

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 (MDDGA) 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, at least 18 years of age, if possible when providing a USGA approved Handicap card of 40 or less, or an average score of 110 or better who has played in a minimum of 4 MDDGA events as a guest, may submit an application to become a member of the Maryland Deaf Golfers Association (MDDGA).
2. The Membership Committee shall review all applications for membership and make recommendations to the Executive Committee, which must give final approval for membership.
3. The Secretary will notify the applicant in writing as to the final action of his/her application.

Section 2

Guests

1. Non-members may be invited to participate as guests in MDDGA tournaments.
2. Guests will not be eligible to vote in meetings.
3. Guests will not qualify for prizes in events.
4. Guests 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 \$35.00. This fee must be paid before a member participates in any event for that year.
 - b. The Club Champion, Net Club Champion, King of Points, and Lifetime members are exempt from the annual membership fee but will pay the SEDGA affiliation and administrative fee of \$15 annually.
 - c. Membership fee is based on the calendar year and is not prorated.

- d. Guests who have played in a minimum of 4 events and are eligible for membership will submit a \$15 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 5 events during the prior season; based on a core season of April – September with an average of 3 events per month. Events which may be played weather-permitting in March will be counted toward the minimum requirement. Exceptions may be made for those members with extenuating circumstances such as extended illness. Exceptions must be approved by the Commissioner.
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.
4. Membership status will be reviewed at the end of the season based on statistics maintained by the Secretary/Treasurer. Members placed on in-active status will be notified in writing by the Secretary.
5. Only active members will be eligible to play in the two day tournament.
6. Active members will be given priority for tee-time limited events. Active members will have the first opportunity for play with in-active members placed on a waiting list.
7. A. Member who remains on in-active status after two years will be removed from membership after the close of the season.
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 will be subject to disciplinary action and may be removed from membership.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1 Offices

1. The officers of the Maryland Deaf Golf Association (MDDGA) shall consist of:
 - a. Commissioner
 - b. Vice-Commissioner
 - c. Secretary/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 Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2 Election

Officers shall be elected during the meeting held the weekend of the two-day tournament.

Section 3
Term of Office

Officers shall serve for a term of two years. The term of office shall be effective on the first day of January following the election date.

ARTICLE V
Duties of Officers

Section 1
Commissioner

The Commissioner 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-Commissioner

The Vice-Commissioner shall:

1. Act in the absence of the Commissioner and perform all duties as delegated by the Commissioner; and
2. In the event that the office of Commissioner 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 Commissioner and membership;
4. Calculate the Handicap for all active members.

Section 3
Secretary/Treasurer

1. As Secretary he/she shall:
 - a. Give notice of, keep and distribute minutes of all meetings;
 - b. Maintain copies of all records;
 - c. Handle all correspondence unless otherwise directed by the Commissioner.
2. As Treasurer he/she shall:
 - a. Be the custodian of all funds and securities of the association;
 - b. 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;
 - c. Distribute all funds as directed by the association and approved by the Commissioner or vice-Commissioner; and
 - d. Submit a written financial report at the final meeting of the year. Additional financial reports shall be submitted as requested by the Commissioner.
 - e. Maintain a roster of members and their status.

ARTICLE VI
Standing Committee

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

Section 1
Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall:

1. Be comprised of officers, committee chairpersons, and two at-large members appointed by the Commissioner;
2. Assist and advise the Commissioner;
3. Meet at such times as the Commissioner may feel necessary to review matters of concern and offer recommendations; and
4. Take emergency actions as deemed necessary, but all such actions must be ratified by the membership at its next regular meeting.

Section 2
Membership Committee

The membership committee shall:

1. Review membership applications and recommend action to the Commissioner and Executive Committee; and,
2. Ensure member compliance with principles of standard conduct and integrity of the sport and make recommendations to the Executive Committee and Commissioner on disciplinary action for those members not in compliance.

Section 3
Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee shall:

1. Assist the Commissioner in planning and coordinating events;
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.

Section 4

Law Committee

The Law Committee shall:

1. Ensure that all activities of the association are in compliance with the By-Laws; and
2. Review proposed changes to the By-Laws and present recommendations to the full membership for approval.

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 beginning and end of the golf season.
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 Commissioner or by written request of at least five members to the Secretary/Treasurer.
2. The Secretary/Treasurer shall give all members at least ten days notice of the date and purpose of said meeting.

Section 3 Emergency Meetings

1. In the event of an emergency or the need to make a timely decision on a specific matter, the ten days notice requirement may be waived.
2. Such meetings must be called by the Commissioner with notification of meeting provided to members in a timely manner by the Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Non-emergency business shall not be conducted at emergency meetings.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments

1. Proposed changes shall be submitted in writing to the Law Committee for review and recommendation.
2. Recommendations of the Law Committee shall be presented to the Executive Committee for review. Final recommendations shall be presented to the full membership at least one week prior to the meeting.
3. Amendments must be approved by two-thirds vote of the members present.

4. Proxy votes are permitted. Proxy votes must be in writing and signed by the member granting the proxy. The proxy will state the specific question or issue to which the proxy will apply. Proxies will be presented to the Secretary/Treasurer at the beginning of the meeting to which the proxy applies.

ARTICLE IX Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's 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.