

## Interpretations of Eligibility Rule

**Eligibility Rule:** Entries are open to amateur golfers who since January 1 of the current year, have been bona fide public course players and have not held privileges of any course which does not extend playing privileges to the general public.

**Exceptions:** A bona fide public player may hold incidental privileges of a course not open to the public when such privileges are provided by:

1. An educational institution at which he is a student; this includes members of a golf team when privileges are awarded at private facilities, the entire team on an equal basis, and are only available during the traditional school year competitive golf season (including post season play which may include Conference, State and National Championships); or
2. A federal armed service of which he is either an active or retired member; or
3. An industry by which he is employed or from which he is retired and said private course is owned by the employer.

Following are some interpretations of the Eligibility Rule that may be of help to you. (Note: Interpretations apply also to situations where a player, through his spouse or parent/guardian, has privileges at the course in question):

A. A player maintains a USGA Handicap Index® at a private club.

Interpretation: If the player actively maintained his Handicap Index at the private club since January 1 of the current year, the player is **ineligible**.

B. A bona fide public links player is a member of a scholastic golf team. Through his involvement with the scholastic golf team he has access to a non-institution owned private course but only during the scholastic golf season.

Interpretation: If in accordance with Exception 1 above, the player is **eligible**.

C. A bona fide public links player is a member of a scholastic golf team. Through his involvement with the scholastic golf team he has access to a non-institution owned private course on a year round (i.e. 12 month) basis.

Interpretation: If the player takes advantage of these privileges outside of the traditional school year/competitive golf season, the player is **ineligible**.

D. A player is a bona fide public links player and he is a student at a university that owns a private course that is available to students of the university. He has been and will continue to be away from home for the majority of each year and thus plays the majority of his golf at the university course with the balance on public courses.

Interpretation: The player is **eligible**.

E. As an alumnus of a university, a player has privileges at that university's course which is private or open to the public on a very restricted basis. How much golf may he play at the college course and still be eligible?

Answer: Ten or fewer 18-hole rounds between January 1st of the current year and the first day of the Championship.

F. A public links player enters military service resulting in access to a military course from which the general public is excluded.

Interpretation: The player is **eligible**.

G. A player has privileges for two or more days each week at a private university, military, or corporate membership course where he works. He is not a student at the university, enrolled in the armed services, or a representative of a corporation with a membership at the course.

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.

H. A player is a caddie or employee at a private club and therefore has privileges there one day a week, but plays the remainder of his golf at a public facility.

Interpretation: The player is **eligible**.

I. A player is a caddie or employee at a private club and therefore has privileges at the course two or more days a week. He also plays at XYZ public course.

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.

J. A player whose spouse or parent/guardian is a member of a private club has the golf privileges of at the club but plays all his golf on a public course.

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.

K. A player has a social membership at a private club. However, his membership does not entitle him to play any golf or use the practice facilities.

Interpretation: The player is eligible. The player must also maintain his Handicap Index at a public facility.

L. A player has a social membership at a private club. His social membership entitles him to limited rounds of golf per year and to all other facilities of the club. The membership is not defined as a golfing membership. The player plays a great deal of golf, but it is played primarily at public courses.

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.

M. A player or his spouse or parent/guardian belongs to a private club which permits residents from that town to pay a green fee and play limited rounds per year.

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.

N. A club is public, however, it is only open to people who reside in the county where the club is located. A player belongs to the club, i.e. buys a season membership.

Interpretation: The player is **eligible**.

O. A player has daily privileges at a club that is private during some days and open to the public on the remaining days.

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.

P. A player has privileges at a resort course. The resort allows only resort guests and perhaps a private membership to play there; there is no restriction as to who may stay at the resort or as to which days resort guests may play.

Interpretation: The player is **eligible**.

Q. A player is a member of a course that is open to the general public every day. However, non-membership play is restricted as to the number of rounds a non-member may play there each year.

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.