



## MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

### TERMS OF THE COMPETITION - CODE OF CONDUCT

The Malta Golf Association is adopting a zero policy towards negative behaviour that goes against the spirit of the game of golf. The zero policy affectively means summarily disqualification of a player seen or reported to have breached this conduct. National team players face the extra burden of being sanctioned for such actions by having their international participation privilege either suspended or terminated.

The MGA's terms of the competition currently in place for the MGA Shield, MGA Generation Cup and the Malta Junior Open will be amended to reflect this policy. The relative paragraph is being included at the end of this document.

Whilst we take this action, we also wish to reiterate that the spirit of the game relies on *the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times.* This concept remains true to this day and has been recently been amplified by a paper issued by the European Golf Association. We quote:

*Despite all the technological advancements, certain aspects of the game do not change. Golf teaches us sportsmanship, humility and tolerance, as well as courage in the face of adversity and acceptance in the face of disappointment. As golfers, we develop our confidence, independence, coolness, self-belief, our self-worth. we develop our convictions as to who we wish to be. On the course, as in life, we are responsible for our own destiny as each game we play is a journey towards self-improvement.*

*We would like to believe that the possibility to participate creates aspiration and that the opportunity to participate, once presented, is celebrated by the universal will of all involved to embrace the challenges ahead in the knowledge that personal growth is the potential reward.*

*Humility is not reflected in the pleasure or celebration of others' hardships. confidence is not displayed by throwing clubs or balls. tolerance is not shown by blaming others. Courage is shown in the strength to maintain optimum personal effort and respect for others' concerns when all is not going to plan. Acceptance accompanies learning to cope with temporary setbacks and to progress by building upon disappointment or defect.*

*More importantly, sound sportsmanship is reflected in our consideration for others... and the rewards are greater than a trophy or medal – they last a lifetime.*





## MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

### MGA SHIELD, MGA GENERATION CUP and MALTA JUNIOR OPEN [ADDITIONAL] TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

#### Standards of Player Conduct and Courtesy

A player must exercise self-control, must not show excessive displays of anger or frustration and must have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate. The player must refrain from any behaviour or expression deemed unacceptable and adhere to the guidelines as provided under Rule 1 of the *Rules of Golf*.

If a player consistently disregards these guidelines during a round or over a period to the detriment of others and is reported either by a member of the *Committee* or a *referee* or by multiple players, the *Committee* will take appropriate disciplinary action against the offending player. If the *Committee* considers that a *competitor* is guilty of a serious breach of conduct or etiquette, the *competitor* will be disqualified according to Rule 1.2.

In foursomes and similar competitions, the side receives the applicable penalty including disqualification if any partner breaches the Standards. In fourball and similar competitions, the penalty is applicable to the player, but disqualification applies to the team.

If a player's *caddie* breaches the Code of Conduct, the penalty will be applicable to the *caddie's* player,

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Examples of the penalty structures for a breach of the Code of Conduct is as follows:

#### Warning for a first offence:

- Demonstrates ill temper and abuses the use of golf clubs and equipment, other than with the intentions of the game.
- Throws a club towards a golf bag which unintentionally then hits another person.
- Utters audible obscenities.
- Breaches Rule 1.2 of the *Rules of Golf*.

#### One-stroke penalty with/without *Committee* sanction:

- Second offence to the above list during the same or subsequent competitions.

#### General penalty (two stroke/loss of hole) with/without *Committee* sanction:

- Third offence to the above list during the same or subsequent competitions.



## MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

### Disqualification with/without *Committee* sanction:

- Repetitive offence to the above lists.
- Deliberately causes serious damage to a putting green.
- Disagrees with the course setup and takes it on himself or herself to move markers or boundary stakes.
- Throws a club or other equipment towards another player, official or any person.
- Repeatedly uses vulgar, offensive, abusive or profane language towards another player, an official or any person.
- Physically attacks or abuses, in any way, another player, an official or any person.
- Verbally threatens another player, an official or any person.
- Racially or sexually vilifies another player, an official or any person.
- Deliberately damages the facilities, including the course and the clubhouse.
- Wrongfully removes or damages property belonging to another player, an official, any person or the golf club.
- Fails or refuses to co-operate with, or obstructs, any investigation of the player's conduct or the conduct of another player.
- Shows disrespect and fails to comply with directions or instructions by an official.
- Commits an act to deliberately disqualify another player from a competition.
- Deliberately distracts other players while they are making strokes.
- Removes loose impediments or movable obstructions to disadvantage another player after that other player has asked him or her to leave them in place.
- Repeatedly refuses to lift a ball at rest when it interferes with another player in stroke play.
- Deliberately plays away from the hole and then towards the hole to assist the player's partner (such as helping the player's partner learn the break on the putting green).
- Deliberately does not play in accordance with the Rules and potentially gaining a significant advantage by doing so, despite incurring a penalty for a breach of the relevant Rule.
- Uses a handicap that has been established for the purpose of providing an unfair advantage or using the round being played to establish such a handicap.
- Brings the game of golf into disrepute.

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**NB:** The Malta Golf Association has additionally published a *Code of Ethics* for its officials, coaches, athletes and volunteers as well as two other documents entitled *Disciplinary Procedures* and *Grievance Procedures* which together with this *Code of Conduct* form the basis of an encompassing process for a breach in standards of conduct.