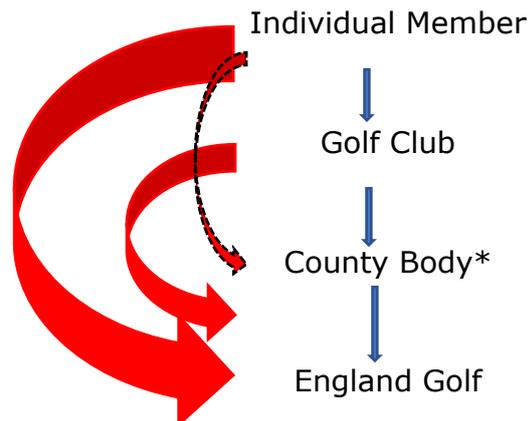


England Golf – Disciplinary Guidance for Golf Clubs

Background

England Golf is the national governing body for golf in England. We are a membership organisation, and we govern affiliated golf in England.

The makeup of England Golf membership is as follows:



**Some County Bodies have rules providing that individual golfers are members of the County Body, whereas some have golf clubs as their members. Golf Clubs affiliate to a County Body as well as to England Golf.*

An individual joining an affiliated club automatically becomes a member of England Golf. Affiliated clubs are also members of England Golf. The County Bodies are Voting Members of England Golf. Individuals and affiliated golf clubs are non-voting members.

The England Golf Disciplinary Regulations apply to all members of England Golf., whether they are an individual or an organisation, voting or non-voting member.

The England Golf Disciplinary Framework

Every sport has rules which govern how the game is played, and the framework of our Disciplinary Regulations sees that the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping apply at all levels of the game.

In addition, we seek to protect the integrity and reputation of the sport in England through our polices, rules and regulations.

It is important to recognise that golf clubs are independent businesses in their own right, and England Golf does not seek to regulate all aspects of a golf club's business. We will always try to provide support and guidance to our member clubs, but not everything that happens at club level will fall within the England Golf disciplinary framework. It follows that a club's disciplinary rules may be different to those of England Golf.

England Golf's Disciplinary Regulations are primarily concerned with matters which fall into these areas:

1. The playing of the game, for example breaches of the Rules of Golf or the Rules of Handicapping
2. The reputation of the sport or matters of national importance
3. Compliance with the membership rules of England Golf, for example where a club has not complied with the Terms & Conditions of Affiliation
4. Issues relating to conduct at England Golf events or within England Golf squads.

Where an issue within any of the above arises at any level within affiliated golf, England Golf requires it to be dealt with in accordance with the England Golf Disciplinary Regulations. The information on the following pages will help you to understand what this means in some common situations, but in broad terms:

- Issues that relate to the playing of the game should be dealt with at their most local level, with an appeal to the next level up.
- Issues that relate to the reputation of the sport or raise matters of national importance will usually be dealt with by England Golf.
- Where an issue relates to compliance with England Golf membership rules we will, where appropriate, consider the matter with the relevant county body to determine if there may also be a breach of county rules, and agree the most appropriate disciplinary body to consider the matter.

Other Disciplinary Matters

Golf Clubs may also be concerned with matters arising at club level that do not fall within the England Golf Disciplinary regulations, for example

1. Conduct of members and visitors at the club
2. Conduct of members which may affect the reputation of the club
3. Compliance with club rules such as standards of etiquette, payment of fees etc.

In the case of those matters, England Golf can provide support and guidance, but as those things do not fall within the England Golf Disciplinary Regulations, we would not be able to advocate for one side or the other, to give a view on the merits of case or act as an appeal body.

A Good Disciplinary Process

England Golf has produced a template for clubs to use when drafting their disciplinary rules. The template is not mandatory and clubs can draft their own rules, as long as those rules accord with the principles of natural justice. For the purposes of disciplinary matters within affiliated golf, England Golf considers those principles to be:

1. The person accused of wrongdoing should be told what they are alleged to have done and what rule they are alleged to have broken.
2. The matter should be investigated by someone who is independent, that is not involved in the incident in question.

3. The person accused of wrongdoing should be shown the evidence against them in support of the charge and given the chance to respond.
4. Reasons should be given for the decision and any sanctions applied.
5. There should be an appeal process.

Each golf club is different and should devise a disciplinary process that works for their structure and membership whilst making sure that the above requirements are fulfilled. The template on the following pages can be adapted as appropriate.