

SOUTHWEST DEAF GOLF ASSOCIATION

By-Laws

ARTICLE I

Member Suspension/Expulsion

Section 1. Any member may be suspended or expelled from this association if the member's action(s) are proved to be disrespectful to this association and its members.

Section 2. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership assembly is required for suspension or expulsion.

Section 3. Any suspended or expelled member shall have the right to appeal his/her suspension/expulsion before the membership assembly.

ARTICLE II

Dues and Fees

Section 1. Membership dues shall be payable annually before or on the determined deadline date when the entry fees must be paid. No refund is expected when any golfer withdraws from the tournament except for emergency reasons, subject to an approval by the SWDGA officers, or is disqualified from the tournament.

Section 2. Non-members may attend meetings and tournaments by paying two dollars. Non-members cannot vote at meetings. Non-members who are children of deaf adults (CODA) and "ASL" spouses may play golf as guests in the SWDGA tournament but are not eligible for prize money.

Section 3. An officer, member of SWDGA, or the host of the annual SWDGA tournament, except the Treasurer as approved by the President, cannot withdraw monies from SWDGA funds (savings and/or checking) without prior approval by members. The amount and purpose of withdrawal must first be approved.

Section 4. Tournament fees shall include the membership/registration fee, the green/cart fee, and prize fee. Tournament fees for non-member golfers shall include the non-member fee, registration fee, and green/cart fee.

ARTICLE III

Complaints/Protests

Section 1. Any complaint or protest by a complainant regarding the conduct of any SWDGA member must have at least two witnesses. A written report of the complaint must be signed by the complainant and witnesses and given to the SWDGA Secretary. The Secretary shall immediately inform members of the SWDGA Executive Committee of the complaint. The SWDGA Executive Committee, using discretion, shall investigate the complaint during the tournament and take appropriate action if necessary.

Section 2. Appropriate Action can be, but not limited to:

1. Suspension
2. Expulsion
3. Forfeit of tournament play

Section 3. Any member may be suspended or expelled from the rights and privileges of his or her membership if such action(s) are proven to be detrimental to this association and its members.

1. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SWDGA Executive Committee is a sufficient cause for suspension or expulsion.
2. Such members shall have the right to appeal such a decision to the membership assembly.

ARTICLE IV

Standing Tournament Rules and Regulations

Section 1. Administration of play during the annual tournament shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee and a member of the host committee. Any decision made by this body shall be final.

Section 2. In general, the latest USGA rules apply to all SWDGA tournaments. Exceptions are as follows:

1. Local Rules: Look at the scorecard for local rules.
2. Lost Ball and Out of Bounds: Whenever possible, follow the current USGA rule except:
Treat any lost ball or out-of-bounds area as a red penalty area.
3. Signing Incorrect Scorecards: If you sign a card with a score that is higher than you played, the score shall stand. If you signed a card that is lower than you played, instead of disqualification, as is stipulated in the USGA Rules, a two-stroke penalty shall be added to the actual score.
4. Course Playability: Winter rules shall be in effect during the SWDGA tournaments.

Section 3. If a golfer uses profanity or shows disrespect for a marshal, a local committee member, or an officer of the SWDGA who attempts to give advice to a golfer on the course, the penalty is two (2) strokes.

Section 4. Maximum stroke score per hole: Par plus 4 strokes.

Section 5. If the golfer fails to finish the hole, the count of putts will be 4.

Section 6. Golfers are not permitted to pay for tournament fees after the pairings have been made and the names of the players have been given to the Pro Shop.

ARTICLE V

Hall of Fame

Section 1. The purpose of the SWDGA Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor those golfers and golf leaders who have established outstanding records as participants in SWDGA tournaments and/or who have contributed exceptional services to the SWDGA.

Section 2. The association shall reimburse the Hall-of-Fame committee members for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Section 3. The Hall-of-Fame Director shall report to the members of the SWDGA at the annual meeting regarding activities of the Hall-of-Fame committee.

Section 4. A candidate for the Hall of Fame must have entered at least ten (10) tournaments, held an office in the SWDGA, or served on a local tournament committee and accumulated seventy-five (75) points in order to be eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame. The Hall-of-Fame committee may waive this requirement for exceptional individuals whose name may be placed on the ballot by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Hall-of-Fame committee via email.

Section 5. Points are awarded as follows:

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| 1. Tournament Participant | 2 |
| 2. Tournament Champion | 10 |
| 3. Tournament Runner-up | 5 |
| 4. Played in Championship Flight | 3 |
| 5. Flight Champion | 5 |
| 6. Flight Runner-up | 2 |
| 7. Tournament Chairman | 10 |
| 8. SWDGA President | 5 |
| 9. SWDGA Vice-President | 5 |
| 10. SWDGA Secretary | 5 |
| 11. SWDGA Treasurer | 5 |
| 12. SWDGA Information Director | 5 |
| 13. SWDGA Hall-of-Fame Director | 5 |

ARTICLE VI

Oath

Section 1. All elected officers, before entering upon their duties, shall subscribe to the following oath: "I, _____, hereby pledge myself to perform faithfully the duties of my office to the best of my ability, and to uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the SWDGA.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

Section 1. Any proposed amendments shall be in the form of writing and shall be in the hands of the Law Committee or the Secretary twenty hours before or during the Special Session meeting.

Section 2. The By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Section 3. The Vice-President shall annually supply the duly elected officers and members with the latest revised (up-to-date) copies of the SWDGA By-Laws and Guidelines.

Section 4. Copies of the SWDGA Constitution, By-Laws, and Guidelines are sent to the Special Session meeting prior to the next General Membership meeting.

Revised (2023 SWDGA meeting)