

Statutes of the International Go Federation

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 (formerly the General Association of International Sports Federations - GAISF) and the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA).

Article 2 (aims)

- (i) The aims of the IGF are to advance the skills and spirit of the game of Go throughout the world, to promote amicable relations among the members of the IGF, and to improve the organization of world Go.
- (ii) The IGF has no political or religious objectives.

Article 3 (members)

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

- A: 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.
- B: 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').

Article 4 (official headquarters and official language)

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

Article 5 (organization)

The organization of the IGF is as follows:

- (a) General Meeting of members
- (b) Board of Directors
- (c) IGF Office

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

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.

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 Board of Directors 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.

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 Office 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 Board of Directors 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.

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.

Article 10 (Board of Directors)

- (i) The Board of Directors of the IGF consists of up to twelve Directors; up to eleven of whom are elected by the General Meeting, with the twelfth being appointed by the President.
- (ii) Nine elected Directors shall come from different geographical zones as listed below.
 - China, Japan, Korea: 1 each
 - Elsewhere in Asia: 1
 - European zone: 2
 - North, Central and South American zone: 2
 - Oceania zone: 1Up to two at-large Directors are sought from the general international Go community for the benefit of the IGF.
- (iii) The term of appointment for Directors is two years. Re-election is permitted.
- (iv) The Board of Directors decides on all matters concerning the operations of the IGF.
- (v) The Board of Directors is responsible to the General Meeting. The Board may delegate its power to the IGF 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 IGF 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.
- (ix) Decisions by the Board of Directors require approval by a majority of the Directors present at the meeting of the Board.
- (x) Association Members may participate in the meetings of the Board as non-voting Advisors at the invitation of the President; see Article 12.

Article 11 (the 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 Board of Directors, 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 Board of Directors may select one of the Vice-Presidents to serve in his place until the next General Meeting.

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.

Article 13 (Vice-Presidents)

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

Article 14 (Office Director)

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

Article 15 (Secretary General)

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

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.

Article 17 (the fiscal year of the IGF)

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

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.

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.

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.

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 Board of Directors. 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 Board of Directors. Affiliation requires approval by the Board of Directors.
- (iii) A member may withdraw from the IGF six months after giving written notification to the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors.

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.

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 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 24 (dissolution)

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

Article 25 (effectuating of the statutes)

These statutes are in effect as of 18 March 1982.

20 May 1991	<i>Art. 12 (i) amended.</i>
19 May 1996	<i>Art. 9 (ii) amended.</i>
01 June 1998	<i>Art. 19 added.</i>
18 June 2000	<i>Art. 9 amended</i>
31 March 2003	<i>Art. 6 (b) amended</i>
31 March 2003	<i>Art. 7 (ix) amended</i>
17 November 2003	<i>Art. 22 (i) amended</i>
27 May 2008	<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>Art. 13 (ii) amended</i> <i>Art. 17 (iii); (iv) amended</i> <i>Art. 20 amended</i>
25 May 2010	<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>Art. 13 (i) amended</i> <i>Art. 14 (iii) amended</i> <i>Art. 15 (i);(ii) amended</i> <i>Art. 16 (i);(ii) amended</i> <i>Art. 18 (iv) amended</i> <i>Art. 20 amended</i> <i>Art. 21 (v) amended</i>