



# SENIOR GOLFERS' SOCIETY OF THE BORDER

## CONSTITUTION

### REVISED FEBRUARY 2016

#### 1. **NAME**

The name of the Society shall be "SENIOR GOLFERS' SOCIETY OF THE BORDER" herein after referred to as the Society.

#### 2. **OBJECTS**

The objects of the Society are to provide golfing, social and recreational amenities and facilities for members and in particular;

- 2.1. to promote fellowship amongst its members through golf and social events;
- 2.2. to promote, encourage and foster the game of golf in general, particularly amongst members;
- 2.3. to promote and encourage the holding of golf championships, competitions and tournaments for the benefit of members and to formulate the conditions governing the same.

#### 3. **AFFILIATIONS**

The Society shall affiliate to the Senior Golfers' Union of South Africa [SGUSA] and as a condition of the continued membership of the Union the following provisions are mandatory:

- 3.1. The Society agrees to abide by and adhere to the rules and decisions which may be issued by the Union from time to time.
- 3.2. The Society accepts and is bound by the Rules of Golf and such amendments or additions thereto as may be adopted by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, and the decision which it may from time to time issue on the interpretation of the Rules of Golf.

3.3. The Society will admit to membership only active members as defined in clause 11(1) hereof and will retain members subject to their holding the qualification prescribed for the class to which they are allocated.

3.4. The Society will adhere to the quota of members as laid down by SGUSA from time to time.

#### **4. HEADQUARTERS**

The Headquarters of the Society shall be "The East London Golf Club", East London.

#### **5. ASSETS, FUNDS, PROFITS AND GAINS**

Assets, funds, profits and gains of the Society shall be utilized solely for investment or for the objects of the Society as set out in this constitution and shall under no circumstances be distributed to any person or persons provided this shall not preclude payment to members or officials of the Society to reimburse expenses incurred by a member of the Society or for allowances or other remuneration for services rendered on behalf of the Society.

#### **6. LIABILITY OF THE SOCIETY**

The Society shall be a body corporate, not for gain, having an existence independent of its members and all its assets shall be registered or held in the name of the Society.

#### **7. MANAGEMENT**

- a) President
- b) Captain
- c) Vice-Captain
- d) Secretary
- e) Treasurer
- f) At least 3 [Three] additional Members

All officers of the Committee shall be elected annually in the manner hereafter provided. All officers shall be active members of the society.

[See Addendum Duties of Office bearers]

#### **8. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

8.1. Nominations for the committee shall be made by means of a nomination list, posted on the Notice Board 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. All nominations shall be in writing, be properly proposed and seconded and the nominee shall, in writing, signify his willingness to assume office.

8.2. All members may be re-elected, but the President, Captain and Vice-Captain may not be re-elected to any of those offices previously held by them.

8.3. In the event of more than the requisite number of members being nominated, the election shall be by ballot of the members present and eligible to vote.

## **9. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

9.1. The Committee shall remain in office until a new Committee has been elected, and shall have the power to fill such vacancies as may occur during its term of office.

9.2. To make decisions, grant subsidies, or to invest the funds of the Society and otherwise dispose of funds as they may think fit.

9.3. The committee shall arrange that proper books and accounts are kept, and shall have the power to appoint Auditors.

9.4. The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-Committees for any purpose, and to delegate to such sub-Committees powers as may be deemed desirable.

9.5. The Committee shall have power and authority to do any act, matter or thing which could or might be done by the Society, excepting such matters as are specially reserved in this Constitution to be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

## **10. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

10.1. The Committee shall meet at least once per quarter. The President or in his absence the Captain may request more frequent or additional meetings if deemed necessary.

10.2. The President, or in his absence the Captain, shall be Chairman at all meetings of the Committee, and the Chairman of any meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his deliberate vote.

10.3. At all meetings of the Committee, 4 (Four) shall be a quorum.

## **11. MEMBERSHIP**

The categories of membership are:-

### 11.1. ACTIVE:

The criteria for an active member are that he shall:

- i. Be a man of standing in the community;
- ii. Be an amateur playing member in good standing of a golf club affiliated to the Border Golf Union [BGU]. Membership of a Virtual Golf Club is specifically excluded. [Definition of a virtual golf club see addendum]
- iii. Has attained the age of 55 years, but is not yet 70 years of age unless exceptional circumstances apply; [See Addendum]
- iv. Conduct himself on and off the course in an exemplary manner;

- v. Have competed in an amateur capacity at golf or any other recognized sport or contributed significantly in the administration of golf or any other recognized sport [See Addendum]. Alternatively, he should have rendered outstanding community service.
- vi. Comply with the requirement that he participate in at least 50% of official fixtures including those that involve travel. Applicants who reside outside the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality boundary are expected to participate in at least 40% of official fixtures.
- vii. New members may not transfer to another class of membership within 24 months of being admitted to the Society. Should a new member not be able to fulfill his membership requirements his membership will be terminated. A further application in this party's name may be accepted after a 12 month period has lapsed.[See addendum]

#### 11.2. VETERAN SENIOR:

This shall mean an active member with 20 or more years of membership of one or more affiliated societies. The Committee at its discretion may exempt such a member from payment of an annual subscription.

#### 11.3. TRANSFEREE:

This is an active member from another Senior Golfers Society affiliated to the SGUSA who has:

- i. Relocated to the Border area;
- ii. Is a paid-up member of a golf club affiliated to the BGU [Specifically Excluding Virtual Golf Clubs]
- iii. Whose membership has been recommended by the Society to which he is presently affiliated.
- iv. Whose application has been accepted by the committee.
- v. Should the SGUSA allocation be fully subscribed upon acceptance by the committee then the transferee member will be accorded transferee membership class with full active member rights until a vacancy occurs in this class. Transferee membership class will not form part of the SGUSA allocation.
- vi. A transferee member placed on the waiting list will be given priority over those already on the waiting list. Admittance to active membership however remains at the discretion of the committee

#### 11.4. HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:

Being a member elected on the recommendation of the committee at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. Members elected to this category are expected to retain playing membership of a club affiliated to the BGU [Specifically excluding Virtual Golf Clubs] should they wish to participate in Society competitions.

#### 11.5. NON-ACTIVE MEMBER:

Shall be an active member who through some circumstances is unable to continue as such but who desires to retain membership of the society and to play occasionally in the society's competitions. Such a member can participate in and be able to win prizes but not the various awards in the Society's championships or Trophy events.

Transfer to this category of membership shall be at the discretion of the committee or, upon application by the member at the discretion of the Committee. A non-active member shall be a playing member in good standing of a golf club which is affiliated to the BGU [specifically excluding Virtual Golf Clubs]. A non-active member may upon application and at the discretion of the committee be re-admitted to the category of Active member once a vacancy arises. Should the SGUSA allocation be full, the member shall be placed on the waiting list and re-admitted to active membership at the discretion of the committee.

11.6. NON-PLAYING:

Shall mean an active or non-active member who has at the discretion of the Committee or upon application, been transferred to this category. This status allows the member to attend social events e.g. the annual dinner. A non-playing member may, at the discretion of the committee be re-admitted to the category of active or non-active membership provided the applicant fulfills the applicable criteria for active membership. Should the SGUSA allocation be full, the member shall be placed on the waiting list and re-admitted to active membership at the discretion of the committee

11.7. WAITING LIST:

Should the active membership allocation as provided for by SGUSA be full, new nominees may be accepted by the committee. These prospective members will be placed on a waiting list until a vacancy in the allocated number of active members occurs. In the event that there is more than one nominee on the waiting list, the procedure for admission will be determined by the committee. Non-Active or Non- Playing members who re-apply for active membership will be moved to this category should the membership allocation be full. No preferences will apply to these applicants.

[See addendum]

**12. PROCEDURE FOR THE PROPOSAL OF NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS**

The method of proposing new members shall be as follows:-

- 12.1 The name of a prospective member proposed and seconded by two active members of the Society shall be submitted on a proposal form to the Committee through the Secretary. The proposal shall be kept confidential by the proposer, seconder and the committee until it has been considered by the committee. The proposal shall give full particulars of the person proposed for membership.

- 12.1 Both the proposer and the seconder must have the required minimum attendance figures at official society golf days for the proposal to be considered by the committee.
- 12.2 No active member may propose or second more than one candidate in each calendar year .
- 12.3 No active member may propose or second a candidate for membership unless he himself is a member of two years standing.
- 12.4 No member of the Committee may propose or second a prospective member.
- 12.5 Election to membership shall be at the discretion of the Committee who shall not be obliged to give any reasons for any decision on any proposal for membership.
- 12.6 Should the Committee be satisfied that the prospective member will be a desirable member, then an application form shall be issued to the proposer.[See Addendum] Upon completion of the Application Form, together with payment of the entrance fee and annual subscription in terms of these Rules, the Applicant shall be admitted to membership. Applications shall be considered by the Committee in the order in which they are received. In the event the membership allocation is full the applicant will be placed on the waiting list. Admittance thereafter will be based on a procedure as determined by the committee.
- 12.7 In the event of a proposal for membership being declined by the Committee, at least one year must elapse before a further proposal in respect of the prospective member can be entertained.

### **13 MEMBERS LIABILITY**

The liability of members is limited to the amount of their subscription and any other monies owed by them to the Society.

### **14 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- 14.1 Any member who ceases to be a member of a recognized golf club affiliated to the BGU, either through resignation or otherwise, automatically ceases to be a member of the Society. The committee may however at its discretion transfer the member to non-playing membership if so requested.
- 14.2 The Committee may review the position of any member who fails to maintain an active interest in the Society without reasonable excuse.
- 14.3 The membership of any member who fails to play in the minimum number of official meetings of the Society in any one year, may at the discretion of the Committee be forthwith terminated or if deemed appropriate moved to another category of membership

14.4 The Committee shall have the power to cancel membership of any member whose conduct after due enquiry is considered to be prejudicial to the interests of the Society. The Committee meeting called to consider such cancellation must reflect a majority vote of two-thirds of those present for a decision to expel to be binding. A member so expelled shall have no claim on the funds of the Society.

14.5 Upon termination of membership the tie of the member who has left should be retrieved as far as possible

## **15 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

15.1 An Entrance Fee and the Annual Subscription shall be as determined by the Committee, who shall likewise determine the date or dates on which these become payable.

15.2 Fee Structure:

15.2.1 Active Membership Annual Subscription plus affiliation fee

15.2.2 Transferee Membership Annual Subscription plus affiliation fee

15.2.3 Non-Active Membership Annual Subscription plus affiliation fee

15.2.4 Non-Playing Membership Annual Subscription

## **16 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

16.1 An Annual General Meeting of members, of which not less than 14(Fourteen) days written notice shall have been given, shall be held at such time and place as the Committee determines.

16.2 A quorum for an Annual General meeting shall be 15(Fifteen) active members provided that if no quorum be present within 15 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the meeting shall be postponed to the following week, at the same day and hour, and at the same place, and at such adjourned meeting the members present shall be deemed to be a quorum for the transaction of the business of the meeting.

## **17 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

17.1 A special general meeting of members, of which not less than 14(Fourteen) days written notice shall have been given, shall be held at such time and place as the Committee determines. The notice shall detail the object of the meeting.

17.2 Any member may request the committee to call SGM in writing. This request must reflect the object of the request and have the signature of 15 active members supporting the request.

17.3 A quorum for a Special General Meeting shall be 15(Fifteen) active members provided that if no quorum be present within 15 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the meeting shall be postponed to the following week, at the same

day and hour, and at the same place, and at such adjourned meeting the members present shall be deemed to be a quorum for the transaction of the business of the meeting

**18 VOTING AT GENERAL OR SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

All matters requiring a decision, and all questions submitted to an Annual or Special General Meeting, shall be decided, by a show of hands of active members unless a ballot is demanded, provided that in the election of the Committee the voting should be by ballot.

**19 HANDICAPS**

Handicaps shall, irrespective of the member's club handicap, be as the Committee may from time to time determine.

**20 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution shall not be repealed or amended except by a resolution passed at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Society, called for that purpose, which resolution shall be passed by not less than two thirds of the members present at such meeting.

**Addendum**

**1) Clause 7 - Duties of Office bearers**

- a) President
  - i) Chairman of all Society committee meetings, AGM's and SGM's
  - ii) Represent the Society at all Society functions golf or social including those at Provincial and National level.
  - iii) At all times represent the best interests of the members of the Society
- b) Captain
  - i) Organize and officiate at all official Society golf days
  - ii) Organize and officiate at all Society Social functions
  - iii) Interact between the Society and its sponsors
  - iv) Deputize for the President in his absence at a committee meeting, social function, AGM or SGM.
  - v) Deputize for the Vice- Captain in his absence at non-official society golf days
- c) Vice-Captain
  - i) Organize and officiate at all non-official society golf days
  - ii) Assist the Captain with the organization of all official golf days and social functions
  - iii) Organize and officiate at all official Society golf days in the absence of the Captain
  - iv) Organize and officiate at all Society social functions in the absence of the Captain

**2) Clause 11.1 (ii) - Definition of a Virtual Golf Club:**



A virtual golf club is defined as a golf club/society which does not have its own playing facilities. It is therefore reliant on a host to enable its members to play golf on a golf course.

**3) Clause 11.1 (iii) – Membership “Exceptional Circumstances”**

Exceptional circumstances is defined as follows:

A situation where a person meets all the necessary qualifications i.e. a decorated sportsman, a person who has held high office in sports administration and/or someone who has made a meaningful contribution to the betterment of the local society but has not been able to accept an invitation to join a Senior Golfers Society due to time restraints as a result of his involvement in that particular sport or community service or having resided in an area where no Senior Golfers Society has been represented.

**4) Clause 11.1 (v) - Competed in sport defined as follows:**

The minimum requirement is competed at provincial level [Junior level excluded]

**5) Clause 11.1 (vii)**

Should a new member fail to fulfill his playing requirements within the first two years of membership, the committee will call upon the proposer and seconder to address this failure with the member and provide the committee with a satisfactory undertaking from the new member that he will fulfill his playing commitments failing which his membership will be terminated.

**6) Clause 11.7 – Waiting List**

Prospective members placed on the waiting list cannot participate in the society's championships or trophy events until formally admitted. They may however participate in official events which are not designated as afore-mentioned and in unofficial days. They may also attend social events.

**7) Clause 12.5 – Procedure for the Proposal of New Active Members**

The prescribed form shall include the full names and address of the Applicant. It shall embody a statement that the Applicant is conversant with and will abide by the rules and etiquette of the game and the society.