

# **SOUTHWEST DEAF GOLF ASSOCIATION**

## **Constitution**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Name of Organization**

Section 1. The Association shall be known as the Southwest Deaf Golf Association (SWDGA), hereinafter referred to as SWDGA. SWDGA is a non-profit organization.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Purposes**

Section 1. The purpose of the organization is to receive, administer, and distribute funds for educational and charitable purposes, all for the public welfare and for no other purpose. The Association intends to raise funds by holding an annual invitational golf tournament for the deaf and hard-of-hearing golfers in the Southwest states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Section 2. The Association intends to sponsor clinics for aspiring young deaf and hard-of-hearing golfers who want to improve skills for the game. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code.

Section 3. No states other than the ones stated in Article II, Section 1 are allowed to make bids to host the annual invitational tournaments.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Membership**

Section 1. Membership in this association shall be open to deaf and hard-of-hearing golfers. The definition of "Deaf" states that either total loss of hearing or hearing so severely impaired as to constitute a handicap in the normal world. The level of hearing loss shall be at least 55 dB.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **Officers and Terms of Offices**

Section 1. The officers of this association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Information Director, and Hall-of-Fame Director and shall be elected for a term of two years.

Section 2. Any member of the SWDGA in good standing is eligible to run for an office provided that he/she is present at the meeting and he/she has played in two of the last three SWDGA Golf Tournaments.

Section 3. The election for the President, the Secretary, and the Information Director shall be held in even-numbered years starting in 2022 while the Vice-President, the Treasurer, and the Hall of Fame Director shall be elected in odd-numbered years. All candidates for the above offices must be present to be nominated from the floor at the membership meeting. Also, candidates must be both a member and resident of any of the six states stated in Article II, Section 1.

## ARTICLE V

### Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of this association and enforce order and strict observance to the constitution, by-laws, and guidelines. He/she shall see that any appeals are made to the membership assembly as promptly as possible. He/she may appoint a parliamentary advisor to assist him/her during the meetings and a Sergeant-At-Arm to assist him/her in maintaining order at the meetings.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence at meetings. He/she shall be assigned to chair the Law Committee and shall appoint members in good standing to his/her committee. He/she shall be the SWDGA tournament director to oversee all ongoing tournament activities, players, and disputes. As tournament director, he/she shall ensure that the SWDGA tournament is in accordance with the laws of the Southwest Deaf Golf Association.

Section 3. The Secretary shall make reports of every business meeting and maintain the records of the minutes of all meetings. He/she shall keep all issues of the SWDGA newsletters for record-keeping purposes. He/she shall mail out the results of the previous tournament within thirty days after receiving the final results from the host.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall pay all invoices and bills only upon approved vouchers or warrants by the President. He/she shall keep an itemized account of all receipts and expenditures and submit the financial reports to the membership assembly. He/she shall collect all non-member fees and membership dues via entry fees collected at registration for tournaments and also any other monies payable to SWDGA. He/she shall prepare his/her financial books to be audited before the annual membership meeting. He/she shall keep the association's funds in a savings account with all deposits credited to SWDGA in his/her residential city.

Section 5. The Information Director shall be responsible for the SWDGA website and posting of tournament results and announcements.

Section 6. The Hall-of-Fame Director shall lead the Hall-of-Fame Committee in considering and selecting candidates for the Hall of Fame. He/she shall track points awarded to all members of the association as outlined in the Association By-Laws, Article V, Section 6.

## ARTICLE VI

### Meetings

Section 1. A Special Session meeting shall be held the evening before the tournament to discuss the local rules, conditions of the course, and some descriptions of United States Golf Association (USGA) rules. In urgent matters, the Executive Committee may vote by mail and/or electronic devices such as email, videophone, pager, etc.

Section 2. A General Membership meeting shall be held the evening of the first round for business and elections.

Section 3. Briefing sessions shall be held the evening of the first round to concentrate on the pairings for the second round.

Section 4. Order of Business

The order of business at all golf meetings shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation (optional)
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Reading of the minutes and Approval of the minutes
6. Report of the Officers and Committees

7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Selection of SWDGA Tournament Site
10. Election of Officers
11. Announcements
12. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Quorum**

Section 1. One-third (1/3) of the current membership of this association shall constitute a quorum for the general membership meeting and an election. The quorum for the general membership meeting and an election shall be the number of members present at the time the meeting is called to order.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Committees**

Section 1. The Executive Committee of this association shall consist of the duly elected officers and the current General Chairman of the local tournament committee. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have only one vote.

Section 2. Any former officer of this association who has served at least four years shall be entitled to attend the meeting of the Executive Committee as an observer.

Section 3. The Law Committee of this association shall consist of the Vice-President as chairman and three members chosen by the President.

Section 4. The Auditing Committee of three members selected by the President shall audit and examine the Treasurer's report before the general membership meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Dissolution**

Section 1. In case of dissolution of the association, all monies contained in the treasury at the time and the United States Deaf Golf Association (USDGA) as a custodian shall hold all properties until such a time the said association may be reorganized.

Section 2. SWDGA is a non-profit organization; therefore, it does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members. On the winding up and dissolution of the association, after payment of or adequate provision for the debts and obligations of the association, the Executive Committee shall dispose of all assets to a selected organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious and/or scientific purposes and which has qualified as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Revised (2023 SWDGA meeting)