



World Deaf Golf Federation

Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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NEW TOURNAMENT RULES FOR THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS (WDGC)

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1. ORGANISATION OF THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Host selection

The selection of the host country shall be made at least four (4) years in advance at the WDGF General Meeting.

Proposal for the WDGC

A proposal from countries that want to bid for the right to host the WDGC shall be sent to the WDGF secretary at least three (3) months prior to the General Meeting.

The proposal shall contain the following information:

- a) The approximate date of the championships.
- b) The name and location of the golf course.
- c) The location of the accommodation.
- d) The location of the nearest airport.
- e) The approximate costs for green fee and accommodation.
- f) The names of the Organising Committee members.
- g) Official support letters from the golf course, the National Golf Association, etc.

Letter of agreement

A letter of agreement (LOA) should be established between WDGF and the Organising Committee. The LOA should state the rights and obligations for both parts.

Date of the Championships

It is recommended to arrange the WDGC during a period of the year when most of the WDGF member countries have their holiday season.

Organising Committee

The National Deaf Golf Organisation or National Deaf Sports Organisation of the country hosting the WDGC shall appoint an Organising Committee, which shall be responsible for organising the Championships.

Economical responsibility

The Organising Committee or the National Deaf Golf Organisation and / or the National Deaf Sports Organisation shall be solely and fully economically responsible for the organisation and running of the WDGC.

Budget

The Organising Committee is required to send a detailed budget to the WDGF at least twelve (12) months prior to the start of the Championships for the endorsement by the WDGF.

Tournament Director

The Organising Committee shall appoint a Tournament Director (TD) who is responsible for the golf tournament.

The Tournament Director shall be a member of the Organising Committee, and shall demonstrate a satisfactory knowledge about the organising of a tournament, the game of golf and its rules.

Referee

There shall be at least two suitably qualified referees present during the championships.

The referees should be contacted with a mobile phone text message if a situation should occur at the golf course.

The decisions of the referees are final.

Starter

The Organising Committee shall appoint a person or persons that will act as the Tournament Starter.

The duties of the Tournament Starter shall be:

- a) Call for the next "ball" and greet the players prior to the starting time.
- b) Check that the players do not wear hearing aids, or any other aids.
- c) Hand out the scorecards, the pin placements, and the local rules etc.
- d) Confirm the starting order to the players if there are any ambiguities.
- e) Ensure that the players do not start before the official starting time.

Medical assistance

It is highly recommended that medical assistance be made available for the full duration of the tournament.

The medical team shall be contactable with a mobile phone text message should an emergency should occur at the golf course.

Sign language interpreters

The Organising Committee shall provide with English speaking sign language interpreters who shall also have a working knowledge of International Signs.

Accommodation

The Organising Committee shall reserve hotels as soon as possible. There must be hotel rooms enough to host all the golfers.

The accommodation shall be as close as possible to the golf course. The Organising Committee shall provide with transportation if the accommodation is not within a walking distance from the golf course.

WDGF Board members

The Organising Committee shall provide with seven (7) nights free accommodation for the WDGF Board members at the official tournament hotel. The Board members shall agree to share a twin bed room if possible.

If the Board members prefer to share a room with another golfer, partner or spouse, the roommate is responsible for his or her share of the expenses.

WDGF guests

The Organising Committee shall provide with seven (7) nights free accommodation for guests invited by the WDGF (Honorary Members, representatives from the ICSD and the R&A etc) at the official tournament hotel. The guests shall agree to share a twin bed room if possible.

If the guests prefer to share a room with another golfer, partner or spouse, the roommate is responsible for his or her share of the expenses.

A maximum of five (5) guests can be invited by the WDFG, and should be notified to the Organising Committee at least one year before the Tournament.

Any travel costs paid by the Organising Committee should be stated in the LOA.

Functions

The Organising Committee shall arrange with three functions during the WDGC:

- a) An opening ceremony with dinner.
- b) A cultural event, barbeque party or similar.
- c) A closing ceremony with a banquet.

Photo session

It is highly recommended that the Organising Committee should arrange with a photo session where photos could be taken of the teams. The teams should be photographed with their national flags.

Badges/ID cards

The Organising Committee shall provide all golf players and team leaders etc with a badge or ID card for easy identification of the players, and to distinguish golfers from non-golfers.

Non golfers

It is highly recommended that the hotels and functions also should be available for the families, partners and supporters to the golfers.

WDFG flags

The WDFG are the sole custodians of the WDFG flags.

The Organising Committee must ensure that the WDFG flag is flown from the opening ceremony until the closing ceremony.

At the completion of the WDGC, the WDFG President shall pass on a new flag to the Organising Committee of the next WDGC, and the Organising Committee of the current WDGC is entitled to keep the used flag.

Withdrawal by the host country

If the host country elects to withdraw from organizing the WDGC, the host country must pay a fine to the WDFG in accordance with the following:

- a) € 500 from 4 years up to 2 years before the start of the tournament.
- b) € 1000 from 2 years up to 1 year before the start of the tournament.
- c) € 1500 from 1 year to the start of the tournament.

The host country does not have to pay the fine if a withdrawal is due to an unavoidable situation not under their control or of any natural cause.

If the host country does not pay the fine, the WDFG board has the power to decide that the host country's National Deaf Golf Organisation could be suspended from participating in the WDGC until the fine has been paid.

2. GENERAL

The Championship

The name of the tournament shall be World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC).
The WDGC shall be held every second year.

Rules of golf

Rules of golf shall be based on The Royal and R&A *Rules of golf*.
The rules could be found at the R&A website; www.randa.org.

Local rules shall be handed out to the players before the start of the competition. The rules shall be written in English. The players are responsible for familiarising themselves with the local rules.

Amateur status

The WDGC is open for amateur golfers only. For definitions of an amateur golfer, see *Amateur status rules* at the R&A website: www.randa.org.

The golf course

The golf course must be officially recognized by the R&A.

The WDGF recommends the following yardage for a par 72 golf course:

- a) Men's Tournament: 6500 yards
- b) Ladies' Tournament: 5500 yards
- c) Men's Senior Tournament: 6000 yards

It is recommended that the Organising committee arrange for spotters or forecaddies on potentially dangerous holes such as blind holes, or on difficult holes that could slow down the pace of play significantly.

The golf course shall have a practice field where the players can warm up. It shall also have a restaurant or similar facility where the players can have lunch.

If the Organising Committee elects to use two different golf courses, one golf course shall be used for Men's Tournament and the other golf course shall be used for Ladies- and Senior's Tournament. The golf courses shall not be located too far from each other.

Minimum number of entrants

- a) The minimum number of nations shall be five from at least two regions.
- b) The minimum number of entrants overall shall be 36 golfers.
- c) The minimum numbers of entrants in each class (Men's-, Ladies- and Seniors tournament) shall be five golfers.

Maximum number of entrants

The Organising Committee shall determine the maximum number of entrants in an early stage of the planning.

If many players are expected to participate in the WDGC, the Organising Committee shall consider arranging the Ladies- and Senior's Tournament on a second golf course.

If it is not possible to use a second golf course, the Organising Committee shall, after consulting with the WDGF board, decide which golf players that should be excluded.

The decisions of the Organising Committee are final.

Technical meeting

The Tournament Director shall hold a technical meeting with all the National Captains prior to the start of the Championships. Any clarifications on local rules and other significant issues should be brought up on the meeting.

The Tournament Director may also each day hold a meeting with the referee and a representative from the WDFG Board to review each Championship round.

Practice round

The WDFG shall include a practice round one day before the start of the tournament, and shall be included in the Tournament Entry. The Organising Committee should also ensure the availability of the golf course for practice (at the players expense) up to a week prior to the first round of the WDFG.

Results

The Organising Committee shall publish the results after each round as soon as possible on a notice board at the official Tournament Room, and be accessible for all Tournament Players. The WDFG website should also be updated on a daily basis. Copies should also be handed out to the captains of each country and to the WDFG board.

When the results are placed on the notice board, they are considered to have been officially announced.

Golf Balls and golf clubs

Golf balls and golf clubs shall be approved by the R&A.

The approved balls and clubs could be found at the R&A website: www.randa.org.

Penalty for breach of the rule: Disqualification.

Golf carts

Players (Men and Ladies) must walk at all times during a Championship round. To get an exemption from the rule, the player must show a doctors' certificate that explains why he or she has a medical reason to use a golf cart. The WDFG and the Tournament Director must approve the exemption.

Penalty for breach of the rule: Two (2) strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred. (Maximum penalty per round: four (4) strokes)

The Organising Committee shall make available the use of ride-on golf carts for the Mens Seniors Tournament. It is the players discretion whether they wish to use a ride-on cart.

Electric trolleys

Electric pull trolleys are allowed.

Caddies

Only one caddie is allowed to accompany a player. A player is entitled to change his caddie whenever he or she wants.

Penalty for breach of the rule: Two (2) strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred. (Maximum penalty per round: four (4) strokes).

Advice

A player may only ask for advice from his or her caddie during a championship round. No outside advice is permitted.

Penalty for breach of the rule: Two (2) strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred. (Maximum penalty per round: four (4) strokes)

Electronic equipment

It is not permitted to use any kind of electronic equipment on the competition course without approval from the Tournament Director.

It is not permitted to use mobile phones on the competition course except in case of an emergency or to call for a referee.

Penalty for breach of the rule: Two (2) strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred. (Maximum penalty per round: four (4) strokes)

Pace of Play

It is recommended that the Organising Committee establish a "Pace of Play" advisory timing sheet to monitor the progression of play.

A referee can monitor a player if undue slow play is suspected. The referee does not have to notify the player in advance. The player shall be allowed 40 seconds for each stroke.

If a referee finds that a golfer is playing unusually slow, the following penalties shall be given:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) First occasion: | Warning. |
| b) Second occasion: | Warning. |
| c) Third and subsequent occasions: | One (1) stroke penalty. |

Only a referee has the right to give penalties for slow play.

3. ELIGIBILITY/AUDIOGRAMS**Eligibility**

The Tournament is open to all deaf and hard of hearing male and female golfers. The hearing loss is defined as a hearing loss of at least 55 dB per tone average in the better ear (3-tone frequency average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, ISO 1969 Standard) A detailed description about the hearing loss and the audiogram can be found at the ICSD webpage: <http://www.deaflympics.com>

Audiogram

An ICSD approved audiogram is required to enter the competition.

Before submitting a new audiogram, please contact the National Deaf Sports Organisation for your country's latest audiogram list to check and see if the golfer is already in ICSD audiogram database.

All new audiogram forms must be submitted to ICSD three (3) months before the event. The audiograms should be sent directly to the ICSD home office by the country's National Deaf Sports Organisation.

The Organising Committee shall send a list of the participating players to the WDFG and ICSD three (3) months before the start of the Championships.

The players may be required to take additional hearing tests during the Championships. Any player that does not pass the hearing test or is refusing to take a test will be disqualified.

Hearing aids

It is not allowed to wear hearing aids, cochlear implants or any other hearing implements during a championship round.

Penalty for breach of the rule: Disqualification.

Handicap

The handicap limits to enter the WDGC are stated under Men's Tournament, Ladies Tournament and Men's Senior Tournament.

The player must show proof of his or her handicap.

For simplicity reasons, WDGf does not make any difference between the CONGU-, the EGA- and the USGA handicap systems.

4. ENTRY

The Organising Committee is responsible for all invitations to the WDGC. An official logotype of the WDGC shall be created, and the header of the invitations shall begin with: "World Deaf Golf Federation invites to..."

Invitation

The invitation shall be sent to all the WDGf affiliated countries at least 12 months before the start of the championships.

The invitation, and all the other documents printed for the Championships, must carry the logo and/or the initials of the WDGf.

The invitation shall contain the following information:

- a) The place and date of the Championships.
- b) The rules for the Championships.
- c) A provisional program.
- d) The website for the Championships
- e) The entry fees.
- f) Entry forms
- g) The location and cost for the accommodation.
- h) Travel information.
- i) The names of the contact persons in the Organizing Committee.

The Organising Committee must seek the endorsement of the WDGf prior to sending out the entry forms to all the WDGf affiliated countries.

A copy of the invitation shall be sent to the ICSD.

Entry forms

Each player attending the WDGC must fill in an entry form.

The country's National Deaf Golf Organisation or National Deaf Sports Organization must approve the player's entry in the WDGC. A signature of the President/Chairman of the Organisation should verify the approval.

The participating countries shall submit their entry forms to the Organising Committee at least four (4) months before the start of the Championships.

The Organising Committee shall send a list of the participating players to WDGF three (3) months before the start of the Championships.

Entry fee

Each player attending the WDGC must pay an entry fee. The entry fee shall be paid via the player's National Deaf Golf Organisation or National Deaf Sports Organization, and shall at least cover the following:

- a) The WDGF individual entry fee.
- b) Green fee.
- c) Three functions.
- d) Prizes.

The entry fee should be reduced if the Organising Committee is able to secure major support from a sponsor.

The entry fees shall be paid to the Organising Committee at least three (3) months before the start of the Championships.

WDGF individual entry fee

The WDGF individual entry fee to the WDGF shall be 15 Euros per player.

The Organising Committee shall collect the starting fee and forward it to WDGF before the start of the Championships.

The WDGF reserves the right to amend the individual entry fee.

WDGF membership fee

Each country must have paid the WDGF membership fee prior to the start of the Championships.

Nationality

A player must have a valid passport for the country he or she is representing. The player shall have some relationship to the country, e.g. live in-, or have been born in-, or have parents from the country he or she is representing.

If a player has represented a country previously he has to wait for two years before he or she can represent another country. The player's former National Deaf Golf- or National Deaf Sports Organisation must give their approval. The player is not allowed to represent his or her former country in any sport during this time.

A player can only change his or her nationality once.

National Captains

Each country shall select a National Captain. The name of the National Captain should be given to the Organising Committee and to the WDFG Board prior to the start of the Championships.

All information etc from the Organising Committee and WDFG during the Championships should be forwarded to the players via the National Captains.

Exemptions

Exemptions to play in the WDFG shall be given to the following:

- a) The previous individual champions in each class. (Men's, Ladies, Men's Senior)
- b) The current Board members.
- c) Former Board members that have served for at least 6 years.
- d) The founders of the WDFG.

The exempted players shall be invited to participate in the WDFG regardless if their country is sending the maximum number of allowed participants.

Exempted players shall pay the entrance fee, and the final date for entering the Championships shall be the same as for the other players.

Exempted players are only allowed to play in the individual tournaments. If they want to play in their national team they shall enter the Championships the normal way and not as exempted players.

The exempted player's handicap must not differ too much from the handicap limit for entering the Men's-, Ladies- and Men's Senior Tournament.

Withdrawal by a player or a team

The entry fee (minus the bank charges) should be paid back if the player wants to withdraw his or her entry before the final day for entering the Championships.

A fine shall be paid if a player wants to withdraw after the final day for entering the Championships. The fine shall be determined in advance by the Organising Committee, and shall include the WDFG individual entry fee.

5. CONDITION OF PLAY

Men's Tournament

The men's individual tournament shall be 72 holes of stroke play over four rounds. If two or more players have equal results after the final round, there shall be a play-off until there is a winner. Men's golfers must have an official handicap of 15 or under.

Up to ten (10) golfers from each country are allowed to enter.

Men's Team Tournament

The men's team competition shall be a stroke play tournament. A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 golfers shall be selected by their National Captain and submitted to the Tournament Director and the WDFG board at least one day before the start of the tournament.

Every day, the four best scores in the team shall be summed. The team with the lowest total score after four days will be the winning team.

Only one team per nation is allowed to play.

Ladies Tournament

The ladies' individual tournament shall be 72 holes of stroke play over four rounds. If two or more players have equal results after the final round, there shall be a play-off until there is a winner. Ladies' golfers must have an official handicap of 24 or under.

Up to five (5) golfers from each country are allowed to enter.

Ladies Team Tournament

The ladies' team competition shall be a stroke play tournament. A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 golfers shall be selected by their National Captain and submitted to the Tournament Director and the WDGf board at least one day before the start of the tournament.

Every day, the four best scores in the team shall be summed. The team with the lowest total score after four days will be the winning team.

Only one team per nation is allowed to play.

Men's Senior Tournament

Men's Senior Tournament is open for men who shall have reached their 50th birthday at least one day before the start of the tournament, and have an official handicap of 18 or under.

The Men's Senior Tournament shall be 72 holes of stroke play over four rounds. If a golfer enters the senior's tournament, he may not enter the Men's Tournament.

Up to three (3) golfers from each country are allowed to play in the Men's Senior Tournament.

6. STARTING TIMES

The Organising Committee is responsible for the starting times.

The starting list for the first round shall be determined by a draw.

Under no circumstances should a playing group have players from one single country. If it should happen that all the golfers at a starting time are from the same country, the last golfer shall be exchanged with the first golfer from another country at the next starting time.

On the second round the starting list shall be turned around; ie the golfers with the last starting time on the first round shall have the first starting time on the second round.

On the third and fourth round the starting list shall be based on the players position in the tournament; ie the leaders in Men's, Ladies and Senior's Tournament should go out last.

The starting times must be announced in the afternoon or early evening prior to the start of each championship round. The starting times shall be published on a notice board where the majority of the players can read it. Copies should also be handed out to the national captains of each country.

The Organising Committee has the rights to alter the starting times if deemed necessary.

The player is personally responsible for knowing his or her own starting time.

The player shall arrive at the first tee ten minutes before starting time.

A player that arrives up to five (5) minutes after starting time will get a two (2) stroke penalty. A player arriving more than five (5) minutes after starting time will be disqualified.

7. SCORECARDS

The player must exchange his or her scorecard with his or her marker.

It is the responsibility of the player to return the scorecard to the scorers hut, recording desk or another location as determined by the Organising Committee as soon as possible after completion of the round.

It is an obligation to have a recording desk in the WDGC. It shall be located close to the finish, preferable with seats and a table where the players can sit down and finish, check and sign their scorecards.

In case of any queries, the golfers should consult with the Tournament Director before signing and returning their scorecards.

On request by any player, the Organising Committee should hand the scorecard to the player after the Tournament so he or she can hand it to his or her own golf club.

8. DISCONTINUING- OR CANCELLATION OF PLAY

The Tournament Director has the right to discontinue the play and/or cancel a round in case of potentially dangerous weather conditions. The Organising Committee must before the start of the tournament inform the players in which way this will be made.

The minimum number of holes played to make the WDGC results official shall be 36.

A player is permitted to discontinue play if he or she believes there is danger from lightning or if there is some other good reason such as sudden illness. The player shall inform the Tournament Director as soon as practicable to explain the reason for discontinuing the play.

9. CODE OF BEHAVIOR

Players and their caddies should refrain from any action, in words or behavior, which may be regarded as not sportsmanlike or unacceptable by their fellow competitors.

Any such misbehavior should be reported to the Tournament Director, who will confer with the special committee which actions that should be taken. The special committee shall be formed with the following persons:

- a) The referee
- b) The Tournament Director
- c) A Board member of the WDFG

The decision of the special committee shall be final.

10. DISPUTES OR UNUSUAL SITUATIONS ON THE GOLF COURSE

In the case of a dispute, the decision of the referee shall be final.

In case of an unusual circumstance, a special committee of three persons shall be formed with the following persons:

- a) The referee
- b) The Tournament Director
- c) A Board member of the WDFG

The decision of the special committee shall be final.

11. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

Individual Tournaments

Ties in the individual tournaments will be broken by a sudden death playoff. A sudden death playoff shall be used to declare a winner only. The other players in the playoff should be tied second.

The Tournament Director along with his or her referees shall choose the hole(s) designated for the playoff. The holes may not be finalised until the scope of any playoff is determined and the course availability at the time of the playoff is known.

If a playoff cannot be held due to weather, darkness or other cause, a winner shall be declared by matching scorecards by using the following count back system:

The holes shall be examined as they appear on the scorecard. A winner shall be determined on the basis of the best score in the following sequence:

- 1) Last 18 holes (1-18)
- 2) Last 9 holes (10-18)
- 3) Last 6 holes (13-18)
- 4) Last 3 holes (16-18)
- 5) Last hole (18)
- 6) First 9 holes (1-9)
- 7) Last 6 holes on front nine (4-9)
- 8) Last 3 holes on front nine (7-9)
- 9) Last hole on front nine (9)
- 10) 18th hole, 17th hole, 16th hole, etc.
- 11) Repeat the same procedure using the 2nd last 18 holes played, etc.

Team Tournaments

Ties in the team tournaments will be broken by matching scorecards.

The holes shall be examined as they appear on the scorecard. A winner shall be determined on the basis of the best score in the following sequence:

1. The teams total score on the last 18 holes (1-18)
2. The teams total score on the last 9 holes (10-18)
3. The teams total score on the last 6 holes (13-18)
4. The teams total score on the last 3 holes (16-18)
5. The teams total score on the last hole (18)
6. The teams total score on the first 9 holes (1-9)
7. The teams total score on the last 6 holes on the front nine (4-9)
8. The teams total score on the last 3 holes on the front nine (7-9)
9. The teams total score on the last hole on the front nine (9)
10. The teams total score on the 18th hole, 17th hole, 16th hole, etc.
11. Repeat the same procedure using the 2nd last 18 holes played, etc.

12. PRIZES

The Organising Committee will decide the type and format of the prizes. Any engraving on the prizes shall include the logo and/or wording of WDFG.

The Organising Committee shall submit a sample (photograph) of the proposed trophy by at least a month prior to the WDFG for endorsement by the WDFG.

The individual players and the players in the teams on the first three places shall be awarded with Prizes. (Individual players tied second and third should also be awarded with prizes.)

Perpetual WDGC trophies

All the trophies in the WDGC are perpetual (floating or traveling) trophies. The winner shall be entitled to keep it until the next WDGC, where it shall be handed back to WDF prior to the start of the Championship.

The expenses for bringing the trophy back and forth to the WDGC shall be paid by the winner, the winner's National Deaf Golf Organisation or National Deaf Sports Organisation.

In the case of a loss or breakage of the trophy, the winner, the winner's National Deaf Golf Organisation or National Deaf Sports Organisation shall be liable to pay all the expenses.

Men's Tournament

A silver trophy for the Men's Champion was donated by the World Deaf Golf Federation at the 2002 WDGC in Ireland.



Men's Team Tournament

A silver trophy for the Men's Teams Champion was donated by Jim Hynes and family at the 2006 WDGC in Canada.



Ladies Tournament

A crystal trophy for the Ladies Champion was donated by the Irish Deaf Golf Union at the 2002 WDGC in Ireland.



Ladies Team Tournament

A silver cup trophy for the Ladies Teams Champion was donated by the Canadian Deaf Golf Association at the 2004 WDGC in Sweden.



Men's Senior Tournament

A silver trophy for the Men's Seniors Champion was donated by the World Deaf Golf Federation at the 2006 WDGC in Canada.



13. UNFORESEEN SITUATIONS IN THE COMPETITION

The Organising Committee is responsible for making decisions in unforeseen situations during the Championships, and shall confer with the WDGf board prior to making the decision.

14. DOPING

A player shall not knowingly make use of any drug to enhance his or her performance. For doping policies, see ICSD Anti-Doping Rules.

The rules can be found at the ICSD webpage: www.deaflympics.com

The players may be required to undergo doping tests.

Any player that is breaking the Anti-Doping Rules or is refusing to take a test will be disqualified.

15. SCHEDULE AND REPORTING

- The Organising Committee shall send out the invitation at least twelve (12) months before the start of the Championships.
- The Organising Committee shall send a detailed budget to WDGF twelve (12) months before the start of the Championships.
- The participating countries shall submit their entry forms to the Organising Committee at least four (4) months before the start of the Championships.
- The participating countries shall pay the entry fee at least three (3) months before the start of the Championships.
- All new audiogram forms must be submitted to ICSD three (3) months before the event.
- The Organising Committee shall send a list of the participating players to the WDGF and ICSD at least three (3) months before the start of the Championships.
- The Organising Committee shall transfer the starting fees to the WDGF prior to the start of the Championships.
- The Organising Committee shall forward the results from the Championships to WDGF and ICSD within thirty (30) days.
- The Organising Committee shall send a final report with financial statements to WDGF within four (4) months after the Championships.