



# Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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## CONTENTS

1. KEY TERMS
2. PLAYING CATEGORIES OF THE WDGC
3. ELIGIBILITY / AUDIOGRAMS
4. THE RUNNING OF THE WDGC
5. ENTRY TO THE WDGC
6. TROPHIES FOR THE WDGC

# Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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## 1. KEY TERMS

- 1.1. 'WDGC' : World Deaf Golf Championships
- 1.2. 'WDGF' : World Deaf Golf Federation
- 1.3. 'ICSD' : International Committee of Sports for the Deaf
- 1.4. 'TD' : Technical Director
- 1.5. 'TOD' : Tournament Director
- 1.6. 'TR' : Tournament Referees
- 1.7. 'MOU': Memorandum of Understanding
- 1.8. 'TRC' : Tournament Rules Committee (Comprising the Tournament Referees, Tournament Director and Technical Director)

## 2. PLAYING CATEGORIES OF THE WDGC

### 2.1. 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 12.4 or under.

Up to eight (8) golfers from each country are allowed to enter.

### 2.2. Men's Team Tournament

The men's team competition shall be a stroke play tournament. A team shall consist of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 golfers.

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.

### 2.3. 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 22.4 or under.

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

# **Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)**

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## **2.4. Ladies Team Tournament**

The ladies' team competition shall be a stroke play tournament. A team shall consist of a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 golfers.

Every day, the two 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.

## **2.5. Men's Senior Tournament**

Men's Senior Tournament is open for men who shall have reached their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday at least one day before the start of the tournament, and have an official handicap of 16.4 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 five (5) golfers from each country are allowed to play in the Men's Senior Tournament.

## **2.6. Men's Senior Team Tournament**

The men's senior team competition shall be a stroke play tournament. A team shall consist of a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 golfers.

Every day, the two 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.

## **3. ELIGIBILITY/AUDIOGRAMS**

### **3.1. 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>

## **Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)**

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### **3.2. Audiogram**

An ICSD approved audiogram is required to enter the competition.

Before submitting a new audiogram, please check with the National Deaf Sports Federation (NDSF) for your country's latest audiogram list to check if the player is already in ICSD audiogram database.

If a player is not registered in the ICSD database, he or she must make a hearing test at a doctor. The doctor should fill in all of the ICSD audiogram, even the Bone Conduction, Typanometry and Reflexometry, otherwise it will not be approved.

The audiogram could be obtained at the ICSD webpage [www.deaflympics.com](http://www.deaflympics.com), the ICSD do not accept any other audiogram but this.

The player should send the audiogram to the NDSF for review. The NDSF will then forward the audiogram to ICSD.

All new audiogram forms must be submitted to ICSD three (3) months before the event.

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.

### **3.3. 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.*

### **3.4. Handicap**

The handicap limits to enter the WDGC are stated under Men's Tournament, Ladies Tournament and Men's Senior Tournament. The player shall have a handicap that is at- or below the handicap limit on the final entry date to the WDGC.

The player must show proof of his or her handicap.

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

Should the player's handicap increase (between time of entry and the tournament start date) beyond the handicap limits for that players category, then the player is to notify the Organising Committee who will then refer the matter to the Tournament Rules Committee who will then provide a decision.

# Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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## 4. THE RUNNING OF THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 4.1. 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](http://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.

### 4.2. Amateur status

The WDGC is open for amateurs and for players working as golf pros teaching golf.

Players on the professional golf tours are not allowed to play in the WDGC.

WDGF reserves the right to refuse any professional if there is any doubt as to the amateur or professional playing status of any entrant for the WDGC.

### 4.3. 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:

- Men's Tournament: 6500 yards
- Ladies' Tournament: 5500 yards
- 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.

# Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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## **4.4. Minimum number of entrants**

The minimum number of entrants, in order to qualify for a World Deaf Golf Championship, shall be:

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

## **4.5. 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 Technical Director and the WDFG board, reduce the number of players as follows:

- Higher handicaps (exact) will be set aside per country.
- Any ties for last place will be decided by ballot.
- Players eliminated will be placed on a waiting list in exact handicap order.

The decisions of the Tournament Rules Committee are final.

## **4.6. Team Captain/Manager**

Each country shall select a Team Captain or Manager. The name of the Team Captain/Manager 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 Team Captain, Manager or other person appointed by the Team Captain/Manager.

## **4.7. Technical meeting**

From the 2012 World Deaf Golf Championships onwards, there will be no Technical Meeting. The Tournament Rules Committee shall be issuing all rules [including local rules] and procedures to each Country Team Captain and / or Manager on the Sunday prior to Tournament Commencement Date.

# Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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## **4.8. Practice round**

The WDGC 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 player's expense) up to a week prior to the first round of the WDGC.

## **4.9. 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](http://www.randa.org).

*Penalty for breach of the rule: Disqualification.*

## **4.10. Golf carts**

Players must walk at all times during a Championship round. To get an exemption from the rule, the player must apply for a doctors' certificate that explains why he or she has a medical reason to use a golf cart.

The Tournament Rules Committee 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)*

## **4.11. Electric trolleys**

Electric pull trolleys are allowed.

## **4.12. 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).*

## **4.13. 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)*

# Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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## 4.14. Electronic equipment

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

Distance measuring equipment is allowed, they should however measure distance only.

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

## 4.15. Pace of Play

The Tournament Rules Committee will 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:*

- *First occasion:* Warning.
- *Second occasion:* Warning.
- *Third and subsequent occasions:* One (1) stroke penalty.

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

## 4.16. Starting Times

The Tournament Rules 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; i.e. 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; i.e. 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

## **Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)**

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board where the majority of the players can read it. Copies should also be handed out to the Team Captain/Manager of each country.

The Tournament Rules 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.

### **4.17. 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 Referees 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.

### **4.18. 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 WDGC website should also be updated on a daily basis. Copies should also be handed out to the Team Captain/Manager of each country and to the WDFG board.

When the results are placed on the Tournament Results Notice Board, they are considered to have been officially announced.

### **4.19. Discontinuing or Cancellation Of Play**

The Tournament Rules Committee has the right to discontinue the play and/or cancel a round in case of potentially dangerous weather conditions. The Tournament Rules 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.

## **Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)**

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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 Referees as soon as practicable to explain the reason for discontinuing the play.

### **4.20. Code of Behaviour**

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 Referee, who will confer with the Tournament Rules Committee who will decide on the course of action.

The decision of the Tournament Rules Committee shall be final.

### **4.21. Disputes or Unusual Situations on the Golf Course**

In the event of any dispute or unusual situation on the golf course, all directions from the Tournament Referees are to be complied with.

The dispute will be brought to the Tournament Rules Committee comprising the Tournament Referees, Tournament Director, and Technical Director. Any decision from the Tournament Rules Committee are final.

In the case of player raising an issue or clarifying a situation, he / she is to contact his / her Team Captain or Manager, who will then bring it up to the Tournament Rules Committee.

### **4.22. 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 Rules Committee 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:

## **Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)**

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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:

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

### **4.23. Tie Breaking Procedures – 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:

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

### **4.24. 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](http://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.

# Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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## 5. ENTRY TO THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 5.1. Entry forms

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

The country's National Deaf Golf Federation or National Deaf Sports Federation must approve the player's entry in the WDGC. A signature of both the President/Chairman and the Secretary of the Federation are to 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 WDFG and ICSD three (3) months before the start of the Championships.

### 5.2. Payment of 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 Federation or National Deaf Sports Federation.

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

### 5.3. WDFG membership fee

No entry form will be accepted from any player unless their National Deaf Golf Federation is a current financial member of WDFG.

### 5.4. 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 Federation 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.

### 5.5. Exemptions

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

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

## **Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)**

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The exempted players shall be invited to participate in the WDGC 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.

### **5.6. 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, unless the National Deaf Golf Federation is able to provide a substitute player, who is already on the ICSD 'approved' database. Players who are not on the ICSD 'approved' database, cannot replace other players that withdraw.

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 WDGF individual entry fee.

### **5.7. Communication – Prior to Tournament Start Date**

To clarify any issues or raise questions, players are to contact their National Deaf Golf Federation who will then raise or clarify issues with the Organising Committee or the WDGF.

In circumstances where a player communicates direct to the Organising Committee or the World Deaf Golf Federation, that player will be directed to contact their National Deaf Golf Federation.

### **5.8. Communication – During Tournament**

For communication between players and the Organising Committee, Tournament Rules Committee or WDGF, the player is to refer the issue / dispute to his / her Team Captain or Manager who will then represent the players issue to the relevant organization / committee.

Please refer to Section 2.23 - Disputes or Unusual Situations on the Golf Course

# Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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## 6. TROPHIES FOR THE WDGC

### 6.1. WDGC Trophies

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

### 6.2. 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 WDGf 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.

### 6.3. 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.



### 6.4. 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.



# Tournament Rules for the World Deaf Golf Championships (WDGC)

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## 6.5. Ladies Tournament

A crystal trophy for the Ladies Champion was donated by the Irish Deaf Golf Union at the 2002 WDGC in Ireland. The trophy was unfortunately broken in 2010, and was replaced in 2010.



## 6.6. 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.



## 6.7. 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.

