

2009 VSGA Public Links Championship

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; or
2. A federal armed service of which he is a member or retired member; or
3. An industry by which he is employed or from which he is retired.

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

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

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.

- B. A public links player enters military service and then has access to a military course from which the general public is excluded.

Interpretation: The player is **eligible**.

- C. A player is a bona fide public links player. However, for the past few years he has been a student at a university that has a private course available only to students of the university. He has been and will continue to be away from home for the biggest part 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**.

- D. A player has a social membership at a private club that has a golf course. However, his membership does not entitle him to play any golf there.

Interpretation: The player is **eligible**.

- E. A player has a membership at a private club purely on a social basis. His social membership entitles him to six 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**.

- F. A player's spouse or parent/guardian belongs to a private club which permits residents from that town to pay a green fee and play up to but no more than 5 rounds of golf a year.

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.

- G. As an alumnus of a certain college, a player has privileges at that college's course that is private or open to the public on a very restricted basis. How much golf may he play at the college 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.

- H. A player is a caddie or employee at a private club and therefore has playing 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 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**.

- K. 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**.

- L. 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**.

- M. 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**.

- N. 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**.

- O. A player maintains a USGA Handicap Index at a private club but does not play there.

Interpretation: The player is **ineligible**.