

WOMEN'S DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOLF ASSOCIATION (WDCGA)

CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct addresses acceptable and expected behavior of the members of the WDCGA. As members, we are held to a certain standard of conduct on and off the golf course. During golf events, social gatherings, business meetings, and email and telephone communications, members must treat each other with civility and respect.

1. **Elements of Conduct.** Golf is a game of etiquette, sportsmanship, and integrity. It is the responsibility of each WDCGA member to adhere to this Code of Conduct on and off the course 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. On the course, the WDCGA expects all players to adhere to the Standards of Player Conduct, Rule 1.2 in the USGA Rules of Golf.
 - a. **Etiquette** requires players to act civilly, 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) Unbecoming, discourteous conduct
 - 2) Hitting when others are in danger of being hit, standing in a player's line of sight, or walking on a player's line
 - 3) Distracting a player by talking, moving, or making a loud noise when a player is hitting or putting
 - 4) Failing to care for the course by not following cart rules, not raking bunkers, not repairing ball marks, not filling divots.

Poor etiquette often results in an unpleasant round for all involved. Etiquette misconduct is best addressed in a calm and respectful manner at the time the misconduct occurs.
 - b. **Sportsmanship** requires players to conduct themselves in a disciplined manner by remaining ethical, polite, and gracious in loss and victory. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Sportsmanship violations must be reported to the Review Board. Some examples of sportsmanship violations are:
 - 1) Repeatedly and audibly using vulgar or offensive language
 - 2) Throwing equipment
 - 3) Speaking or acting harshly or disrespectfully to a competitor, teammate, tournament official, or club employee
 - c. **Integrity.** Golf is a game of honor. On the course, players are expected to adhere to the WDCGA Guidelines, Local Rules, Conditions of Competition, and the USGA Rules of Golf.

If a player knows that she has breached a Rule of Golf that involves a penalty and deliberately fails to apply the penalty, the player is disqualified.

If a player witnesses another player breaching a Rule of Golf, it is her responsibility to notify the player and the player's marker promptly and certainly before the player submits her scorecard.

In addition to notifying the player and marker prior to the scorecard submission, egregious or intentional violations of the Rules of Golf must be reported to the Review Board.

For such serious or recurring violations of the Rules of Golf, including failing to accurately post all acceptable golf scores as required by Rule 2, the Review Board may impose sanctions beyond the penalty imposed by the Rules of Golf.

2. **Code of Conduct Violations.** Golf is a self-policing sport without referees or umpires. Incidents of serious misconduct or actions deemed detrimental to the image of the WDCGA or contrary to the spirit of the game are grounds for disqualification and suspension from future WDCGA competition. Such suspected serious or egregious violations of the Code of Conduct must be reported to the Review Board as soon as possible but no later than 5 days after the violation(s).

As set forth in the WDCGA Handbook, Oversight, the Review Board will investigate the validity and severity of the suspected violation(s) and impose sanctions if appropriate.