



Epalinges, January 2023

How do I become a Swiss Golf referee?

Dear Interested Party

Do you like to show other golfers how well you know the rules of golf? Do you like to give penalty strokes to your fellow players? You would like to meet famous golfers on the tour? You would like to be captured by a TV camera once in action during the broadcast of a golf tournament?

If you can answer "yes" to any of the above questions, you are not the right person to become a golf referee.

However, if you would like to make your free time and your knowledge of the rules available to the sport of golf and support golfers of all categories in simple and complicated situations, and if you are also looking for camaraderie and exchange with other golf referees, then you have also awakened our interest!

Swiss Golf holds regional regular seminars in German and French every year. If there are enough interested parties, a seminar in Italian will also be held. In this seminar, your knowledge of the rules will be deepened for application on the course. You will become more familiar with the basic principles of correct course marking and the contents of the "Official Guide to the Rules of Golf".

The seminar is spread over two days, usually one day in November and another one in March of the following year. In between, you will receive "homework" at regular intervals to independently deepen your knowledge of the subject matter. This homework is also part of the final examination to become a "Swiss Golf Rules Expert", which takes place on the second half of the second day of the seminar. If you pass the examination, you can be appointed as a rules expert by your home club and as a "Rules Official" by Swiss Golf at Swiss Golf tournaments together with experienced referees.

In a further step, you can attend the "National Rules School", also run by Swiss Golf. This will be conducted in English in its entirety, including the "Rules Exam". If you already have a very comprehensive knowledge of the rules of golf, and its "Clarifications" and are fluent in English, there is nothing to prevent you from registering directly with the "National Rules School".



The two-day "National Rules School" takes place on a weekend in November every two years. You will get to know the "Official Guide to the Rules of Golf" even better, formulate correct local rules and prepare for a tournament.

After this weekend your knowledge will be tested by means of the written "Rules Exam". If you pass this demanding exam, you can be appointed "Swiss Golf Assistant Referee". As such you will be assigned to elite tournaments together with experienced "Swiss Golf Referees". You are expected to make yourself available for at least two assignments per season, which usually take place at weekends (including Friday as a preparation day). Some tournaments, especially elite tournaments, may also take place on weekdays.

After two seasons you will again attend the "National Rules School" and sit the "Rules Exam". If you pass again, you can be promoted to "Swiss Golf Referee". As such, you will be able to manage smaller tournaments yourself and, if necessary, act as a referee on your own.

To ensure the quality of our "Swiss Golf Referees" and "Swiss Golf Assistant Referees", you are obliged to sit the "Rules Exam" at least every four years.

Once a year, the "Swiss Golf (Assistant) Referees" meet at the end of the season for a joint exchange of experiences. An internet forum is available for the exchange of experiences during the year. Members of the "Swiss Golf Rules Committee" also take part in the discussions, but official rulings are not given via this channel.

The position of golf referee is based on voluntary work, i.e. Swiss Golf does not compensate you for your services, but reimburses you for any travel, accommodation and catering expenses in accordance with the Swiss Golf expenses regulations.

Your next step towards becoming a golf referee: Report your intention to do so to your golf club or the office of an association affiliated with Swiss Golf. Registrations for both a regional rules seminar and the "National Rules School" are always made through the golf club or association, which also bears the costs.

We hope to have given you a rough overview. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Swiss Golf or a member of the Swiss Golf Rules Committee.

Sporting greetings

Swiss Golf Rules Committee