

The Spirit of the Game

Ethics in Modern Golf



DANIELS FUND
ETHICS INITIATIVE
Collegiate Program

UCCS

College of Business
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS



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Ethics in Golf – Inherent?

The game of golf is unique in that it
expects all players to play in the spirit
of the game

Penalties are called upon *self*,
decorum is *expected* and **etiquette is**
fueled by a *strong ethical compass*



What do the Rules State?

- Specifically, the Rules of Golf states the following:

*'All players are expected to play in the **spirit of the game** by:*

*Acting with **integrity** – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being **honest** in all aspects of play.'*



Rules of Golf

and the Rules of Amateur Status

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2016



What do the Rules State?



*'Showing **consideration** to others – for example, by **playing at a prompt pace**, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player.'*

What do the Rules State?

'Taking good care of the course – for example, by replacing divots, smoothing bunkers, repairing ball-marks, and not causing unnecessary damage to the course.'

Finally....

*'You should check to see whether the Committee has adopted a **Code of Conduct**, as you could get a **penalty** if you do not follow it.'*



Let's take a
look at some
examples...

Tiger Woods spits on the green



Bryson DeChambeau
(Putter slam in practice green)





Sergio Garcia (Meltdown in the Bunker) among other events...

JB Holmes (& Others) Slow Play





How about bypassing or using a rule loophole to your advantage?



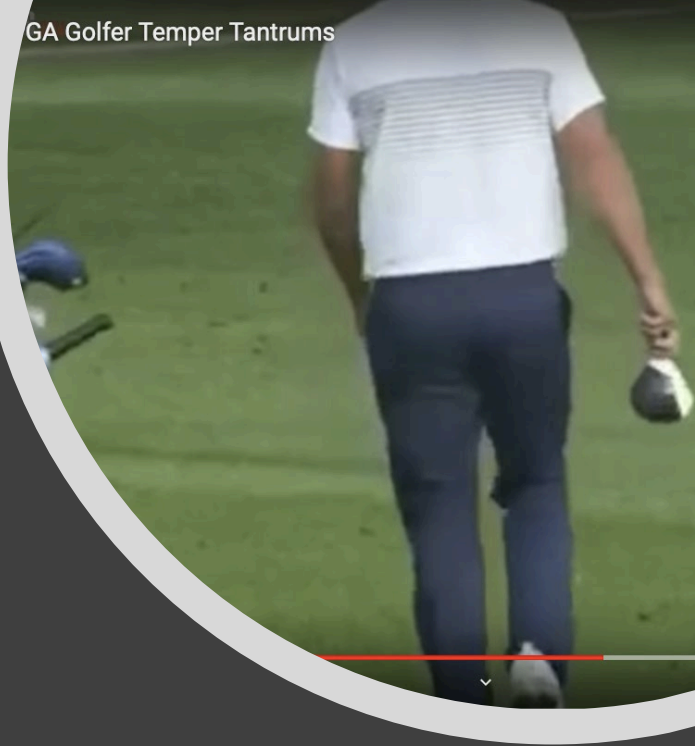


Michelle Wie
(Dress Code Violations)

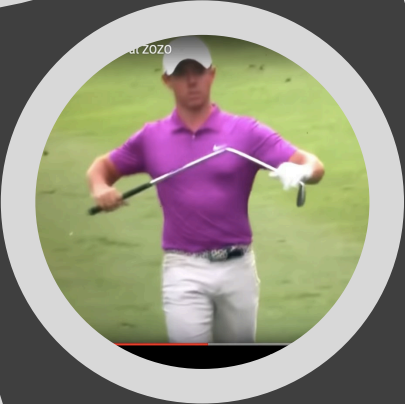
10 Hilarious PGA Golfer Temper Tantrums



PGA Golfer Temper Tantrums



Golfer Temper Tantrums



And many more...

ARL SCHWARTZEL
ROWS THE CLUB



And still more...

Rory McIlroy snaps his club at ZOZO



This was just last weekend!

Questions to
Consider

**-Does the
PGA/USGA/R&A have
the right to enforce
behavior on the
course?**

The image features a landscape of snow-capped mountains under a bright sky. A thick, dark blue horizontal band is superimposed across the middle of the image, serving as a background for the text. The text is centered within this band.

How Subjective is Behavior on the Course?

A large, textured blue circle is centered on a white background. The circle has a rough, watercolor-like edge. Inside the circle, the text "What about ethical issues off the course?" is written in a white, sans-serif font.

**What about ethical issues
off the course?**



Since golf is a sport in which players are not 'employed' by a team (unlike the major 4 sports in the U.S.), does golf have different implied standards for behavior?



Does it matter player to player, case by case basis?

Consider screen time for certain players...



To what degree does golf's governing bodies have the right to enforce behavior?

What about at the local amateur level?



Final thought: the PGA Tour does not publicly acknowledge violations of its code of ethics, but does report that fines are given to charities.



Does that change any of these answers?

