



GUIDELINES ON REINSTATEMENT TO AMATEUR STATUS

Rule 9-2a states: “Amateur and professional golf are two distinct forms of the game which provide different opportunities and neither benefits if the process of changing status from professional to amateur is too easy. Furthermore, there needs to be a deterrent against all breaches of the Rules. Therefore, an applicant for reinstatement to Amateur Status must undergo a period awaiting reinstatement as prescribed by the Committee.

Each Governing Body has the sole authority to reinstate a person to Amateur Status, prescribe a waiting period necessary for reinstatement or to deny reinstatement, subject to an appeal. The “Governing Body” for the Rules of Amateur Status in any country is the national golf union or association of the country. (Note: in Great Britain and Ireland, The R&A is the Governing Body).

Each application is considered on its own merits with consideration normally given to the principles outlined in Rule 9 of the Rules of Amateur Status. In all cases, the Governing Body reserves the right to extend or to shorten the period awaiting reinstatement.

PERIOD AWAITING REINSTATEMENT

The period awaiting reinstatement generally starts from the date of the person’s last breach of the Rules unless the Governing Body decides that it starts from either (a) the date when the person’s last breach became known to the Governing Body, or (b) such other date determined by the Governing Body.

Professionalism - General

Generally, the period awaiting reinstatement is related to the length of time the person was in breach of the Rules of Amateur Status. No applicant is normally eligible for reinstatement unless a period of at least one year has passed.

The guidelines on periods awaiting reinstatement for players who conduct themselves as professional golfers (Rule 2) are as follows:

Period of Breach	Period Awaiting Reinstatement
under 6 years	1 year
6 years or more	2 years

Professionalism – Playing Extensively for Prize Money

The period awaiting reinstatement may be extended if the applicant has played extensively for money. An applicant may be considered to have played extensively for prize money if he has played for prize money for more than an average of two events per month during his professional golf career which saw him devote himself to tournament play for more than six months. Other factors that are taken into account include the tour schedule, the duration of the “off season”, the level of competitions and success of the golfer in those competitions and, if applicable, the length of time that has passed since the player played extensively for prize money.

The guidelines on periods awaiting reinstatement for players who are considered to have played extensively for prize money are as follows:

Period of Breach	Period Awaiting Reinstatement
Under 6 years	2 years
6 years or more	3 years

Professionalism – Young Applications

It should be noted that special consideration is given to players who are 21 years or under on the date of application and who have spent less than a year as a professional. Many who have turned professional at a young age reconsider this decision after a short time. In such cases, the period awaiting reinstatement, in general, should be equal to the time spent as a professional. However, irrespective of the time spent as a professional, the young player should serve a period awaiting reinstatement of at least 3 months.

Acceptance of Non-Conforming Prize or Unauthorised Expenses

A period awaiting reinstatement of one year will normally be applied to an applicant awaiting reinstatement for a breach of the Rules not relating to professionalism. However, the period may be extended if the breach is considered serious. The following guidelines apply to breaches of the Rules relating to the acceptance of a non-conforming prize (e.g. a cash prize of any amount (Rule 3-1) or a prize of retail value in excess of £500 (Rule 3-2)) or the receipt of unauthorised expenses (Rule 4):

Value of Prize (£)	Period Awaiting Reinstatement
501 - 5000	1 year
5001 +	2 years

Non-Approved Expenses (£)	Period Awaiting Reinstatement
Up to 5000	1 year
5001 +	2 years

STATUS WHILE AWAITING REINSTATEMENT

An individual awaiting reinstatement must not represent his Golf Club against other Clubs without the approval of all the clubs in the competition and/or the organising Committee.

He may become or remain a member of a Golf Club (unless membership of the Club in question is open to amateur golfers only) and he may enter competitions solely among members of a Golf Club at which he is a member, subject to the approval of that Golf Club (Rule 9-2e).

He must conduct himself in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status during the interim period.

REINSTATEMENT PROCEDURE

Anyone wishing to be reinstated as an amateur golfer should contact their Governing Body for an application form. Membership of a professional organisation, such as a Professional Golfers' Association, is a breach of the Rules of Amateur Status; therefore, an applicant for reinstatement must resign from the respective organisation before his application can be considered.

Individuals whose Governing Body is The R&A may download an application from the Amateur Status section of The R&A's website (www.randa.org).

HANDICAPPING

Any handicap previously held may lapse and it may be necessary for the individual to apply for a new handicap. The requirements of handicapping authorities vary from country to country and the individual should seek guidance from their handicapping authority on how to obtain a handicap. In many countries the allotting of a low handicap requires ratification by the national golf union or association or some other area authority.

For more information on the points above, please refer to the Rules of Amateur Status and Decisions on the Rules of Amateur Status at www.randa.org.

Effective 1 January 2016