

# IMPACTOUR

FOLLOWS USGA RULES FOR COMPETITION



## **3a Scratch Competitions**

An amateur playing in a scratch competition is allowed to accept any prize, including prize money, up to a limit of £700 or US\$1000 in value, per competition, unless the national governing body has set a lower limit.

For the purposes of these Rules, a scratch competition is a competition that does not have a net score element in any part of the competition and handicaps must not be used to separate players into different scratch categories. Any competition that is not a scratch competition is a handicap competition.

## **3b Handicap Competitions**

An amateur playing in a handicap competition is not allowed to accept prize money, but may accept any other prize up to a limit of £700 or US\$1000 in value, per competition, unless the national governing body has set a lower limit.

## **3c General**

For a non-monetary prize, the value of that prize is the price at which the item is generally available to purchase from a retail source at the time the prize is accepted.

The prize limit applies to the following:

- Any tee-to-hole golf competition involving a score for a hole, regardless of where that competition is played (for example, on a golf course or a golf simulator).
- Any skills competition where the shot is played during a tee-to-hole golf competition.

- The total prizes accepted in a single competition or multiple competitions being conducted at the same time (for example, individual and team competitions).

The prize limit does not apply to the following:

- The value of trophies and other similar prizes.
- Long-drive competitions, target competitions, competitions involving specific skills, trick shots and competitions that solely involve putting (unless the competition or shot is played during a tee-to-hole golf competition).
- A prize for a hole-in-one made:
  - Outside a tee-to-hole competition or
  - During a tee-to-hole competition, provided the length of the shot is at least 50 yards.
- Gambling or wagering among individual golfers or teams of golfers.
- Expenses to compete in a subsequent stage of the same competition.



### **Scratch and Handicap Competitions**

[Rule 3](#) (Prizes) differentiates between the types of prizes an amateur golfer may accept when playing in a scratch competition versus those that may be accepted when playing in a handicap competition. The Rules of Amateur Status treat every competition as either a scratch competition or a handicap competition. A competition cannot be both a scratch and handicap competition for the purposes of applying [Rule 3](#).

### **Scratch Competitions**

For the purposes of [Rule 3](#), a scratch competition must be conducted using scratch (gross) scores only. A player's handicap or their handicap index may not be used for any scoring-related functions.

- The Rules consider the following competitions to be handicap competitions:
  - Competitions where handicaps are used to divide a larger field into divisions or flights, even though only scratch (gross) scores are used to determine placing within divisions or flights.
  - Competitions using scratch (gross) and handicap (net) scoring in the same competition.
  - Competitions using player handicaps as a method to break a tie.

- But handicaps may be used in a scratch competition to limit who is eligible to enter, such as allowing entry only for players with a handicap index of 5.0 or less.

### **Handicap Competitions**

For the purposes of [Rule 3](#), any competition that is not a scratch competition is, by default, a handicap competition. Common examples of handicap competitions include competitions where:

- Handicaps are not applied to player scores, but divisions or flights are created based on player handicaps. While such a competition is played on a scratch (gross) scoring basis, the Rules treat such a competition as a handicap competition.
- The scratch (gross) and handicap (net) competitions are conducted at the same time as part of the same round or rounds.
- One or more rounds of the same competition are played as scratch and one or more rounds are played applying handicaps to scoring.
- Handicaps are applied to scoring at one stage, but not at all stages, of a multi-stage competition.

### **Currency and Prize Limits**

[Rule 3](#) refers to prize limits expressed in pound sterling (£) and US dollars (US\$). However, the national governing body in a country may set the prize limit for its own country, provided it does not exceed the local currency equivalent of the limit of £700 and US\$1000 in [Rule 3](#) at the time the limit is established.

It is recognized that £700 and US\$1000 are unlikely to be exactly the same value at any given time. A national governing body has the choice of which currency it uses to align its own limit.

While it is not realistic to realign the local currency equivalent on a day-to-day basis, it should be reviewed regularly to ensure it is not significantly out of line with the limits in [Rule 3](#).

### **Meaning of Tee-to-Hole Golf Competitions**

[Rule 3](#) applies only to a tee-to-hole golf competition involving a score for a hole, regardless of where that competition is played (for example, on a golf course or golf simulator).

[Rule 3](#) also applies to any skills competition where the shot is played during a tee-to-hole golf competition. For example, longest drive or nearest the hole competition when it is contested while playing a hole from tee to green as part of the competition round.

However, [Rule 3](#) does not apply to competitions that are not part of a tee-to-hole golf competition, even when they take place on a golf course or a golf simulator. Common examples include, longest drive competitions, nearest the hole competitions, putting competitions and skills competitions where the stroke or strokes do not count as part of a round of golf. These competitions, where [Rule 3](#) does not apply, can be conducted in conjunction with a tee-to-hole golf competition.

### **Prize of Expenses Provided by Competition Organizer to Subsequent Stage of Competition**

When a competition organizer awards a prize for the winner or a select number of participants to receive expenses to play in a subsequent stage of the same competition, the prize limit in [Rule 3](#) does not apply.

All or any portion of actual expenses may be paid on behalf of the player or reimbursed, including, but not limited to, entry fees to subsequent stages, travel, accommodation, meals and caddie fees.

In addition to covering actual expenses, a competition organizer may also award prizes provided they are within the limits set in [Rule 3](#).

### **Deferring or Indirectly Accepting a Prize**

An amateur golfer may not defer or delay the acceptance of a prize that is not allowed under [Rule 3](#) in order to retain their amateur status. Deferring or delaying acceptance would be treated as if the prize had been accepted at the time it was won.

Additionally, an amateur golfer is not able to avoid losing their amateur status by indirectly accepting a prize through another person or redirecting a prize through their golf club or business. However, in certain circumstances the donation of a prize to charity is allowed (see "[Donation of Prize to Charity](#)")

### **Meaning of Prize Money**

For the purposes of [Rule 3](#), prize money may come in many forms, and includes cash, physical or digital currency, cheques, bank deposits, and shares, stocks and bonds. Gift cards and debit cards that may be redeemable for cash or can be used to withdraw cash are also considered prize money.

Prize money does not include vouchers, gift certificates and gift cards that can be exchanged for products and services in retail outlets and/or a golf course or club.

### **Donation of Prize to Charity**

An amateur golfer who wins a prize that is not allowed by the Rules may choose not to accept that prize, but instead offer to donate that prize to a recognized charity.

It is up to the Committee in charge of the competition to decide if it will allow prizes won by amateur golfers to be donated to a recognized charity.

### **Policy on Raffles, Prize Draws, etc.**

[Rule 3](#) does not apply to a raffle prize or a prize draw run in conjunction with a golf event provided it is not being used to circumvent the prize limit.

### **Team Competitions**

Each individual player in a team competition may accept a prize up to the prize limit in [Rule 3](#).

For example, in an 18-hole team handicap competition, each player on a four-person team may accept a prize, other than prize money, up to the prize limit.

### **Multiple Competitions Being Conducted at the Same Time**

The prize limit in [Rule 3](#) applies on a per competition basis and includes the primary competition as well as any secondary contests (such as longest drive or nearest to the hole competitions while playing a hole from tee to green as part of the competition round). The prize limit in [Rule 3](#) also applies to the total prizes won in multiple competitions being conducted at the same time (such as individual and team events), even if there is a separate entry fee for each one.

- For example, in an 18-hole individual competition, where gross and net prizes are awarded, a player who wins \$700 in shop credit for the gross competition may accept only \$300 in additional shop credit for the net competition.

If a competition has one or more stages of qualifying, each stage is considered a separate competition provided there is an entry fee at each stage.

In the case of an aggregate competition where the winner is determined based on the combined results of two separate competitions, the prize limit applies to the aggregate prize plus the total value of any prize won in the separate competitions.

- For example, Competition A and Competition B are both 36-hole scratch (gross) competitions played on two consecutive weekends, each with its own entry fee. Competition C is a 72-hole aggregate competition based on the results of Competitions A and B together. A player who wins a prize of \$700 in either Competition A or B may only accept up to \$300 for Competition C.

### **Order of Merit**

An amateur golfer may accept a prize up to the limit in [Rule 3](#) for winning an “Order of Merit” or “Golfer of the Year” award, in addition to any other competition prizes won during the order of merit period.

### **Trophies**

Trophies and other symbolic prizes that are permanently and distinctively engraved may be accepted even if the value exceeds the prize limit in Rule 3.

Trophies made of gold, silver, ceramic, glass or similar materials that are not permanently and distinctively engraved are subject to the prize limit.

Items such as a rare watch or vintage jewellery must not be used to circumvent the prize limit in [Rule 3](#).

### **Policy on Mementoes and Gifts**

A sponsor or competition organiser may give a memento or gift to the players competing, irrespective of their value, provided it is not used to circumvent the prize limit.