Payola Waived; All Funds Go to California Charity

The ticklish pro-amateur charity tournament situation that more or less obligates a pro to send in an entry fee to “save face” regardless of how lie feels about participating, was adroitly solved this spring with the playing of a Northern California PGA event at Richmond, Calif. The usual entry fee of from $25 to $40 was reduced to only $15 because everyone involved with the tournament agreed to do away with many of the flourishes that usually are connected with these affairs. However, in addition to entry fees, the pros who took part in or supported the touney donated $30 worth of merchandise from their shops for amateur prizes.

To keep down the cost of running the tournament and thereby turn more money over to the charitable cause, the pros agreed not to take any prize money and they handled the donation of all prizes. Even the medals that were awarded were donated by the pros. The Richmond club, of which Pat Markovich is pro, waived green fees and at the conclusion of the day, a no-host dinner was held. Coats for committee members and other forms of payola also were done away with.

$4,200 to Boys’ School

Every cent ($4,200) of the money taken in was turned over to the Rt. Rev. Clement J. McKenna to be used in badly needed repair work at St. Vincent’s Boys School in San Rafael. The success of what has been called “the perfect charity tournament” insures that it will be held next year.

The committee that staged the event was composed of Tom Fry, Sam Mateo Municipal GC, Bob Gutwein, Lake Merced G&CC, Daly City, and Ted Neist, Sequoyah CC, Oakland. It was assisted by the Northern Calif. GA, the San Francisco Examiner, a golf manufacturer’s representative, the Lake Merced club and the Northern Calif. PGA. A strong publicity buildup preceded the tournament and extra effort was made to get all the area pros to support it. Many of these who couldn’t get away to play in the charity event sent in their entry fees and also donated merchandise prizes.

Black River Juggles Markers; Comes Up with Senior Course

The impact of Senior golf is being felt at Black River CC, Pt. Huron, Mich., where the medium length layout now is designated as the “Senior course.” There is still the Championship distance as well as the Ladies distance. The three courses are designated by the juggling of the tee markers. On the first hole, for example, the Championship distance is 370 yds., for the Senior it is 358, and for the woman player, 350.

According to the Black River pro, Emil Beck, it is hoped that more play will be switched over to the long course so as to spread the wear and tear over the entire teeing areas. Some new tees have been built for the Senior course but distance of holes, in such cases, has not been excessively reduced.

The idea for the change at Black River came from Fred L. Riggin, pres. of the National Golf Fund and the club’s most prominent Senior player. So far as is known, the Michigan club is the first to take this kind of action to recognize the elder golfer.

Zaharias Memorial Tournament Benefits Cancer Fund

The second statewide Babe Didrikson Zaharias Memorial tournament for the Calif. div. of the American Cancer Society will be played from Aug. 6 through 14th. Lawson Little, who organized the 1959 tourney, is honorary chmn. and active chmn. is Robert A. Roos, jr., prominent San Francisco amateur. Amateurs who take part will post their scores against professionals who will play exhibition matches on Aug. 14th. Players who beat the pros will get awards. Entry fees of $1 are being charged. Last year $15,000 was raised for the Cancer fund by the Zaharias Memorial committee.