



PGA

Metropolitan Section

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

The Metropolitan PGA expects a high standard of conduct and sportsmanship from all players in Metropolitan PGA events. The Metropolitan PGA Code of Conduct Policy is in effect at all Metropolitan PGA administered championships, events and activities related thereto (e.g. practice rounds, hospitality events, etc.). All players shall adhere to the USGA Rules of Golf, Metropolitan PGA Policies, and the rules and regulations of any facility hosting a Metropolitan PGA event. Players who conduct themselves in a discourteous or unsportsmanlike manner are subject to disqualification (Rule 1.2) according to the discretion of the Tournament Committee. The Met PGA Grievance Committee can extend the disqualification to additional future events if circumstances warrant.

Section 1. Conduct Unbecoming a Professional

Conduct unbecoming a professional will include but will not be limited to the following:

- a. Any violation of the PGA of America Code of Ethics
- b. Knowingly and purposely violating and/or ignoring the Rules of Golf
- c. Loud, profane, crude and/or abusive language deemed to be offensive to spectators, participants, sponsors, host facilities, PGA Professionals and Associates, the Metropolitan PGA Tournament Committee and Metropolitan PGA Section Staff.
- d. Intentional throwing or breaking a club or damaging course and/or Section property during Metropolitan PGA championships, events and activities in a manner of anger or disgust
- e. Consuming or dispensing any alcoholic beverages or other illegal substances during, before or after a Metropolitan PGA championship, event or activity unless authorized by the Metropolitan PGA
- f. Dressing in a manner that violates the dress codes for men and women
- g. Displaying conduct unbecoming of a PGA Professional

Section 2. Code of Conduct Committee

As outlined in the PGA of America's Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations, the Metropolitan PGA Grievance Committee will serve as the Section Board of Inquiry and shall have the authority and jurisdiction to perform in all matters properly before them. The Metropolitan PGA Grievance Committee shall have the jurisdiction to investigate complaints and to submit a report of its findings to the Board of Control.

Section 3. Review of Inquiries, Complaint Processing and Investigatory Procedures

All Members, Associates, Non-PGA Professionals, and Amateurs accused of violating the Metropolitan PGA Code of Conduct may be called to a meeting with the Metropolitan PGA Grievance Committee. All accused shall have the right to appear at all hearings and/or calls, present evidence and have witnesses appear on their behalf. Procedures for all Members, Associates, Non-PGA Professionals, and Amateurs accused of violating any of the Rules of Conduct are as follows:

- a. **Form for Complaints.** Individual(s) wishing to have the conduct of another professional(s) or amateur(s) during a Metropolitan PGA championship, event or activity under review shall notify the Metropolitan PGA Executive Director or Metropolitan PGA President in writing within seven (7) days of the close of the championship, event or activity. On-site verbal complaints will be considered under this policy as well. The complainants and accused shall be immediately notified of the policy process and asked to submit information in writing, if necessary.
- b. **Complaint Processing.** The Metropolitan PGA Executive Director/President shall bring the written complaint to the attention of the Metropolitan PGA President/Executive Director. The Metropolitan PGA Executive Director and President shall provide a written or electronic notification of the complaint to the accused along with a determination as to whether the complaint shall be referred to the Metropolitan PGA Grievance Committee. This notification and determination shall occur within thirty (30) days of receiving the submitted complaint.
- c. **Inquiry Decision.** The Metropolitan PGA Executive Director and Metropolitan PGA President shall determine whether the received complaint shall or shall not be submitted to the Metropolitan PGA Grievance Committee. A decision not to submit the complaint to the Grievance Committee shall preclude further action and review by both the complainant and accused.
- d. **Referral to the Metropolitan PGA Grievance Committee.** If the Metropolitan PGA President and Metropolitan PGA Executive Director submit the complaint to the Metropolitan PGA Grievance Committee, all details concerning the allegations submitted in the complaint shall be handed over to the Metropolitan PGA Grievance Committee. All accused shall have the right to appear at all Metropolitan PGA hearings and/or calls, present evidence and have witnesses appear on their behalf.
- e. **Admission of Guilt.** If offered, individuals accused of violations may sign an Admission of Guilt and waive the right to a hearing.
- f. **Penalty Recommendation.** Following the hearing(s), the Metropolitan PGA Grievance Committee shall recommend to the Metropolitan PGA Executive Director and Metropolitan PGA President a penalty for the individual(s) accused of violation(s) based on the severity of any violation or conduct unbecoming. The Metropolitan PGA Executive Director and Metropolitan PGA President shall then notify the accused of such penalty electronically or in writing. Suspensions and violations may carry over to the following year
- g. **Anonymity and Confidentiality.** Every effort will be made to ensure that the information and identity of those involved in potential Code of Conduct violations remain anonymous and confidential.
- h. **PGA of America Board of Control.** If the Metropolitan PGA Executive Director, President and Grievance Committee agree, violations may be submitted to the PGA of America Board of Control for further investigation.