



WDGF Code of Conduct for all Athletes & Athlete Support Personnel

This policy was approved and adopted by the WDGF Board on 24 October 2023.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE CODE

The aim of this code (the “**Code**”) is to provide fair and reasonable standards of conduct for all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, to ensure and maintain an orderly and fair administration and conduct for any WDGf Event and to protect their rights and the respective rights of the WDGf.

DEFINITIONS

“**WDGF**” means the World Deaf Golf Federation.

“**WDGF Event**” means any golf competition sanctioned by the WDGf including the World Deaf Golf Championships.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel participating in any WDGf Event shall observe the Rules of Golf, the Regulations, Local Rules or Conditions in effect for the conduct of the WDGf Event, and at all times shall conduct themselves in a manner that will not reflect unfavourably on the WDGf and its members, officers or representatives.

B. RULES OF GOLF & WDGf REGULATIONS

2. Any Athlete and Athlete Support Personnel who breaches the Rules of Golf, the Local Rules or Terms or the Regulations in effect for the conduct of the WDGf Event, shall be subject to the penalties provided in such Rules, Regulations or Terms, as well as any other penalties determined by the WDGf Rules Committee.
3. The decision of the IGF Rules Committee for the competition with respect to such breach(es) shall be final and conclusive.

C. ATHLETES’ COMMITMENT

4. No Athlete may withdraw their entry except where there are urgent medical conditions preventing participation of an Athlete, or in exceptional circumstances in line with the Qualification System for the WDGf Event, as determined by the WDGf.
5. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of the WDGf Event, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of this Section shall also constitute the Major Offence of “Aggravated Behaviour”.

D. ON-SITE OFFENCES

General

6. Every Athlete and Athlete Support Personnel shall, during the WDGf Event and at all times while within the precincts of the venue, conduct themselves in an orderly and sportsmanlike manner and in accordance with the normally accepted standards of courtesy and golf etiquette.
7. The following provisions shall apply to each Athlete's and Athlete Support Personnel's conduct while within the precincts of the venue.
8. Violations of these conduct requirements shall be determined in WDGf's discretion.

Audible Obscenity

9. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel shall not use audible obscenity within the precinct of the WDGf event or competition venue.
10. For the purposes of this rule, obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the WDGf Rules Committee or spectators.

Visible Obscenity

11. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel shall not make obscene gestures of any kind, including by sign language, within the precincts of the WDGf event or competition venue.
12. For the purposes of this rule, visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs by an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel with their hands and/or equipment that commonly have an obscene meaning.

Verbal abuse

13. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel shall not at any time directly or indirectly verbally abuse any official, other Athlete, other Athlete Support Personnel, spectator or other person within the precincts of the WDGf event or competition venue.
14. For the purposes of this rule, verbal abuse is defined as a statement about an official, opponent, sponsor, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

Physical abuse

15. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel shall not at any time physically abuse any official, other Athlete, other Athlete Support Personnel, spectator or other person within the precincts of the WDGf event or competition venue.
16. For the purposes of this rule, physical abuse is the unauthorised touching of an official, opponent, spectator or other person.

Abuse of equipment

17. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel shall not violently or with anger hit, kick or throw a golf ball, club or other equipment within the precincts of the WDGf event or competition venue.
18. For the purposes of this Rule, abuse of golf clubs or equipment is defined as intentionally and violently destroying or damaging clubs or equipment, or intentionally and violently hitting the course or other fixture during the Competition or practice rounds out of anger or frustration.

Unsportsmanlike conduct

19. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponent's spectators and others.
20. For the purposes of this Rule, Unsportsmanlike Conduct is defined as any misconduct by an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the Sport, but that does not fall within the prohibition of any specific on-site offence contained herein. In addition, Unsportsmanlike Conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the giving, making, issuing, authorising or endorsing any public statement having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of the WDGf Event and/or the officiating thereof.

Best efforts

21. An Athlete shall use their best efforts when competing in the WDGf Event.

Leaving the course

22. An Athlete shall not leave the course area during a round without firstly contacting a Rules Official and then obtaining the permission of the Chief Referee.

Failure to complete competition

23. An Athlete must complete a competition in progress unless he is reasonably unable to do so.
24. A violation of this Section shall subject an Athlete to immediately default and shall also constitute the Major Offence of "Aggravated Behaviour".

Ceremonies

25. An Athlete must attend and participate in the medal ceremony unless reasonably unable to do so.

Failure to report a breach of the Code

26. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel shall report a breach of the Code by another Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel when the breach is known to that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel.
27. Furthermore, Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel shall fully co-operate in any enquiry or proceedings relating to a breach or suspected breach of the Code.

Determination and sanctions

28. Any allegation or suspicion of a Violation of the Code of Conduct shall be reported to the Head of the WDGf Integrity Unit.
29. The procedure used will be determined by the nature and the seriousness of the breach.
30. Not every breach of the Code must be the subject of a formal investigation and determination.
31. In some cases, the Head of the WDGf Integrity Unit will appoint the WDGf Integrity Unit to investigate the facts and material relevant to the allegation(s).
32. In other cases, the Head of the WDGf Integrity Unit may determine the sanction and/or may decide to refer, at his/her sole discretion, the case to the WDGf Tribunal for Hearing and/or to the relevant Professional Member to which the Athlete is a member.

E. MAJOR OFFENCES

Aggravated Behaviour

33. No Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in the WDGf Event shall engage in "Aggravated Behaviour," which is defined as follows: One or more incidents of violations of this Code, as determined by WDGf, as constituting "Aggravated Behaviour".
34. One incident of behaviour that is flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of the WDGf Event, or is singularly egregious, as determined by WDGf.
35. A series of two (2) or more violations of this Code which singularly do not constitute "Aggravated Behaviour", but when viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is collectively egregious and is detrimental or injurious to the WDGf Event, as determined by WDGf.
36. In addition, any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who, directly or indirectly, violates the Code, as defined below, by offering, providing, or receiving any money, benefit or consideration to or from any other Covered Person or third party in exchange for access and/or accreditation to the WDGf event or competition venue shall be deemed to have engaged in Aggravated Behaviour and be in violation of this Section.

37. Furthermore, neither Athletes nor other individuals acting on such Athletes' behalf shall solicit or accept any compensation, gratuity or other thing of value offered for the purpose of guaranteeing their appearance in the WDGf Event.
38. Conversely, neither Athletes nor other individuals acting on such Athletes' behalf shall offer anything of value to the WDGf in return for special treatment of any kind.
39. Violation of this Section by an Athlete, directly or indirectly through Athlete Support Personnel or others, shall be reported to the Head of the WDGf Integrity Unit who will examine possible breaches of this Code.
40. The procedure used will be determined by the nature and the seriousness of the breach.
41. Not every breach of the Code must be the subject of a formal investigation and determination.
42. In some cases, the Head of the WDGf Integrity Unit may appoint the WDGf Integrity Unit to investigate the facts and material relevant to the allegation(s).
43. In other cases, the Head of the WDGf Integrity Unit may determine the sanction and/or may decide to refer, at his/her sole discretion, the case to the WDGf Tribunal for Hearing and/or to the relevant WDGf Member to which the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel is a member.

Conduct contrary to the integrity of the game

44. No Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel shall engage in conduct contrary to the integrity of the game of golf.
45. If an Athlete has at any time behaved in a manner severely damaging to the reputation of the Sport, he may be deemed by virtue of such behaviour to have engaged in conduct contrary to the integrity of the Game of Golf and be in violation of this Section.
46. Violation of this Section by an Athlete, directly or indirectly through Athlete Support Personnel or others shall be reported to the Head of the WDGf Integrity Unit.
47. The procedure used will be determined by the nature and the seriousness of the breach.
48. Not every breach of the Code must be the subject of a formal investigation and determination.
49. In some cases, the Head of the WDGf Integrity Unit will appoint the WDGf Integrity Unit to investigate the facts and material relevant to the allegation(s).
50. In other cases, the Head of the WDGf Integrity Unit may determine the sanction and/or may decide to refer, at his/her sole discretion, the case to the WDGf Tribunal for Hearing and/or to the relevant WDGf Member to which the Athlete is a member.