



Applicants Awaiting Reinstatement – FAQ's

Below are some frequently asked questions when a golfer is in the process of awaiting reinstatement. If you have specific questions that are not answered in this document, please contact The R&A Rules Team via email at reinstatement@randa.org.

The R&A Reinstatement Process

What is the purpose of the reinstatement process?

The reinstatement process, including the period awaiting reinstatement, supports the distinction between amateur golfers and non-amateur golfers. It encourages golfers to consider carefully the decision to turn non-amateur and it provides a period awaiting reinstatement ensuring golfers cannot change between amateur and non-amateur status on a frequent basis.

How is an applicant's reinstatement period determined?

Each national governing body has the sole authority to require a waiting period prior to reinstatement of amateur status. The R&A is the governing body relating to reinstatement of Amateur Status in Great Britain & Ireland.

It is recommended that an applicant be given a minimum waiting period of six months from the date of the applicant's last action that was not allowed by the Rules, such as the date the person resigned membership of a professional golfers' association or last accepted prize money in a competition as a professional – see [Rule 5](#).

It is possible that an applicant's waiting period will be longer than the minimum period as a result of a their playing performance and success – see [The R&A Policy for Extending Periods Awaiting Reinstatement for Professional Tournament Players](#).

What is the process as my reinstatement date approaches?

One week prior to the date you are eligible for reinstatement, you will be asked to confirm that you have not infringed the Rules of Amateur Status during your period awaiting reinstatement and that you wish to continue with your reinstatement. Please note, you are not automatically reinstated on the day you are eligible for reinstatement.

Once you have confirmed that you wish to continue with your reinstatement, The R&A will complete a final review before confirming your reinstatement to Amateur Status.

Competitions and Handicapping

Can I play in competitions during my period awaiting reinstatement?

Amateur Status is a condition of eligibility therefore, until such time that you are reinstated you will not be able to play in a competition limited solely to amateur golfers. However, you can play in competitions that allow both amateur and non-amateurs to participate, provided you do not play as a professional.

If prizes are available, you can only accept a prize that is permitted under Rule 3 and cannot accept a prize that is solely reserved for amateur golfers.

I am unsure if I am eligible to play in a competition during my period awaiting reinstatement – what should I do?

In order to ensure you are not infringing the Rules, you should check with the Committee in charge of the competition the entry criteria, and also declare that you are in your period awaiting reinstatement of your Amateur Status. The Committee can then determine if you are eligible for the competition.

Can I submit an entry in amateur only competitions while I am in my period awaiting reinstatement?

It will be up to the Committee in charge of the competition to decide if they accept your entry in advance of your reinstatement. If the Committee accepts your entry, it should confirm with you that you have been reinstated prior to the competition. However, it is your responsibility to ensure you have been reinstated prior to playing as an amateur. At the time of reinstatement, you will be issued with a letter which can be used as proof of your reinstatement. You should retain a copy of this letter for this purpose.

Can I get a WHS™ Handicap while in my period awaiting reinstatement?

Under the [Rules of Handicapping](#), a non-amateur golfer (e.g. a professional or golfer waiting reinstatement) may obtain a Handicap Index®. Therefore, during your period of reinstatement, you can obtain a Handicap Index if you do not already have one. You should contact your local Authorised Association (National Union) to establish how to reinstate your Handicap Index as the requirements vary from country to country.