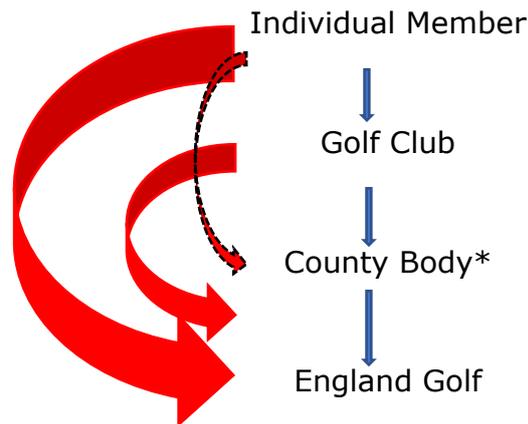


England Golf – Disciplinary Guidance for County Golf Bodies

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 or County Bodies as well as to England Golf.*

The County Golf Bodies (Unions, Associations and Merged Counties) are Voting Members of England Golf. The rules of County Golf Bodies may differ in that some may have affiliated golf clubs as voting members, and some may have individuals as voting members. In either case, both individual member of golf clubs and affiliated golf clubs are non-voting members of England Golf.

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 and County Golf Bodies are organisations in their own right. England Golf does not seek to regulate all aspects of golf club and county business. Not everything that happens at club or county level will fall within the England Golf disciplinary framework.

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 and County Bodies may also be concerned with matters arising at club or county level that do not fall within the England Golf Disciplinary regulations, for example

1. Conduct of members and visitors at a club or at county events.
2. Conduct of members which may affect the reputation of the club or county.
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 a case or act as an appeal body.

A club should have its own rules which govern these types of matter, and County Bodies should consider whether or not it is appropriate for them to provide a route of appeal for such issues arising at club level.

A Good Disciplinary Process

England Golf has produced a template for County Bodies to use when drafting their disciplinary rules. The template is not mandatory and county bodies 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 county body 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, and the notes to accompany the template will help to guide you through some of the things you will need to think about in adapting the template.