

# Statutes of the International Go Federation

## Article 1 (name)

This organization is called the International Go Federation (hereinafter referred to as the I.G.F.).

## Article 2 (aims)

- (i) The aims of the I.G.F. are to advance the techniques and spirit of go throughout the world, to promote amicable relations among the members of the I.G.F., and to improve the organization of world go.
- (ii) The I.G.F. has no political or religious objectives.

## Article 3 (members)

- (i) The members of the I.G.F. are the organizations connected with go in each country or territory (hereinafter omitted).
- (ii) Only one body or organization per country can become a member of the I.G.F.

## Article 4 (official headquarters and official languages)

- (i) The official headquarters of the I.G.F. are located in Tokyo, Japan.
- (ii) The official languages of the I.G.F. are English and the national language of the country in which the headquarters are located.

## Article 5 (organization)

The organization of the I.G.F. is as follows:

- (a) General meeting of members
- (b) Board of Directors
- (c) I.G.F. Office

## Article 6 (activities)

The I.G.F. carries out the following activities:

- (a) The organization of the World Amateur Go Championship and other international go tournaments.
- (b) The publication and distribution to members of up-to-date information on world go activities through a periodical bulletin and/or the IGF home page on the Internet.
- (c) Other activities contributing to the international development of go.

## Article 7 (General Meeting)

- (i) The General Meeting is the supreme decision-making organ of the I.G.F.
- (ii) In principle, the General Meeting is held once a year. If necessary, it may be conducted by correspondence.
- (iii) Items of business may include the following:
  - (a) Report on operations
  - (b) Report on accounts

- (c) Election of President and directors
  - (d) Planning of future operations, including the drawing up of the budget
  - (e) Determination of the membership fee
  - (f) Election of auditors
  - (g) Selection of the site of the next World Amateur Go Championship
  - (h) Determination of the date of the next General Meeting
  - (i) Admittance and expulsion of members
  - (j) Other business
- (iv) the President of the I.G.F. or a Vice-President or the Office Director acts as Chairman of the General Meeting.
  - (v) The attendance of a majority of the members constitutes a quorum at the General Meeting.
  - (vi) In voting on measures at the General Meeting, each member has one vote, and decisions are made by a majority vote of members in attendance. In general, voting is carried out by roll-call, but in the case of elections or important decisions voting is held by secret ballot.
  - (vii) Members may vote by proxy. However, no member may cast more than one proxy vote.
  - (viii) In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman has a casting vote.
  - (ix) The President sends to each member by e-mail or other suitable means of communication two months before the date of the General Meeting an invitation to attend the meeting. Details of items of business are included with the invitation.
  - (x) In principle, a member wishing to propose an item for discussion at the General Meeting should apply to the Board of Directors three months before the date of the General Meeting.
  - (xi) If a member proposes an item for discussion during the course of the General Meeting, approval by a two-thirds majority of the members in attendance is required to have it inserted into the agenda.
  - (xii) In the case of a General Meeting held by correspondence, correspondence from a majority of the members constitutes a quorum. Decisions on items of business are made by a majority vote of the members in correspondence. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman has a casting vote.

#### Article 8 (Special General Meeting)

- (i) A Special General Meeting is held when the President determines that there is an urgent need to hold a General Meeting.
- (ii) The President convenes a Special General Meeting when requested to do so in writing by a quarter or more of the members.
- (iii) Special General Meetings may also be conducted by correspondence.
- (iv) Items iv to viii and Item xii of Article 7 also apply to Special General Meetings.

#### Article 9 (Board of Directors)

- (i) The Board of Directors of the I.G.F. consists of eleven directors, ten of whom are elected by the General Meeting, with the eleventh being the Assistant Office Director, who is appointed by the Office Director.
- (ii) The ten elected directors come from the different zones as listed below. There are no elected directors of the same nationality.

Asia zone: 4  
Europe zone: 2  
North, Central and South America zone: 2  
Oceania zone: 1  
Other Area: 1

- (iii) The term of office for directors is two years. However, re-election is permitted.
- (iv) The Board of Directors decides on all matters concerning the operations of the I.G.F.
- (v) The Board of Directors is responsible to the General Meeting. The Board can delegate its powers to the I.G.F. Office, but it bears the responsibility.
- (vi) In principle, the Board of Directors meets once a year, being convoked by the President. If necessary, it may be conducted by correspondence. It may also vote on items of business by proxy. However, no director can cast more than one proxy vote.
- (vii) Either the President of the I.G.F. or the Office Director acts as Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- (viii) The attendance of a majority of the Directors constitutes a quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors.
- (ix) Decisions by the Board of Directors require approval by a majority of the directors present at the meeting of the Board of Directors.

#### Article 10 (the President)

- (i) The President is elected by a vote of the members at the General Meeting.
- (ii) The term of office of the President is two years.
- (iii) In consultation with the Board of Directors, the President may appoint a number of Advisers.
- (iv) The President directs the I.G.F. in accordance with its spirit and represents it in dealings with outsiders.
- (v) If the President becomes unable to carry out his duties, the Board of Directors may select one of the Vice-Presidents to serve in his place until the next General Meeting.

#### Article 11 (Advisers)

Advisers offer advice to the I.G.F. and cooperate in its activities.

#### Article 12 (Vice-Presidents)

- (i) The directors elect three of their number as Vice-Presidents.
- (ii) The Vice-Presidents assists the President in the running of the I.G.F.

#### Article 13 (Office Director)

- (i) The directors elect one of their number as Office Director.
- (ii) The Office Director is responsible for the running of the Board of Directors.
- (iii) The Office Director appoints the Assistant Office Director and the Office Manager.

Article 14 (Assistant Office Director)

- (i) The Assistant Office Director assists the Office Director in the management of the I.G.F.
- (ii) The Assistant Office Director prepares the report on the financial affairs of the I.G.F. for the General Meeting.

Article 15 (I.G.F. Office)

- (i) The I.G.F. Office is staffed by the Office Manager and a number of employees.
- (ii) The I.G.F. Office performs all administrative duties connected with the running of the I.G.F.

Article 16 (the fiscal year of the I.G.F.)

The fiscal year of the I.G.F. begins on 1 January each year and ends on 31 December of the same year.

Article 17 (income and expenditure)

- (i) The income of the I.G.F. is composed of the annual fees paid by the members, contributions, and other income.
- (ii) It is the duty of each member to pay the membership fee agreed on at the General Meeting to the I.G.F. Office by 31 January each year.
- (iii) The expenditure of the I.G.F. is the expense necessary for the running of the I.G.F.; the total expenditure is limited to the amount of the total income for that year. However, the President, directors, and Advisers perform their duties without remuneration, and the I.G.F. does not bear any travel or accommodation expenses incurred in the performance of these duties.
- (iv) All television, radio, film and photographic rights concerning the World Amateur Go Championship organized by the I.G.F. are vested solely in the I.G.F., which may cede these rights to sponsors or other bodies.

Article 18 (auditors)

- (i) At each General Meeting two member countries are selected to serve as auditors of the accounts.
- (ii) The auditors deliver their report on the auditing of the accounts to the General Meeting.

Article 19 (tournament representation)

A player may not represent a second country in the World Amateur Go Championship for at least five years after competing for a different country.

Article 20 (affiliation, withdrawal, expulsion)

- (i) A body or organization wishing to join the I.G.F. should apply in writing to the Board of Directors. Affiliation requires approval at the General Meeting.
- (ii) A member may withdraw from the I.G.F. six months after giving written notification to the Board of Directors of the intention to withdraw.
- (iii) For expulsion of members of the I.G.F., a three-quarters majority of all members is required in the vote for expulsion at the General Meeting.

Article 21 (honorary titles)

At the General Meeting persons who have made contributions to the activities of the I.G.F. may be granted the title of Honorary President or Honorary Adviser.

Article 22 (revision of statutes)

- (i) At the General Meeting a majority of all members of the I.G.F. is required to make revisions in the statutes.
- (ii) The Board of Directors makes appropriate decisions concerning matters not covered by the present statutes and where necessary reports on these decisions at the next General Meeting.

Article 23 (dissolution)

At the General Meeting a three-quarters majority of all members of the I.G.F. is required to dissolve the I.G.F.

Article 24 (effectuating of the statutes)

These statutes are in effect as of 18 March 1982.

20 May 1991	Article 12 (i) amended.
19 May 1996	Article 9 (ii) amended.
1 June 1998	Article 19 added.
18 June 2000	Article 9 amended.
31 March 2003	Article 6 (b) amended
31 March 2003	Article 7 (ix) amended
17 November 2003	Article 22 (i) amended