

BY-LAWS OF



DEAF GOLF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL DEAF SPORTS COMMITTEE (NDSC)

INCORPORATED UNDER DEAF SPORTS AUSTRALIA

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1. AUSTRALIAN DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.1 TIMING : The Australian Deaf Golf Championships must be held a maximum of every 2 years (ie can be held every year as the Executive Committee desires), and where in the case of these Championships doubling as a selection trial for the World Deaf Golf Championships, these Championships must be held a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months prior to the World Deaf Golf Championships.

1.2 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES : Where a Australian Deaf Golf Championship is to be run in the same year as the Australian Deaf Games, then the tournament must be held at the Australian Deaf Games.

1.3 MINIMUM NUMBER OF ENTRANTS: Any Australian Deaf Golf Championships must comprise a minimum of three (3) affiliated states and comprise a minimum of sixteen (16) players.

2. TOURNAMENT FORMAT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP (NON-AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES): Where a Australian Deaf Golf Championship is to be run as a stand-alone tournament (ie not held during the Australian Deaf Games), the tournament is to comprise a minimum of the following events :-

2.1 An individual stroke-play tournament for Men, Ladies, and Seniors categories is to be played for a minimum of 36 holes. However, in the case of any Championship also acting as a Selection Trial for the World Deaf Golf Championships, the tournament must be a minimum of 54 holes.

2.2 The Mens and Ladies tournament shall be separate from each other, where as the Seniors tournament may be held concurrently with the Men's Tournament on the provision that they play on the same tees.

2.3 An inter-state teams stroke-play tournament for Men, Ladies, and Seniors categories, to be held concurrently with the individual stroke-play tournament.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP (NON-AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES) (Continued):

2.4 The cost for entering the tournament shall be as follows :-

2.4.1 Individual Championships (Men, Ladies, Seniors)

\$30 per individual

2.4.2 Mens State Teams Championships

\$50 per team (max 6 players)

2.4.3 Ladies State Teams Championships

\$20 per team (max 4 players)

3. **TOURNAMENT FORMAT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP (AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES):** Where a Australian Deaf Golf Championship is to be run concurrently with the Australian Deaf Games, the tournament is to comprise a minimum of the following events :-

3.1 A foursomes championship (or other similar format as approved by Deaf Golf Australia) for Men, Ladies, and Seniors categories for 18 holes, on Day 1 of the competition.

3.2 An individual stroke-play tournament for Men, Ladies, and Seniors categories for a minimum of 72 holes, on Days 2 to 5 of the competition.

3.3 The Mens and Ladies tournament shall be separate from each other, where as the Seniors tournament may be held concurrently with the Mens Tournament on the provision that they play on the same tees.

3.4 An inter-state teams stroke-play tournament for Men, Ladies, and Seniors categories, to be held concurrently with the individual stroke-play tournament.

3.5 The cost for entering the tournament shall be as determined by the Australian Deaf Games Organising Committee in collaboration with Deaf Golf Australia.

4. DEFINITION OF COMPETITIONS:

4.1 Mens Individual Stroke-Play Tournament

- 4.1.1 To be played from the regular mens tees as designated by the host club
- 4.1.2 Maximum handicap to be the current handicap limit as defined by Golf Australia, being 36.
- 4.1.3 Winner of the Gross Category to one with the lowest aggregate score over the total number of rounds. In the event of a tie, the winner shall be determined by a play-off from the 1st tee, barring weather and sufficient light. In the case of bad weather or insufficient light, the tiebreaker will be one with the lowest back nine holes, failing this the lower front nine. If this does not work, then to be based on a countback on the 18th hole down to the 1st hole until the winner is declared.
- 4.1.4 Winner of the Nett Category to one with the lowest aggregate score taking into account the handicap of the player, over the total number of rounds. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be one with the lowest back nine holes, failing this the lower front nine. If this does not work, then to be based on a countback on the 18th hole down to the 1st hole until the winner is declared.
- 4.1.5 No player shall be eligible to win both the gross and nett competitions.

DEFINITION OF COMPETITIONS (Continued):

4.2 Ladies Individual Stroke-Play Tournament

- 4.2.1 To be played from the ladies tees as designated by the host club
- 4.2.2 Maximum handicap to be the current handicap limit as defined by Golf Australia, being 45, subject to a separate Ladies handicap competition being held from the Mens competition.
- 4.2.3 Rule 4.1.3 applies for determination of the winner for the Gross Category
- 4.2.4 Rule 4.1.4 applies for determination of the winner for the Nett Category
- 4.2.5 No player shall be eligible to win both the gross and nett competitions.

4.3 Mens Seniors Individual Stroke-Play Tournament

- 4.3.1 To be played from the regular mens tees as designated by the host club
- 4.3.2 To be of a minimum age of 50 by the day preceding the first day of the Tournament.
- 4.3.3 Maximum handicap to be the current handicap limit as defined by Golf Australia, being 36.
- 4.3.4 Rule 4.1.3 applies for determination of the winner for the Gross Category
- 4.3.5 Rule 4.1.4 applies for determination of the winner for the Nett Category
- 4.3.6 No player shall be eligible to win both the gross and nett competitions. However, if the Seniors Championship is held concurrent with the Men's Competition then any winner of the Men's Competition is also eligible to win any Seniors Championship Trophy.

DEFINITION OF COMPETITIONS (Continued):

4.4 Men's State Teams Tournament

- 4.4.1 Captains from each team are to hand over to the DGA Secretary, by 6pm on the night preceding the first round (or as determined by Tournament Rules Committee), the official list of a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of six (6) named players whom have been selected to represent the State
- 4.4.2 To be played concurrently with the Men's Individual Stroke-Play Tournament
- 4.4.3 The top 4 gross scores from each State shall count towards the Team Score, on each day of competition.
- 4.4.4 In the event of a tie, the tournament will be declared a tie between the leading states.
- 4.4.5 Should a Men's State team select a female player in the Teams Tournament, then that female player is required to play from the same tee as the Mens
- 4.4.6 Players entered for the Seniors' Tournament are eligible to play in the Men's State Teams Tournament, provided that they play from the same tees.

4.5 Ladies State Teams Tournament

- 4.5.1 Captains from each team are to hand over to the DGA Secretary, by 6pm on the night preceding the first round, the official list of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) named players whom have been selected to represent the State
- 4.5.2 To be played concurrently with the Ladies Individual Stroke-Play Tournament
- 4.5.3 The top 2 gross scores from each State shall count towards the Team Score, on each day of competition
- 4.5.4 In the event of a tie, the tournament will be declared a tie between the leading states.

- 5. CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION:** Such the conditions if not specified in the followings – all conditions are found in the Golf Rules unless specified :-
- 5.1 All Golf Championships and Competitions shall be played under the Golf Rules of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, and abiding the local golf courses rules where applicable
 - 5.2 Competitors must have a hearing loss of at least 55 decibels in the better ear in accordance with World Deaf Golf Federation.
 - 5.3 Competitors are forbidden to wear hearing aids, cochlear implants or any other artificial hearing aids, during the competition.
 - 5.4 The Golf Rules where a penalty of disqualification mentioned shall be deemed as a penalty of extra strokes as determined and imposed by the Tournament Rules Committee.
 - 5.5 The Competitors residence qualification shall apply exactly as to Deaf Sports Australia's policy on the state of residence, or as determined by the Executive Committee.
 - 5.6 Each State is required to endorse the handicap of each competitor in any championships. The Executive Committee reserves the right to ascertain the handicap of each player with their home club, and may at their discretion adjust the handicap of each player accordingly.
 - 5.7 No player shall be the marker of a card from a player of the same state, unless in circumstances where impossible not to do so, but not before getting approval from the Executive Committee.
 - 5.8 Should a player require a motorised cart due to medical reasons, then the player is to seek permission from the Executive Committee, prior to start of the Championships, accompanied with a medical certificate. Those who wish to obtain a cart in middle of Tournament are still required to get a medical certificate. Those participating in the Seniors Championship are exempt from this, unless they are participating in any of the Mens and Mens Teams Championships.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION (Continued):

- 5.9 Any protests and / or claims may be lodged with the unsigned score card to the DGA Secretary within one hour of completion of the round. The Tournament Rules Committee (usually comprising of two representatives of Deaf Golf Australia, a Life Member of Deaf Golf Australia and the Tournament Referee if available, or as appointed by the Executive Committee) will then ask the player, his / her team captain, and shall then make a determination in the matter and its decision shall be final and binding.
- 5.10 In the interests of good and fair play, under no circumstances are any protests and / or claims to be discussed on the course. Please refer the matter to the Tournament Rules Committee for determination.
- 5.11 Each Host State are to organise a Tournament Referee / Course Marshal (with a golf cart), and all competitors are to comply with the requests of the Tournament Referee / Course Marshal. Where a dispute arises between a competitor and the Course Marshal, then the competitor is to continue playing and then refer the matter to the Tournament Rules Committee for determination.
- 5.12 A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If during a round, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions (eg wind speed, wind direction, temperature), that player is in breach of R&A rules and will be subject to penalty as determined by the Tournament Rules Committee.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HOSTING AUSTRALIAN DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

6.1 For Australian Deaf Golf Championships in an non-Australian Deaf Games year, the Australian Deaf Golf Championships may be held at a venue as determined by a bid process at the Annual General Meeting of the preceding Australian Deaf Golf Championships as long as the bidding State satisfies the following criteria :-

- Proposed dates of the tournament
- Accommodation and transport details
- Proposed golf course to be an officially recognised and suitable golf course (to be endorsed by the Executive Committee)

6.2 The winning State shall be responsible for organising the following

- Accommodation and Transport
- Green Fees
- Management of the tournament (volunteers, functions, etc)

6.3 DGA shall be responsible for the following

- Collection of Tournament Fees
- Prizes
- Scoring
- Appointment of Tournament Rules Committee which will determination in any rules clarifications, disputes, etc

6.4 In the case of the Australian Deaf Golf Championships being held in a state where there is no State Deaf Golf Association or Club, then DGA shall take the responsibility of organising all aspects of the tournament.

7. SELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS: Where a selection trial is to be held concurrently with the Australian Deaf Golf Championships, then the following shall apply, but not before each individual golfer conforms to the following :-

- That their handicap does not exceed the limit as specified by World Deaf Golf Federation
- Be a member of an officially recognised club or Golf Australia social member (golf-link number).
- Have a hearing loss of at least 55 decibels in the better ear

7.1 There are new categories now available for the World Deaf Golf Championships (2016 and 2018):

7.1.1 Men's Team

7.1.2 Seniors' Team

7.1.3 Ladies' Team

7.1.4 Ladies' Senior Team

7.1.5 Super-Seniors' Team (65yrs+, Men)

7.1.6 Juniors - Boys and Girls (18 yrs and under)

7.1.7 The Australian Team nominate for the ONE Team Captain, prior to the Entry Closing Date to the World Deaf Golf Championships.

7.2 The Australian Deaf Golf Team for the World Deaf Golf Championship shall be selected as follows :-

7.2.1 For the Australian Men's Deaf Golf Team (6 players + 2 reserve players who can play as individual at the World Deaf Golf Championships), shall be selected as follows:-

- The top 5 (five) shall qualify automatically for the Men's Team (subject to them meeting WDGC requirements for entry).

7. SELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS [CONTINUED]:

- The DGA Committee, by 3 months prior to the Entry Closing Date for the World Deaf Golf Championships, nominate a Wildcard Selection. This Wildcard Selection, ideally will have a lower golf handicap, and must fulfil all WDGC requirements for entry.
- Any vacancies in the Team (from Players Ranked 1 to 4), shall be filled by the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry)
- The reserve players (Players Ranked 7 and 8) who are entitled to play as individual players in the World Deaf Golf Championships, shall be filled by the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry)

7.2.2 For the Australian Ladies Deaf Golf Team (5 players) : The Top 4 Ladies Individual Golfers as selected from the first 4 positions of the Australian Ladies Individual Stroke-Play Tournament (subject to them meeting WDGC requirements for entry), then

- Any vacancies in the Team (from Players Ranked 1 to 4), shall be filled by the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry)
- The DGA Committee, by 3 months prior to the Entry Closing Date for the World Deaf Golf Championships, nominate a Wildcard Selection. This Wildcard Selection, ideally will have a lower golf handicap, and must fulfil all WDGC requirements for entry.

7. SELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS [CONTINUED]:

- Should any position on the Australian Ladies Team not be able to be filled from the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships, then the DGA Committee can nominate any player (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry), until the required number of players in the Team is reached (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry).

7.2.3 The Australian Men Deaf Senior's Team (5 players). Top 4 Seniors Individual Golfers as selected from the first 4 positions of the Australian Seniors Individual Stroke-Play Tournament (subject to them meeting WDGC requirements for entry), then

- Any vacancies in the Team (from Players Ranked 1 to 4), shall be filled by the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry)
- The DGA Committee, by 3 months prior to the Entry Closing Date for the World Deaf Golf Championships, nominate a Wildcard Selection. This Wildcard Selection, ideally will have a lower golf handicap, and must fulfil all WDGC requirements for entry.
- Should there be any vacancies (due to not being able to attend the WDGC), then the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships, shall be selected in place of any vacancies until the required number of players in the Team is reached (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry).
- Should any position on the Australian Seniors Team not be able to be filled from the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships, then the DGA Committee can nominate any player (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry).

7. SELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS [CONTINUED]:

7.2.4 The Australian Ladies Senior's Team (5 players). Top 4 Seniors Individual Golfers as selected from the first 4 positions of the Australian Seniors Individual Stroke-Play Tournament (subject to them meeting WDGC requirements for entry), then

- Any vacancies in the Team (from Players Ranked 1 to 4), shall be filled by the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry)
- The DGA Committee, by 3 months prior to the Entry Closing Date for the World Deaf Golf Championships, nominate a Wildcard Selection. This Wildcard Selection, ideally will have a lower golf handicap, and must fulfil all WDGC requirements for entry.
- Should there be any vacancies (due to not being able to attend the WDGC), then the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships, shall be selected in place of any vacancies until the required number of players in the Team is reached (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry).
- Should any position on the Australian Ladies Seniors Team not be able to be filled from the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships, then the DGA Committee can nominate any player (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry).

7.2.5 The Australian Men's Super Senior's Team (minimum of 2 to maximum of 5 players). Top 4 Super Seniors Individual Golfers as selected from the first 4 positions of the Australian Seniors Individual Stroke-Play Tournament (subject to them meeting WDGC requirements for entry), then

- Any vacancies in the Team (from Players Ranked 1 to 4), shall be filled by the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry)

7. SELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS [CONTINUED]:

- The DGA Committee, by 3 months prior to the Entry Closing Date for the World Deaf Golf Championships, nominate a Wildcard Selection. This Wildcard Selection, ideally will have a lower golf handicap, and must fulfil all WDGC requirements for entry.
- Should there be any vacancies (due to not being able to attend the WDGC), then the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships, shall be selected in place of any vacancies until the required number of players in the Team is reached (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry).
- Should any position on the Australian Men's Super Seniors Team not be able to be filled from the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships, then the DGA Committee can nominate any player (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry).

7.2.6 The Australian Junior Team. (no minimum or maximum number of players at this time). Junior Boys and Girls Individual Golfers are selected for the Boys and Girls Tournament Individual Stroke-Play Tournament (subject to them meeting WDGC requirements for entry), then

- Any vacancies in the Team shall be filled by the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry)
- The DGA Committee, by 3 months prior to the Entry Closing Date for the World Deaf Golf Championships, nominate a Wildcard Selection. This Wildcard Selection, ideally will have a lower golf handicap, and must fulfil all WDGC requirements for entry.
- Should there be any vacancies (due to not being able to attend the WDGC), then the next consecutive number of the player according to his position in the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships, shall be selected in place of any vacancies until

7. SELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS [CONTINUED]:

- the required number of players in the Team is reached (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry).
- Should any position on the Australian Junior Team not be able to be filled from the Australian Individual Stroke-Play Championships, then the DGA Committee can nominate any player (subject to meeting WDGC requirements for entry).

7.2.7 Individual golfers, subject to meeting the WDGC requirements for entry for the World Deaf Golf Championships, can play as Individual in the Men's Individuals, Ladies' Individuals, Men Seniors' Individuals and Ladies Seniors' Individuals events.

7.3 Any funding from Deaf Sports Australia, Australian Sports Commission or any funding from any other Government outlet, is to be made available on an exact portion to those who qualify for the Australian Mens Team of 6, Ladies Team of 5, Seniors Men of 5 and Seniors Ladies Team of 5, Super-Seniors Men Team of 2 to 5 golfers, and Junior golfers.

7.4 Any fundraising initiatives by Deaf Golf Australia, is to be made available on an exact portion to all those who qualify for the Full Australian Team including the Team Manager.

7.5 The DGA Executive Committee shall appoint a player or non-player to the office of the Australian Deaf Golf Team Manager and remain in this office for the duration between the Australian Deaf Golf Championships and the World Deaf Golf Championships.

7.6 DGA shall be required to pool the whole expenses for the Australian Deaf Golf Team. The expenses are for the team's travel, accommodation, meals, uniforms, insurance, tournament and green fees, and management. After accounting for all government and private funding, each player are to pay DGA the balance of funds required to compete in the World Deaf Golf Championships.

7. SELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE WORLD DEAF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS [CONTINUED]:

7.7 Prior to each World Deaf Golf Championship, each player is required to sign the 'Team Members Agreement' as per Appendix 1.

8. ETIQUETTE

8.1 DRESS

8.1.1 Neat casual dress at all times. Shorts are permitted with socks to be as per the dress rules at each golf course. Trousers must not be rolled up, nor it is permitted to place the cuffs inside the socks, open shoes, thongs, sandals, T-Shirts, and tank tops are not permitted on the golf course or / and in the clubhouse.

8.2 TEE GROUND

8.2.1 Arrive at the Golf Course more than 30 minutes prior to the 'Hit-Off' time unless specified assembly time is announced

8.2.2 Be ready with golf ball and golf club in hand to tee up immediately when it is your turn

8.2.3 Be ready to leave the tee ground as soon as the last golf player has hit off

8.2.4 Mark your score card whilst waiting your turn at the tee ground, or if first to hit off, mark your score after you hit off

8.3 THROUGH THE GREEN (FAIRWAY)

8.3.1 Always walk smartly and quickly between your strokes. Walk directly to your golf ball, select your golf club to be used, and play your stroke immediately, without undue delay. Keep up with the group in front.

8.3.2 If you have doubts in finding your ball after playing your stroke, a second or more golf balls are to be played as provisional balls until reaching the location of the first golf ball. Please search for no more than 5 minutes, before resuming play with original or provisional balls.

THROUGH THE GREEN (FAIRWAY) (Continued)

8.3.3 If original golf ball can not be found within two minutes, please call the next players behind you to pass through, continue to look for your golf ball for the next three minutes, then walk back to the spot where you hit the original ball before it got lost. Drop your second ball and wait for next group of players to go out of your range before taking your stroke. Do not try to prevent the group of players behind you from passing you when you have called them to pass you.

8.4 PUTTING GREEN

8.4.1 Always leave your golf bag / cart in a direct line between the Flag and the next Tee Ground, but must not leave in front of the Green.

8.4.2 The player whose golf ball nearest to the flag, shall take hold of the flag and direct any other players to get ready for their putt, regardless who is furthest, but who is ready to putt.

8.4.3 Do not stand or be marking your score on the green, clear off the green immediately and walk quickly to the next tee ground.

8.5 REMINDER

8.5.1 Remember if you ask or request others, please do it politely, as if it is you being asked by others, please reply politely

8.5.2 Remember to keep up with the group in front of you, do not fall back and hold up the groups behind you

8.5.3 Lowest handicap player is to take responsibility for his / her group of players

8.5.4 Read the local rules and comply with any direction from the Golf Club's Board or Committee

8.5.5 If in a dispute on the golf course, please continue to play and bring the issue to the DGA Executive Committee for determination

8.5.6 Read the Golf Rules at all times before and after the competition

8.6 Code of Conduct and Members Protection Policy.

All members of Deaf Golf Australia (including affiliated State Deaf Golf Associations) are to abide by the Deaf Sport Australia's Code of Conduct and Members Protection Policy at ALL times.