

25th October 2011,

The Captain/Hon. Secretary,
Golf Clubs

Dear Sirs,

The Council of the Indian Golf Union is glad to note the encouragement being given to your Junior Golfers and the IGU is keen to support and encourage such initiatives.

As the National Union (recognized as the National Sports Federation for Golf in India), we are charged with the task of administering, in India, the R&A's current Rules of Amateur Status, and the new rules, effective January 1, 2012 and would urge you to ensure that these Rules are strictly followed.

This is critical to making sure that the Amateur Status of the Junior Golfers, you wish to support is protected, in order that they are available to us, the IGU, for selection to the National squad, as need be.

Your attention is, particularly, drawn to Rules 2-1, 4-2.b and c and 6-2 of the R&A's Rules of Amateur Status.

Per Rule 4-2.b, a Junior Golfer (defined in India as not having reached his/her 18th birthday, in the year prior to the event) may receive, reasonable expenses if he/she competes in a competition limited exclusively for Junior golfers.

However, should such a Junior participate in individual events, in India, an amateur golfer may receive reasonable expenses approved by and paid through the player's national, regional, state or county union or association or with the approval of such body, may be paid by the player's golf club.

If the event is outside India, approval from the National Union of the country where the competition is being held is also required and the expenses must be paid as stated above or with the IGU's approval, by the body controlling Golf in the territory that he/she is visiting.

Therefore, given that many Clubs have a very structured junior program, the IGU is willing to consider allowing the Clubs to approve and pay, directly, expenses to the junior golfer subject to stringent conditions and periodical review.

Expenses are defined as under:

- (i) Transportation / travel costs
- (ii) Accommodation / lodging
- (iii) Meals / refreshments
- (iv) Entry fees
- (v) Caddie / cart and practice fees

Please also note that the Junior Golfers deemed to have golf skill or reputation are prohibited from advertising or promoting the source of any expenses received.

If there is a need to sponsor “gear”, as well, for your juniors, please be advised the Juniors may receive “equipment” defined to be anything which may be reasonably purchased from a golf professional’s shop or golf store.

The IGU, is, therefore, pleased to advise you that your Junior’s, in any one year, should not receive in excess of the following:

- (i) 24 Dozen Golf Balls
- (ii) 1 set of Golf Clubs
- (iii) 1 pair of Golf Shoes
- (iv) 1 set of waterproofs / rain suit
- (v) 3 / 4 sets of clothing provided no advertising is involved and no logo of the Club, other than the standard logo of the manufacturer, is displayed.

In order for the IGU to consider your proposal, you are requested to make a formal application, with complete details of your proposed sponsorship, so as to have our Technical, Rules & Amateur Status Committee review the application. Should your application be approved, please do note that, if necessary, a periodical audit of your accounts, pertaining to sponsoring of Juniors, may be undertaken by an IGU audit team.

We are confident that as a major constituent of the IGU, you will ensure that the Rules of Amateur Status are followed both in spirit and in letter and the IGU looks forward to working, closely with you in promoting the game.

We commend to you the various Guidelines, created by us, for Junior and Amateur Golfers which are available on our website (www.indiangolfunion.org) .

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further clarifications.

Very truly yours,

(Ishwar Achanta)
Council Member &
Chairman- Technical, Rules & Amateur Status Committee