

MARYLAND DEAF GOLFERS ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Name

This organization shall be called the Maryland Deaf Golfers Association (MDDGA).

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of the Maryland Deaf Golfers Association shall be to promote interest and involvement in the game of golf in accordance with and subject to the rules of the United States Golf Association (USGA) among deaf and hard of hearing golfers.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1

General Membership

1. Any deaf or hard of hearing individual, CODA, or ASL user at least 18 years of age with a USGA approved Handicap of 36.4 (approximate score of 110) or better who has played in a minimum of 4 MDDGA events as a guest, may request to become a member of the Maryland Deaf Golfers Association.
2. The Membership Committee shall review all requests for membership and make recommendations to the Executive Committee, which must give final approval for membership.
3. The Secretary will notify the applicant via email as to the final action of his/her application.

Section 2

Guests

1. Non-members may be invited to participate as guests in MDDGA events.
2. Guest will not be eligible to vote in meetings.
3. Guest will not qualify for prizes in events.
4. Guest will be invited to play in tee-time limited events only if the number of slots is not filled by active or in-active members.

Section 3

Fees

1. Membership Fees
 - a. All members will pay an annual membership fee of \$30.00. This fee must be paid before a member participates in any event for that year.
 - b. Membership fee is based on the calendar year and is not prorated.
 - c. Guests who have played in a minimum of 4 events and are eligible for membership will submit a \$10 fee.
2. Prize Fees
 - a. A prize fee of \$10.00 will be collected from each member prior to the start of each event.
3. Guest Fees
 - a. Guests will pay a \$5.00 fee to participate in any event.

Section 4

Membership Status

1. Membership in the Maryland Deaf Golfers Association will be based on two categories:
 - a. Active members and
 - b. In-active members
2. Active members will be those members who meet the following criteria:
 - a. Paid dues for current year;
 - b. Played in a minimum of 4 events during the prior season. Exceptions may be made for those members with extenuating personal circumstances such as extended illness. Exceptions must be approved by the President.
3. In-Active members will be those members who:
 - a. Fail to pay membership dues; or
 - b. Did not play in a minimum of 4 events during the prior season; or
 - c. Request to become an In-active member due to personal reasons.
4. Membership status will be reviewed at the end of the season based on statistics maintained by the Treasurer. Members placed on In-active status will be notified via email by the Secretary.
5. All members are eligible to play in the Club Championship. However, only members who have played at least 4 events will be eligible for the Net prizes.
6. If there are limited tee times for an event, first priority is given to active members, followed by in-active members, active member's guests, in-active member's guest, and guests.
7. A. Member who remains on In-active status after two years will be removed from membership after the year-end Club Championship.
8. Members who do not meet the principles of standard conduct and integrity of the sport as defined by the Membership Committee and approved by the Executive Committee (Officers) will be subject to disciplinary action and may be removed from membership.

ARTICLE IV

Executive Committee (Officers)

Section 1 Officers

1. The Executive Committee (officers) of the Maryland Deaf Golf Association (MDDGA) shall consist of:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer

2. Officers shall perform duties as described in these by-laws, and in accordance with the rules of the United States Golfers Association (USGA), and Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 2 Election

Officers shall be elected during the meeting held the weekend of the Club Championship.

Section 3 Term of Office

Officers shall serve for a term of two years. The term of office shall be effective immediately following the election.

ARTICLE V Duties of Officers

Section 1 President

The President shall:

1. Oversee the general day to day activities of the Association;
2. Prepare the agenda and preside over all meetings;
3. Oversee and direct the activities of all officers, committees and events;
4. Appoint all committee chairpersons; and
5. Give final approval for new member applications and/or termination of memberships.

Section 2 Vice-President

The Vice-President shall:

1. Act in the absence of the President and perform all duties as delegated by the President; and

2. In the event that the office of President is vacated, assume the office until the next regular election;
3. Calculate and maintain the results of all events and report such results to the President and members;
4. Ensure that all activities of the association are in compliance with the By-Laws;
5. Review proposed changes to the By-Laws and present recommendations to the full membership for approval.

Section 3 Secretary

The Secretary shall:

1. Give notice of, keep and distribute minutes of all meetings;
2. Maintain copies of all records;
3. Maintain a roster of members and their status;
4. Handle all correspondence unless otherwise directed by the President.

Section 4 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

1. Be the custodian of all funds and securities of the association;
2. Be responsible for full and accurate accounting of receipts, disbursements and books belonging to the association and the deposit of all monies and other valuables in the name of and to the credit of the association in such depositories as may be designated by the association;
3. Distribute all funds as directed by the association and approved by the President or vice-President; and
4. Submit a written financial report at the final meeting of the year. Additional financial reports shall be submitted as requested by the President

ARTICLE VI Standing Committee

The President shall appoint a chairperson for each committee. Each chairperson shall appoint other members to serve on the committee.

Section 1 Membership Committee

The membership committee shall:

1. Actively Recruit new members and invite them to play as guests in our events; and
2. Notify potential members they may make a request to join MDDGA.
3. Review membership requests and recommend action to the President;

4. Ensure member compliance with principles of standard conduct and integrity of the sport and make recommendations to the President on disciplinary action for those members not in compliance.

Section 2 Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee shall:

1. Assist the President in planning and coordinating events not including the MDDGA Open and the MDDGA Club Championship;
2. Develop and recommend tournament rules to be approved by the membership, which after approval become final and binding on all events; and,
3. Be responsible for providing interpretation of the rules with the local professional.
4. Calculate the Handicap for all active members;
5. Shall document all scores after events and post on the MDDGA website;

Section 3 Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee shall:

1. Shall publicize all MDDGA news and events using appropriate mediums such as Facebook, MDDGA Webpage, and public relations events.
2. Shall ensure all fees are paid to maintain Domain Naming Service and Web Hosting service;
3. Shall update/upgrade the MDDGA Website upon the request of the Officers.
4. Shall maintain the email group list for MDDGA members and guests.

ARTICLE VII Meetings

Section 1 Regular Meetings

1. Two regular meetings of the Maryland Deaf Golf Association (MDDGA) shall be held annually.
2. Such meetings shall be held at the conclusion of the first event of the year and during the club championship.
3. Notice of meetings shall be sent to the membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Section 2 Special Meetings

1. Special meetings may be called by the President or by written request of at least five members to the Secretary.
2. The Secretary shall give all members at least ten days notice of the date and purpose of said meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

1. All proposed changes to the by-laws shall be presented at the year end meeting during the club championship.
2. Amendments must be approved by two-thirds vote of the members present.

ARTICLE IX

Major MDDGA Tournaments

1. The MDDGA Open shall be held on the third weekend of the month of May or a week after Mother's day, unless the chairperson selects a different date.
 - a. A Chairperson shall be selected at the Club Championship meeting the prior year
 - b. The Chairperson shall be responsible for
 - i. selecting the course and tentative tee times for Saturday and Sunday;
 - ii. setting fees for the tournament and schedule
 - iii. marketing the Tournament
 - iv. communicating with event participants the event schedule
 - v. communicating with the course to confirm tee times
 - vi. at conclusion of event, announce prize winners
2. The MDDGA Club Championship shall be held on the Columbus Day weekend of the month of October unless the President selects a different date. The Club Championship event is open to members, in-active members and guests. However, to qualify for Net prizes, the MDDGA members must have played at least 4 MDDGA events unless waived by the President. The Officers will plan and run the Club Championship.

ARTICLE X

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the Maryland Deaf Golf Association (MDDGA) in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-laws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.