

BLIND GOLF AUSTRALIA – CORE DOCUMENT 4

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SIGHT CLASSIFICATION POLICY

Updated March 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Blind Golf Australia (BGA) has devised this policy to ensure that all blind golfers are participating on a fair and equitable basis.
- 1.2 Until the introduction of this Policy there have only been three sight classification categories in line with IBGA requirements (i.e. B1, B2 & B3).
- 1.3 In recent times there have been many issues raised in respect to the determination of the eligibility of blind golfers to compete in local, national and international competitions.

1.5 Sight Categories

B1: No light perception in either eye up to light perception, but inability to recognise shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.

B2: From ability to recognise the shape of the hand up to a visual acuity of 2/60.

B3: From visual acuity above 2/60 up to a maximum visual acuity of 6/60 or equivalent in any direction corrected in either or both eyes, and/or a maximum total visual field of 10 degrees.

B4X: For those players that do not fall within the sight categories outlined above but a technically legal blind and meet the eligibility criteria under the below 5.4 B4X Category.

2. COMMENCEMENT

- 2.1 The original BGA Sight Classification Policy came into operation for all BGA Sanctioned blind golfers and tournaments effective from 1 August, 2008.
- 2.2 The BGA Sight Classification Policy is to be used for all BGA Sanctioned tournaments.

3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BGA MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

3.1 Each BGA Member organisation shall enter into the GA GolfConnect ID Handicap System or provide the BGA Handicapper the full scores/results of their BGA Sanctioned tournament within 14 days of the completion of that tournament.

3.2 Each BGA Member organisation shall provide the BGA Secretary with the original IBGA/BGA sight classification documents for any new or re-classified players within 14 days of the completion of any new test.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF BGA SECRETARY

4.1 The BGA Secretary shall check all relevant sight classification documentation and forward to IBGA (if required) in line with IBGA policy.

4.2 The BGA Handicapper shall provide all BGA Member organisations with the updated list of sight classification standings at appropriate times.

5 SIGHT CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES

5.1 BGA registered blind golfers only shall be permitted to compete in any BGA Sanctioned tournament provided they comply with the approved BGA sight classification categories.

5.2 The IBGA grandfather clause is still valid for those players previously registered either as a B2 with a visual acuity of 2/60 (prior to 1 May, 2006) or a B3 with a visual acuity of 6/60 (prior to April, 2004).

5.3 Field of vision is not to be taken into account in testing apart from the B3 Category.

5.4 B4X Category Eligibility

- In receipt of or eligible for the DSP/Blind Pension or unable to hold a current drivers licence due to poor eyesight.
- Can not play golf unassisted or unaided. Confirmation would be required in terms of medical evidence in the form of a letter from an appropriate medical professional.

- A current IBGA Classification form will also need to be provided indicating current level of vision.
- Any participants classified in the B4X category would not be eligible to: 1) gain Order Of Merit points, 2) represent Australia at any IBGA tournament or IBGA World Championships 3) win any category of a BGA event other than their own specific B4X category.
- No prizes maybe awarded in B4X category unless there is a minimum of 2 participants.
- A B4X participant may play in the IBGA HANDA Australian Open however they are not eligible for the free sponsored accommodation due to the IBGA's National Tournament sponsorship rules and conditions.