Ockenfuss <ROckenfuss@usga.org>
To: "bcope@khsaa.org" <bcope@khsaa.org>
Cc: Chris Boone <CBoone@nfhs.org>, Craig Winter <CWinter@usga.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2019 at 2:12 PM

Hello Butch,

I hope you're doing well.

Recognizing you are relatively new to your current role, you may be aware that the USGA is contemplating a change to the Rules of Amateur Status that would allow an amateur golfer to accept an educational scholarship as a tournament prize.

Attached is a memo that outlines the proposed change.

As noted in the memo, we understand each state high school association's ability to make its own decisions on what's best for its student-athletes. However, we'd be grateful for further discussion on why we feel this can make a positive impact.

Also attached are two additional letters from the NFHS and the NCAA.

Again, thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best,

Rob

Rob Ockenfuss

Manager, Amateur Status & Rules of Golf



United States Golf Association

77 Liberty Corner Road

Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

908.326.1919

4/16/2019

KY High School Athletic Association Mail - Scholarships as a Prize - USGA Request

www.usga.org

rockenfuss@usga.org

This email may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it without disclosing it to anyone and notify us immediately.

3 attachments

 **Scholarship as a Prize - KHSAA.pdf**
60K

 **NFHS Commitment.pdf**
86K

 **Application of NCAA Legislation.pdf**
144K