



THE INTERNATIONAL GO FEDERATION

## STATUTES

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The International Go Federation

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## ARTICLE 1. NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

This organization is called the International Go Federation (hereinafter referred to as the IGF). The IGF is a member of SportAccord **International Federations' Union** (formerly the General Association of International Sports Federations - GAISF), the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA), and **the Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport (AIMS)**.

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## ARTICLE 2. AIMS

- (i) The aims of the IGF are **to advance the study and spirit of the game of Go around the world, to promote amicable relationships among members, and to support Go associations' organizational developments.**
- (ii) The IGF has no political or religious objectives.

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## ARTICLE 3. MEMBERS

To qualify for membership of the IGF, organizations must belong to one of the following two categories:

- (i) A body (hereinafter called a 'General Member') related to Go representing a country or territory ('territory' hereinafter omitted). There is one General Member per country.
- (ii) A body that carries out Go competition or related events and activities covering a number of countries or territories (hereinafter referred to as 'Association Member').

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## ARTICLE 4. **HEADQUARTERS AND LANGUAGE**

- (i) The official headquarters of the IGF are located in Tokyo, Japan.
- (ii) The official language of the IGF is English.

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## ARTICLE 5. ORGANIZATION

The organization of the IGF is as follows:

- a. General Meeting of members
- b. **Executive Board**



c. IGF Office

Also, it is possible when necessary to set up committees or subcommittees for special purposes at the discretion of the **Executive Board**.

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ARTICLE 6. ACTIVITIES

The IGF carries out the following activities:

- a. The planning, organization and direction of the World Amateur Go Championship, the Go events within the World Mind Sports Games, 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 on the IGF home page on the Internet.
- c. Other activities contributing to the international development of Go.

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ARTICLE 7. DOPING AND DRUG USE

The IGF, its members and players, are bound by the relevant rules and guidelines prescribed by the International Olympic Committee, SportAccord, and other relevant agencies or bodies set up for the monitoring of drug use and doping by players affiliated with IGF members. A Medical Commission comprised of medical experts and laypersons chosen on the basis of personal merit shall be appointed by the **Executive Board** to liaise with the relevant organs of the International Olympic Committee and SportAccord and to decide from time to time the list of prohibited substances and methods of doping that are applicable to Go players in IGF competitions.

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ARTICLE 8. GENERAL MEETING

- (i) The General Meeting is the supreme decision-making organ of the IGF.
- (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 schedule
  - f. Election of Auditors
  - g. Selection of the site of the 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 IGF, a Vice President, or the **Managing Director** acts as Chairman of the General Meeting.
- (v) The attendance of a majority of the General Members constitutes a quorum at the General Meeting.
- (vi) In voting on measures at the General Meeting, each General Member has one vote, and decisions are made by a majority vote of the General Members in attendance. In general, voting is carried out by roll-call, but in the case of elections or important decisions the Chairman may opt for voting by secret ballot.
- (vii) To avoid duplication of voting rights, Association Members shall have no votes in the General Meeting.
- (viii) General Members may vote by proxy. However, no Member may cast more than one proxy vote.
- (ix) In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman may vote to break the tie.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) In principle, a Member wishing to propose an item for discussion at the General Meeting should apply to the **Executive Board** three months prior to the date of the Meeting.
- (xii) If a Member proposes an item for discussion during the course of the General Meeting, approval by a two-thirds majority of the General Members in attendance is required to have it inserted into the agenda.
- (xiii) In the case of a General Meeting held by correspondence, correspondence from a majority of the General Members constitutes a quorum. Decisions on items of business are made by a majority vote of the General Members in correspondence.



In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman may vote to break the tie.

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ARTICLE 9. 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 General Members.
- (iii) Special General Meetings may also be conducted by correspondence.
- (iv) Items iv to ix and item xiii of Article 8 also apply to Special General Meetings.

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ARTICLE 10. EXECUTIVE BOARD

- (i) The Executive Board (EB) is the deciding body for all operational matters of IGF.
- (ii) Membership of EB includes IGF President; six regional Directors and up to three at-large Directors, elected by the General Meeting of IGF; one Director each from the Association Members; and a Secretary General.
- (iii) The six regional Directors are elected from:
  - a. the national Go associations of China, Japan, and Korea
  - b. the three regions representing the Americas, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific.
- (iv) Up to three at-large Directors are nominated and elected from the general international Go community for the benefit of IGF.
- (v) Up to one Director is appointed by each Association Member of IGF.
- (vi) Up to three Vice Presidents are elected by EB among all Directors. (Article 13-i)
- (vii) One Managing Director is elected by EB among all Directors. (Article 14-i)
- (viii) The term of appointment for Directors is two years. Re-election is permitted.
- (ix) The EB reports to the General Meeting of IGF.
- (x) In principle, the EB 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.
- (xi) The attendance of a majority of the EB members constitutes a quorum at meetings of the EB.

Decisions by the EB require approval by a majority of the EB members present at the meeting of the EB.



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ARTICLE 11. PRESIDENT

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

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ARTICLE 12. ADVISERS

Advisers offer advice to the IGF and cooperate in its activities. The President appoints the Advisers, who may attend all IGF meetings but have no vote.

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ARTICLE 13. VICE PRESIDENTS

- (i) The Directors elect up to **three** of their number as Vice-Presidents.
- (ii) The Vice-Presidents assist the President in the running of the IGF.

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ARTICLE 14. **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

- (i) The Directors elect one of their number as the **Managing** Director.
- (ii) The **Managing** Director is responsible for the operation of the **Executive Board**.
- (iii) The **Managing** Director appoints the Secretary General of the IGF.

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ARTICLE 15. SECRETARY GENERAL

- (i) The Secretary General assists the **Managing** Director in the management of the IGF.
- (ii) The Secretary General is appointed by and reports to the **Managing** Director.





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ARTICLE 16. IGF OFFICE

- (i) The IGF Office consists of the President's Office and the Secretary General's Office.
- (ii) The President's Office is located in the place of residence of the President.

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ARTICLE 17. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the IGF begins on 1 January every year and ends on 31 December of the same year.

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ARTICLE 18. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

- (i) The income of the IGF 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 IGF Office by 31 January each year.
- (iii) The expenditure of the IGF is the expenses necessary for the running of the IGF. However, in principle the President, Directors, and Advisers perform their duties without remuneration; and the IGF does not bear any travel or accommodation expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
- (iv) All television, radio, film, photographic, and Internet-broadcast rights concerning the international tournaments organized by the IGF are vested solely in the IGF, which may cede such rights to sponsors or other bodies.

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ARTICLE 19. AUDITORS

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



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ARTICLE 20. TOURNAMENT REPRESENTATION

A player may not represent a second country or territory in any IGF-sponsored international competitions for at least five years after representing a different country or territory.

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ARTICLE 21. AFFILIATION, WITHDRAWAL, EXPULSION, STATUS LIMITATION

- (i) A body or organization wishing to join the IGF as a General Member should apply in writing to the **Executive Board**. Affiliation requires approval at the General Meeting.
- (ii) A body or organization wishing to join the IGF as an Association Member should apply in writing to the **Executive Board**. Affiliation requires approval by the **Executive Board**.
- (iii) A member may withdraw from the IGF six months after giving written notification to the **Executive Board** of its intention to withdraw.
- (iv) For expulsion of General Members of the IGF, a three-quarters majority of all General Members in attendance at the General Meeting is required.
- (v) A simple majority of the **Executive Board** is required for the expulsion of an Association Member.
- (vi) If a member does not pay its membership fees for two years, its status may be limited (in part or in whole) according to a decision by the **Executive Board**.

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ARTICLE 22. HONORARY TITLES

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

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ARTICLE 23. REVISION OF STATUTES

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



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## ARTICLE 24. DISSOLUTION

At the General Meeting a three-quarters majority of all General Members of the IGF is required to dissolve the IGF.

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## ARTICLE 25. EFFECTUATING OF THE STATUTES

These statutes are in effect as of 18 March 1982.

<i>20 May 1991</i>	<i>Art. 12 (i) amended.</i>
<i>19 May 1996</i>	<i>Art. 9 (ii) amended.</i>
<i>01 June 1998</i>	<i>Art. 19 added.</i>
<i>18 June 2000</i>	<i>Art. 9 amended</i>
<i>31 March 2003</i>	<i>Art. 6 (b) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 7 (ix) amended</i>
<i>17 November 2003</i>	<i>Art. 22 (i) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 2 (i) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 3 amended</i>
	<i>Art. 5 amended</i>
	<i>Art. 6 (a) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 7 (iv); (vii); (viii); (ix); (x); (xi); (xii); (xiii) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 8 (iv) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 9 (x) added - (ii); (iii); (v); (ix) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 11 amended</i>
	<i>Art. 12 (i) amended</i>
<i>27 May 2008</i>	<i>Art. 13 (ii) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 17 (iii); (iv) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 20 amended</i>
	<i>Art. 1 amended</i>
	<i>Art. 4 (ii) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 6 (a) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 7 added</i>
	<i>Art. 8 (iii)-(g);(iv) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 10 (i);(ii);(iii) amended</i>
	<i>Art. 11 (i) amended</i>
<i>25 May 2010</i>	



25 May 2010

*Art. 13 (i) amended*

*Art. 14 (iii) amended*

*Art. 15 (i);(ii) amended*

*Art. 16 (i);(ii) amended*

*Art. 18 (iv) amended*

*Art. 20 amended*

*Art. 21 (v) amended*