

ARFAX CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct addresses acceptable and expected behavior during ARFAX golf events. As members of ARFAX we are held to a certain standard of conduct.

1. **Elements of Conduct**. Golf is a game of etiquette, sportsmanship, and integrity.
 - a. ***Etiquette*** requires players to be mindful of their pace-of-play, look out for the safety of others, and avoid distracting the play of others. Some examples of poor etiquette are:
 - 1) Looking longer than 3 minutes for a lost ball
 - 2) Taking more than 40 seconds to hit a shot
 - 3) Falling out of position
 - 4) Hitting when others are in danger of being hit
 - 5) Standing in a player's line of sight
 - 6) Walking on a player's line
 - 7) Talking when a player is hitting or putting
 - b. ***Sportsmanship*** requires players to conduct themselves in a disciplined manner by remaining ethical, composed, polite, fair, and gracious in loss and victory. Some examples of sportsmanship violations are:
 - 1) Using vulgar or offensive language
 - 2) Throwing equipment
 - 3) Speaking harshly or disrespectfully to a competitor, teammate, staff member, grounds keeper, etc.
 - 4) Deliberately distracting a player by talking, moving, or making a loud noise
 - 5) Using gamesmanship as a tactic to gain an advantage over your competitor, such as questioning her handicap index
 - 6) Physically hurting a player
 - c. ***Integrity*** requires players to adhere to the USGA Rules of Golf and apply all penalties even at times when others may not be looking. Deliberately not adhering to the Rules of Golf to gain a significant advantage will be considered egregious. Some examples of egregious rules violations are:
 - 1) Intentionally recording an improper score on a hole(s)
 - 2) Substituting a ball for a lost ball without taking a penalty
 - 3) Improving a lie by moving the ball in the fairway or rough
 - 4) Marking a ball closer to the hole from where it lies
 - 5) Manipulating your handicap index to be artificially high in an effort to gain an unfair advantage in net score competitions

2. **Addressing Violations.** It is the responsibility of each ARFAX member to adhere to this Code of Conduct and ensure others do the same. Allowing or ignoring poor etiquette, unsportsmanlike conduct, and rules violations will only lead to additional occurrences and diminish the integrity and reputation of the organization. Below are guidelines for addressing violations:
- a. ***Etiquette.*** Poor etiquette often results in an unpleasant round for all involved. Etiquette misconduct is best addressed on the course in a calm and respectful manner. Some examples are:
 - 1) If a player is in your line of sight, ask her nicely to move.
 - 2) If a player is slowing the pace-of-play, wait until the hole is finished, and gently mention your group has fallen out of position.
 - 3) If a player continuously talks while you are hitting or putting, tell her kindly it is distracting.
 - b. ***Sportsmanship.*** Good sportsmanship is one of the most important elements in any sport and poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Sportsmanship violations must be reported to the Review Board.
 - c. ***Integrity.*** Golf is a game of honor. Players are expected to call penalties on themselves and “protect the field” by monitoring other players. If a player witnesses another player breaching a rule, it is her responsibility to notify the player and the player’s marker promptly and certainly before the player submits her scorecard. Failure to do so could result in disqualification. Often these types of breaches are not intentional or egregious but still require action by the players involved.

In addition to notifying the player and marker prior to the scorecard submission, egregious rules violations like those mentioned in *paragraph 1.c.* must be reported to the Review Board.
3. **Reporting Violations.** Golf is a self-policing sport without referees or umpires. While most etiquette misconduct will not be reported to the Review Board, unsportsmanlike conduct and egregious rules violations must be reported. These types of suspected violations must be reported to the Review Board as soon as possible but no later than 7 days after the violation(s).
4. **Review Board.** The Board will consist of the four Executive Board members. It will determine the validity and severity of the suspected violation(s) and impose sanctions.
5. **Sanctions.** Possible sanctions include a verbal warning, written warning, suspension, or revocation.