



# World Deaf Golf Federation

# CONSTITUTION

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### CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD DEAF GOLF FEDERATION

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## **1. NAME & AUTHORITY**

- 1.1 The Federation should be known as the World Deaf Golf Federation, (WDGF).
- 1.2 WDGF is based on democratic principles, and shall be the highest authority for the sport of deaf golf.

## **2. GENERAL**

- 2.1 The official text language shall be in English.
- 2.2 Communication shall be officially conducted in International Signs.
- 2.3 WDGF shall maintain absolute political and religious neutrality and shall not tolerate any form of discrimination, racial or otherwise.
- 2.4 To participate in any competition arranged by the WDGF, the hearing loss should be as defined in the guidelines set out by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD).

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 To promote the sport of golf among the deaf of all nations, general improvement of their golf knowledge and achievement of close international cooperation among deaf golf players.
- 3.2 To serve as the official governing body for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC) and other international deaf golf competitions.
- 3.3 To assist and encourage development of golf programmes for deaf when needed, such as educational courses and seminars.
- 3.4 To cooperate with other international organisations concerned with the sport of deaf golf such as the Royal and Ancient of Golf (R&A), the USGA and the ICSD.
- 3.5 To maintain a documented history of the sport of deaf golf.
- 3.6 To raise funds and invite contributions from any person or persons by way of donations, sponsorships and other activities provided that the Federation shall not undertake any permanent trading activities.

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 To qualify as a member in the WDFG, the organisation should be recognised by the National Deaf Sports organisation or by the ICSD as appropriate.
- 4.2 Only one organisation per country may be recognised by the WDFG.
- 4.3 The WDFG's membership shall consist of National Deaf Golf organisations or, if a country does not have a National Deaf Golf organisation, National Deaf Sports organisations.
- 4.4 In order to become a member of the WDFG the organisation must submit a written application for membership to the WDFG.
- 4.5 A member organisation shall agree to follow the WDFG Constitution and strictly observe all regulations and decisions of WDFG.
- 4.6 To maintain its membership status in the WDFG, the organisation must pay an annual membership fee.
- 4.7 A new member who participates in the World Deaf Golf Championships for the first time with not more than two (2) golf players may only pay half the membership fee. If the new member enters more than two golf players in the World Deaf Golf Championships, the full membership fee must be paid.
- 4.8 At the next World Deaf Golf Championships, the new member stated in article 4.7 must pay the full membership fee.
- 4.9 A member who has not paid its fee for a period of six months will cease to be a member of the WDFG. The WDFG board is authorised to decide on this matter.
- 4.10 Member organisations may enter their players and teams in the World Deaf Golf Championships.
- 4.11 To participate in two succeeding World Deaf Golf Championships, the organisation must have been a member of the WDFG for all the years between the Championships.
- 4.12 Member organisations may submit motions to the General Meeting and to nominate persons for the WDFG Board.

- 4.13 Member organisations have the right to submit bids for the World Deaf Golf Championships.
- 4.14 A member of the WDGf may resign in writing at any time from the WDGf. This resignation will become effective at the end of the calendar year.
- 4.15 Member organisations may be expelled from the WDGf for failure to comply with its Constitution or for other serious reasons. The Board has the right to decide in this matter.
- 4.16 No member whose membership ceases has any claim against WDGf or the Board for damages or otherwise.
- 4.17 Any financial obligations that the previous member owed to WDGf must be paid before a country may register a new membership in WDGf.

## **5. GENERAL MEETING**

- 5.1 A General Meeting of the WDGf shall take place every World Deaf Golf Championships. An extraordinary General Meeting may be invoked either by the Board or by at least thirty three percent (33%) of the members in good standing.
- 5.2 A notice of the General Meeting, together with the proposed agenda, the President's Report, the Financial Report and the minutes of the previous meeting should be sent to the members at least 8 weeks before the meeting.
- 5.3 The WDGf shall remind its members 6 months prior to the General Meeting to send their motions for consideration at the General Meeting.
- 5.4 Motions for consideration at the General Meeting must be sent in writing to the Secretary of the WDGf at least 3 months before the meeting.
- 5.5 WDGf will provide all the WDGf members with copies of all motions proposed by the board or by members at least 4 weeks before the meeting.
- 5.6 Quorum for the General Meeting shall be 50% of the membership plus one.
- 5.7 The General meeting shall determine the general policies of the WDGf towards achieving its aims and objectives.
- 5.8 The General Meeting shall vote upon the President's Report and the WDGf Financial Report.

- 5.9 The General Meeting shall every four years elect the WDGf Board.
- 5.10 The General Meeting shall every four years elect an independent examiner of the WDGf accounts. Preferably, the examiner should live in the same country as the Treasurer.
- 5.11 The General meeting shall decide upon recommendations and motions submitted by the member organisations and the Board. Motions other than changes to the constitution shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes present at the General Meeting.
- 5.12 The General Meeting shall decide on alterations of the Constitution. Alterations of the Constitution must receive the consent of not less than two thirds of the votes.
- 5.13 The General Meeting shall determine the amount of the annual membership fee.
- 5.14 Each member organisation in good standing as of the last day of the preceding fiscal year shall have one vote and may be represented by up to 2 delegates.
- 5.15 Voting shall be by show of hands or by secret ballot at the discretion of the President or if requested by one of the member countries present and entitled to vote.
- 5.16 The President of the WDGf shall preside over the General Meeting. In the case of a tie, the President shall cast a vote.

## **6. HONORARY MEMBERS**

- 6.1 An individual who has contributed long and meritorious service WDGf may be elected as a Honorary Member at any General Meeting.
- 6.2 The individual shall be nominated by the Board.
- 6.3 A Honorary Member shall be invited to the General Meeting with the right to join in discussions, but not to vote.

## **7. BOARD**

- 7.1 The WDGf Board shall consist of five (5) or seven (7) board members, of which all shall be deaf. The term of each board member shall be four (4) years.
- 7.2 The Board members are eligible for re-election for any additional consecutive terms of four years each.

- 7.3 Appointment to Board member positions of the WDGf Board shall be by direct election of the members. Executive officer positions will be:
- a. President
  - b. Vice President
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. Secretary
- 7.4 The WDGf Board shall be responsible for the management and operation of the WDGf and for the fulfillment of the general policies agreed upon at the General Meeting.
- 7.5 The WDGf Board has the right to authorize the formation of committees as necessary to accomplish the WDGf objectives.
- 7.6 The board shall decide the location of the WDGf Headquarter.
- 7.7 The Board shall decide the basic currency of the WDGf.
- 7.8 The Board shall decide the fee for participating in World Deaf Golf Championships or any other event organized by WDGf.
- 7.9 Board members will not participate in any discussion or decision of the Board on any subject that represents a conflict of interest.
- 7.10 Board members deemed by a majority of the board to be negligent in their duties in their standard of ethical behaviour or lack of participation may be asked to resign from their position.
- 7.11 The WDGf Board shall meet at every World Deaf Golf Championships and when necessary as decided by the President and Secretary. Any member of the Board may request a meeting.
- 7.12 Formal notice of each meeting shall be provided in writing by mail, email or fax by the Secretary to all Board members a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting.
- 7.13 Quorum for the WDGf Board Meetings shall be 50% of the board members plus one.
- 7.14 Motions at the WDGf Board Meetings shall be a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie vote, the President shall cast a vote.
- 7.15 In the case of a resignation or death of a board member, the Board shall have the power to appoint a replacement until such time as that position comes up for re-election.

## **8. FINANCES**

- 8.1 W D G F shall be a non-profit making organisation. Therefore, it shall not pursue any objective for its own gains. It shall pursue solely and directly objectives of general interest in accordance with the legislation of the country that its headquarters are located.
- 8.2 The financial year of the W D G F shall be from 1 January to 31 December. Balance sheets shall be drawn up each year as at December 31st.
- 8.3 The accounts shall be examined by an independent examiner and presented to the members at the General Meeting.
- 8.4 The Federation shall operate a bank current and deposit account. The account shall be operated by the signature of two (2) from:
  - a. The President
  - b. The Treasurer
  - c. The Vice President
- 8.5 The income of W D G F shall consist of:
  - a. Annual fees from the affiliated Countries.
  - b. Fees from participating in any event organised by W D G F.
  - c. Donations, subsidies and miscellaneous income.
- 8.6 The membership fee shall be for a period from 1 January to 31 December of each year.
- 8.7 Compensation or reimbursement of expenses that is paid to individuals must be appropriate, justified and related to the Federation's objectives.
- 8.8 In the event of winding up the organisation, the assets shall be passed to the ICSD until another newly formed body with the same objectives has been created.