

BLIND GOLF AUSTRALIA

Updated at the BGA AGM on 26 November 2025

STATEMENT OF RULES

Introduction

Blind Golf Australia's Statement of Rules was originally adopted from 7 May 2009 and updated following BGA's Annual General Meeting on 16 October 2018

1. NAME

The organisation hereinafter referred to as the Association shall be called Blind Golf Australia (BGA)

2. OBJECTIVES OF BGA

- a) To promote the game of golf amongst Blind and Vision Impaired Persons throughout Australia
- b) To coordinate golf for Blind and Vision Impaired People between the States
- c) To make standard policies for Blind and Vision Impaired Golfers within Australia in accordance with the policies of the International Blind Golf Association.
- d) To represent Australia at International level through membership of the International Blind Golf Association.
- e) To approve and maintain a register of State and National Blind Golf Events throughout Australia.
- f) To create and maintain a register of players for Australia, their sight classifications and their handicaps
- g) To take full responsibility for organising national championships
- h) To take full responsibility for organising any International Championship played in Australia.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership and Voting Rights

The membership of BGA shall consist of any state, territory or regional association formed to promote the game of golf amongst Blind and Vision Impaired Persons in Australia. Application for any new membership must be accepted by the members in a General Meeting.

Members will be represented by their appointed delegates.

Each member will be entitled to one vote if they have less than ten vision impaired_financial members and to two votes if they have ten or more vision impaired_financial members. There shall be no postal voting but the individual State Blind Golf Associations may appoint proxies for their nominated delegates in a format approved by the Board.

3.2 Grievance

- A. The grievance procedure set out in this clause applies to disputes under these rules between:
 - 1. a member and another member; or
 - 2. a member and the Association.
- B. The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all the parties.
- C. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.
- D. The mediator must be:
 - 1. a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - 2. in the absence of agreement:
 - a) in the case of a dispute between a member and another member, the executive of the Association; or
 - b) in the case of a dispute between a member and the Association, a person who is a member of the Dispute Settlement Court of Victoria (Department of Justice) or the equivalent in other states
- E. A member of the Association can be a mediator.
- F. The mediator cannot be a member who is a party to the dispute.

3.3 Expulsion of Members

The Board may by resolution:

- (1) Expel a member from the Association; or
- (2) Suspend a member from the Association for a specified period if the Board is of the opinion that the member has refused or neglected to comply with the Rules of the Association or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the interests of the Association.

Such resolution shall take effect immediately upon the delivery of such resolution by the Secretary in writing to the member setting out the reasons for the resolution.

A member may exercise a Right of Appeal by notice in writing to the Board setting out the grounds for the Appeal. The Appeal will be considered by the Board at a meeting held not earlier than fourteen (14) days and no later than twenty-eight (28) days after the receipt of such an Appeal. The member will be advised of this meeting and may have a nominated delegate attend if the member wishes. Following this meeting, the member will be advised of the outcome of the Appeal and the decision by the Board shall be final.

4 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

4.1 A member may nominate a person to be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association. The person so nominated must be a financial member of a BGA member.

4.2 Written nominations must be forwarded to the Secretary/Treasurer who shall give notice of the nomination to all members that consideration will be given to the nomination at the next Annual General Meeting

4.3 Persons nominated for Life Membership of Blind Golf Australia must have demonstrated extensive and meritorious service to Blind Golf throughout Australia over an extended period of time.

4.4 Life membership of Blind Golf Australia will only be awarded by a 75% vote in favour of all financial members present and who are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting

4.5 A Life Membership can be removed at an Annual General Meeting where 75% in favour of all financial members present and who are entitled to vote and do so

4.6 The notice of proposed removal of Life Membership must be given to the Secretary /Treasurer by a Member in the form of a Resolution as described in clause 7. This notice must be in writing and outline the reasons for removal of the Life Membership.

4.7 Life Membership can be removed where a Member brings the Association into disrepute or acts outside the aims and objectives of the Association.

5 SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) The members at an Annual General Meeting may, from time to time, fix the annual subscription fee for membership. No joining fee is required for admission to membership.
- (b) In the event of an affiliated member having less than ten (10) vision impaired members the subscription fee to be paid by that member shall be 50% of the subscription as set by the members.
- (c) The annual subscription shall be due and payable in advance on the first day of July each year and members in default shall after ninety (90) days forfeit their membership.

6 FINANCE AND DOCUMENTS

- (a) Finances will be gained by application to relevant Government authorities, subscriptions from members and via functions for specific purposes. Further, in order to facilitate the work of the Association, the Association may solicit the financial support from sources that it deems appropriate.
- (b) The Board shall cause books of account to be kept of all sums of money received and expended by the Association and the matters in respect of which such receipt and expenditure takes place and of all sales and purchases and of the assets and liabilities of the Association. The books of Account shall be kept at such a place or places as the Board deems fit and shall at all times be open to inspection by members of the Association.
- (c) The Treasurer shall receive all monies and issue receipts therefore and shall pay all accounts by cheque, or by any other means as determined by the Board.
- (d) All monies received shall be promptly paid into the bank account of the Association as determined by the Board.

- (e) All cheques shall be made payable under the signature of any two of the following: Chairman and Secretary/ Treasurer or by one of those with any other person approved by the Board or in such other manner and by such persons as the Board determines.
- (f) The Treasurer shall present a financial report at each Board Meeting including inter alia a summary of all receipts and expenditure since the previous meeting and the bank balance at the date of the meeting
- (g) A properly qualified auditor or auditors shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting at the conclusion of election of Office Bearers and shall duly audit the books of account and report thereon at least once in each year prior to the Annual General Meeting. The auditor's duties shall be regulated in accordance in accordance with generally accepted principles. The remuneration if any of the auditor or auditors shall be fixed by the Board.
- (h) Any member incurring lawful out of pocket expenses in the course of carrying out approved business of the Association may be reimbursed upon presentation of a receipt
- i) Members' Liability: The liability of a Member of the Association to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Association or the costs, charges and expenses of winding up of the Association is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the Member in respect of Membership of the Association.

7 MEETINGS

- (a) The Association shall each year hold a General Meeting to be called the Annual General Meeting and the Board may from time to time as it thinks fit call further General Meetings.
- (b) Such General Meetings shall be held at such time and place as the Board shall appoint.
- (c) A quorum at an Annual General Meeting or General Meeting shall be a minimum of 3 members. At a Board Directors Meeting the quorum shall be a majority of directors

8 PROCEDURE

- (a) At all meetings the ruling of the Chairman shall be final, on questions of procedure.

- b) General Meetings of the Association should be held at such intervals as determined by the Association.
- (c) Not less than twenty eight (28) days notice of every meeting shall be given to every member and such notice shall specify the date, the place and the hour of meeting and in the case of special business, the general nature of such business.
- (d) The Chairman shall call for special business items, which shall be in accord with this statement of rules, 60 days before every meeting and members must submit items of special business which are in accordance with these rules 30 days before the general meeting

9 NOTICES

All notices shall be served by the Association by letter or by any other means approved by the Board to every member at the address supplied to the Association by that member.

10 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting of the Association shall be held annually within four months of the close of the Associations financial year. Business of the meeting shall include:

1. Roll Call
2. Reading of the previous AGM Minutes
3. Correspondence relating to the AGM
4. Reports
 - (1) Chairman
 - (2) Treasurer-Annual audited accounts to be approved
 - (3) State Associations
 - (4) Handicapper
5. Election of Office Bearers
6. Election of Auditor
7. Election of Public Officer

8. Election of those representatives required to represent BGA at such organisations with which BGA may be affiliated.
9. Approval of the calendar of major events for the ensuing year. Major events include the Australian Championships, The Australian Stableford Championships and the State Championships and any other major event approved by the Board.
10. Any other business for which due notice has been given in accordance with these rules

11 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

- (a) Nominations for Board positions will be called for at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) Every such nomination shall be in writing in such form as may from time to time be decided by the Board of Directors, and shall be lodged with the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to commencement of the Annual General Meeting, whereupon, if there is received more nominations than is required to fill a particular vacancy, a ballot shall be required at the Annual General Meeting. This may be an open or secret ballot, as decided by the meeting.
- (c) In the event of there being insufficient nominations to fill the vacancies of the Board, the Chairman shall call for nominations to fill such vacancies from members in attendance at the Annual General Meeting, and such persons receiving the majority of votes at the meeting shall be declared elected to the Board of Directors by the Chairman. This appointment will be treated as filling a casual vacancy

12 TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Each member of the Board shall hold office until the Annual Meeting next after the date of his election but is eligible for re-election.

13 RETURNING OFFICER

The Secretary/Treasurer shall perform the duties of the Returning Officer.

14 THE BOARD

- (a) The Board of Directors of the Association shall have at least fifty (50) % of its Elected Members legally blind.
- (b) The Board may consist of a maximum of five (5) Elected Members and two Appointed Members. The elected members shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer plus one Director. The Appointed Members, who may be appointed by the board at any Board meeting after the Annual General Meeting. The appointed Members may have specific skills (National Handicapper) or other skills which complement the Board composition. They do not need to be Individual Members but must be natural persons. Appointed Members cannot also be a Delegate.
- (c) Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as determined by the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman, providing at least seven (7) days notice is given.
- (d) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board subject to these rules, the Regulations and the Act, and has power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the Board to be essential for the proper management of the affairs of the Association.
- (e) Members of the Board who have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered by the Board must declare that interest and not take part in any deliberations or voting on that matter.
- (f) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring on the Board, the Board shall have the power to appoint a new member, providing notice of intention to all members to fill such a vacancy has been given fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Any person so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting only, but shall be eligible for re-election.

15 REMOVAL OF MEMBER OF THE BOARD

- (1) The Association in General Meeting may by resolution remove any member of the Board before the expiration of his term of office and appoint another member in his stead to hold office until the expiration of the term of the first mentioned member.

- (2) Where the member to whom a proposed resolution referred to in sub-clause (1) makes representations in writing to the Secretary or the Chairman of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and requests that they be notified to the members of the Association, the Secretary or Chairman may send a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so sent, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting.

16 CUSTODY OF BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS

Except as otherwise provided in the Rules, the Secretary shall keep in custody or under control all books, documents and securities of the Association. If the Association has an office, the Secretary may use discretion as to which items under custody shall be kept at the office. Books and documents of the Association shall be at all times open to inspection by members of the Association.

17 COMMON SEAL

The Common Seal of the Association shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary. The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Board and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Board or of one member of the Board and of the Public Officer of the Association.

18 AMENDMENT TO THE STATEMENT OF RULES OR PURPOSES

- (a) The Statement of Rules or purposes of the Association may be altered, amended or added to from time to time by special resolution of the members at a meeting convened with a minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice. Three quarters (75%) of votes cast by those members present, or proxy members present, at a meeting called for this purpose must resolve to amend the Statement of Rules or Purposes in the manner desired.
- (b) The notice convening the meeting shall specify the proposed amendment or amendments and shall be circulated to members not less than fourteen (14) days before the date of meeting.

19. DISSOLUTION

- (a) The Association may be dissolved by special resolution. Three quarters (75%) of those members present at a meeting called for this purpose must resolve the decision in the manner desired.
- (b) In the event of the Association being dissolved, the amount which remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be paid and applied by the Association in accordance with its powers to any incorporated Association which has similar objects and which has rules prohibiting the distribution of its assets and income to its Members and which is approved by the Commissioner of Taxation as a Public Benevolent Institution for the purposes of any Commonwealth Taxation Act.