



## Leongatha Golf Club - Code of Conduct - (2018)

This Code of Conduct applies to all Members of the Leongatha Golf Club Inc and applies in all instances when the Member is at the facility or is representing the Club in any capacity at any other venue. Members will also be accountable for the behaviour of their guests.

All Members, Visitors and Guests must adhere at all times to commonly accepted standards of golfing etiquette and sportsmanship. In order to ensure proper standards of behaviour whilst at Leongatha Golf Club, a person who commits an offence under this Code will face disciplinary proceedings.

### 1. DEFINITIONS

In this code, unless the context otherwise requires:

#### Term Definition

<b>Appeal Tribunal</b>	means the tribunal referred to in Attachment A of this document
<b>Board</b>	means the Board of the Leongatha Golf Club Inc.
<b>Caddie</b>	means the definition as per the Rules of Golf
<b>Club</b>	means the Leongatha Golf Club Inc.
<b>Code</b>	means this Code of Conduct
<b>Committee</b>	means the Match Committee of the Leongatha Golf Club Inc.
<b>Competition</b>	means any Championship event, competition, pennant match, practice session or other major competition or activity, conducted or sanctioned by the Club or by South Gippsland Golf Inc.
<b>Conduct Officers</b>	means two members on the Board of the Club appointed at any time to consider, hear and determine a report during or after the conclusion of a competition
<b>Facility</b>	means the whole of the golf course, club house, carparking area(s) and any practice area(s).
<b>Investigative Officer</b>	means a person appointed by the Committee to administer a report
<b>Club Representatives</b>	means Teams or Players selected by the Club to represent the Club at selected events.
<b>Notice</b>	means a notice in writing by letter, facsimile, other written means of communication, or email
<b>Player</b>	means a player or participant in a competition. Player also includes a caddie and/or parent
<b>Report</b>	means any oral or written statement (including by email) by any person, of an alleged offence by a person under this Code.
<b>SGGI</b>	South Gippsland Golf Inc.

**An act** is deemed to occur “during a competition” if it occurs:

- a) At any time day or night while on Club premises.
- b) Whilst representing the club
  - a. Whilst at the host golf club.
  - b. Traveling to and from the host golf club.



## 2. OFFENCES

### 2.1 A person is guilty of a Category A offence under this Code if the person:

- a) Physically or verbally, assaults or abuses, or discriminates against in any way, another member, staff member, guest or visitor. Including via social media
- b) Racially vilifies a player, another member, staff member, guest or visitor while within the facility. Including via social media
- c) Wrongfully damages any part of the facility, including the course, signs, markers and the clubhouse or its furniture and furnishings,
- d) Wrongfully removes or damages property belonging to another member, guest or visitor.
- e) Deliberately breaks a Rule (as defined in the Rules of Golf);
- f) Deliberately returns a false score card;
- g) Fails or refuses to co-operate with, or obstructs, any investigation by the Investigative Officer
- h) Fails or refuses to co-operate with, or obstructs, a hearing by the Conduct Officers or the Appeal Tribunal;
- i) Behaves in a manner detrimental to the good name and reputation of the Club; or brings the game of golf into disrepute.

### 2.2 A Person is guilty of a Category B offence under this Code if the person:

- a) In relation to a competition, publicly criticises:
  - i. the competition golf course;
  - ii. the competition itself;
  - iii. the organisers of the competition;
  - iv. the sponsors of the competition; or
  - v. any official supervising or organising the competition during a competition;
- b) Throws or deliberately, breaks golf equipment (including golf balls) during a competition;
- c) Uses abusive or profane language towards another player, an official, or other person during a competition;
- d) Utters audible obscenities during a competition.
- e) Behaves in a manner that may be detrimental to the performance of other players.
- f) Brings the game of golf into disrepute.
- g) Fails to report a breach of this Code by another player

### 2.3 A Person is guilty of a Category C offence if the person:

- a) Fails to comply with the Rules of Golf with respect to Section I – Etiquette. (NB Etiquette includes the continual failure to fill in divots or repair pitch marks);
- b) Continually fails to play without undue delay;
- c) Fails to wear appropriate golf attire as required by the local dress code;
- d) Continues to use profane language after verbal warning;
- e) Makes disparaging remarks about, or personal insults to, another person;
- f) Continually fails to notify the Club of their intention not to turn up for their booking, without good reason.
- g) Fails to notify their playing partners in a team event, of their intention not to play, without good reason.



- h) Abuses the bunkers by;
  - I. entering down the bunker wall rather than at the grass tongue or the lowest point;
  - II. fails to properly rake foot marks or divots;
  - III. fails to properly lay the rake in the base of the bunker in line with the fairway.
- i) Fails, without good reason, to attend the trophy presentation for a Board Event, or Club Championship event where the player is;
  - I. The event winner.

2.4 **If a Person commits** two or more Category C offences, the person is deemed to have committed a Category B offence and is subject to the penalties prescribed for a Category B offence. **If a Person commits** two or more Category B offences, the Person is deemed to have committed a Category A offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category A offence.

2.5 **Subsequent breaches** of the Code within a 24 month period will result in a penalty prescribed for the Category one above the highest Category of the previous breach. For sake of clarity, should a Member commit a Category B offence originally, and then commits a Category B offence 6 months later, the Member is deemed to have committed a Category A offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category A offence. Should the original breach be a Category A offence, the penalty imposed will be as the Conduct Officers see fit.

### 3. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

3.1 Any written Report made under this Code by any person, to the Committee (or any member of staff), must be referred to an Investigative Officer and the Conduct Officers.

3.2 Upon receiving a report under clause 3.1, the Conduct Officers must determine whether:

- a) No further action should be taken; or
- b) If in the course of such investigation it is evident that, in the opinion of the Conduct Officers, a breach has occurred, an appropriate penalty may be imposed

3.3 Should the offence be considered to have an appropriate penalty as per Clause 3.2 b) then the Person is to be afforded due process and:

- a) Presented with the details of the offence;
- b) Permitted to present his/her explanation;
- c) The Conduct Officers will take into account all the facts when issuing the appropriate penalty; and
- d) The penalty will be communicated to the Person by notice in writing from the Committee.

### 4. PENALTIES

4.1 If a Member is found guilty of a Category A offence, any of the following penalties, a minimum of 3 months and not normally exceeding more than 2 years duration, may be imposed:

- a) Disqualify the Member from the competition;
- b) An order that the Member attend appropriate counselling sessions as specified by the Committee;
- c) A recommendation to the Member's membership be suspended for a set period of time;



- d) A recommendation to the SGGI that the Member not be permitted to enter District Events;
- e) A recommendation to the SGGI that the Member be suspended from a District Squad;
- f) Recommendation to Golf Australia for suspension of the Member's Australian Handicap;
- g) Suspension from any club representative team or squad;
- h) In the case of an offence under clauses 2.1(d) or (e) of this Code, an order that the Member should pay compensation to the Member, official, tournament organiser or Club who suffered loss as a result of the accused Member's conduct, or
- i) Such other penalty as determined from time to time.

4.2 If a Member is found guilty of a Category B offence, any of the following penalties, minimum 1 month but not more than 3 months for any one offence, may be imposed:

- a) Disqualify the Member from the competition;
- b) An order that the Member attend appropriate counselling sessions as specified by the Committee;
- c) A recommendation to the SGGI that the Member not be permitted to enter District sanctioned Events;
- d) A recommendation to the SGGI that the Member be suspended from any District Squad;
- e) Recommendation to Golf Australia for suspension of the Member's Australian Handicap;
- f) Recommendation to Golf Victoria for the member to be suspended from the State Squad; or
- g) Such other penalty as determined from time to time.

4.3 If a Member is found guilty of a Category C offence, any of the following penalties may be imposed:

- a) A severe reprimand;
- b) An order that the Member attend appropriate counselling sessions as specified by the Committee; or
- c) Recommendation to Golf Australia for suspension of the Member's Australian Handicap (recommendation: no more than 1 month);
- d) Such other penalty as determined from to time.

4.4 If a Visitor or Guest is found guilty of an Category A, B or C offence, the Conduct Officers in conjunction with the Board, may determine such penalty in keeping with this code.

## 5. APPEAL PROCEDURE

The appeal procedure for determination of breach by a Member, Visitor or Guest, is detailed in Appendix A of this document.

## 6. CENTRAL REGISTER

6.1 Golf Australia will retain a record of all serious breaches that have been found against a Member, the results of any appeals from such findings and any pending appeals. The Club will forward to the SSGI for lodgement with Golf Victoria the details of any breaches that have been found against a Member, the results of any appeals from such findings and any pending appeals.



- 6.2 Where a Member commits a breach, the Club must forward a copy of the Notice and any notices of appeal in relation to the breach to the SGGI to be dealt with in accordance with clause 6.1 above.
- 6.3 A breach is only to be kept on a Member's record for a period of 24 months from the date such breach was committed or, 12 months after the period of which the Member's penalty expired. In the case where the breach is the subject of an appeal, from the date the appeal is upheld.
- 6.4 The Club will comply with the Privacy Act (1988) when collecting or receiving information under this Code.