

SENIOR GOLFERS SOCIETY OF THE FREE STATE

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME:

The name of the Society shall be: "**SENIOR GOLFERS SOCIETY OF THE FREE STATE**", hereinafter referred to as the **Society**.

2. OBJECTIVES:

The promotion of the game of golf in general, and more particularly, amongst those golfers who have attained the age of fifty-five years.

3. HEADQUARTERS:

The Headquarters of the Society shall be in Bloemfontein.

4. RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The Rules and Regulations governing the Society as Herein set forth shall be binding in all respects on all Members of the Society. The society accepts the rules of Golf as authorised from time to time by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrew's and accepts affiliation to the Senior Golfers' Union of South Africa, hereinafter referred to as the **Union**. These Rules and Regulations may not be amended or altered except by a two-thirds majority at an annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

5. MEMBERSHIP:

(a) The total membership of the Society may be limited increased or decreased at the discretion of the Committee, but the quota of playing members of the Society shall not exceed that fixed by the **Union** in consultation with the Committee.

(b) Election to membership shall be at the discretion of the Committee.

(c) A person proposed for membership must be a member, with voting rights, of a recognised Golf Club within the Republic of South Africa, who shall have attained the age of fifty-five years.

(d) The classes of membership are:

(1) **Honorary Life Member**, being a member so elected on the recommendation of the Committee at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General meeting. The criteria for awarding Honorary Life Membership should include:

- Exceptional ongoing commitment and service to the Society and Union.
- Having served on the Committee, preferably also as President.

- Emphasis should be on honour and prestige, and the number of Honorary Life Members should not exceed 5 % of the active members at any one time.

(2) **Active and Non-Active Veteran Members**, being members over the age of 80 years.

(3) **Active Member**: An active member shall mean an amateur male golfer who has been admitted to membership of the Society. At the time of applying for admission he shall have attained the age of 55 years, preferably younger than 65 years and be a playing member, in good standing, of a club which is affiliated to a Provincial Union or Association of the South African Golf Union. A condition of his continued membership as an active member of the Society shall be that he retains his aforementioned membership of a golf club. A person older than 70 years is not eligible for nomination as a Member.

(4) **Non-Active Member**, being a member who through some circumstance or other, is unable to continue to take part in the activities of the Society but desires to retain membership thereof. He shall be entitled to take part in the ordinary and unofficial local meetings of the Society, but shall not be eligible to represent the Society at any tournament nor match, unless a need for such representation arises.

(5) **Associate Members**: At the discretion of the President and the Committee, a person who has exceeded membership age could, in exceptional circumstances be invited to participate in Seniors golf activities (in accordance with the same conditions applicable to Non-Active members).

e) Any member who ceases for any reason to retain the qualification for membership set out in Clause 5(c) hereof, shall automatically cease to be a member of the Society, but, if he so desires, may be re-admitted as a Non-Active member, at the discretion of the Committee.

(f) Where it is desired to make application for the admission to the Society of a new member, the Proposer shall address a letter to the Secretary of the Society, endorsed by the Secunder, recording that they are both personally acquainted with the prospective member and wish to nominate the said person for membership. Subject to the approval of the Committee, the Secretary shall then send the required form to the proposer. Upon the return of this form signed by the Proposer and Secunder and duly completed in all its details, giving the names of six members of the Society with whom the prospective member is well acquainted and supplying any recommendations and other information which might be of assistance in giving consideration to the application, it shall be placed before the Committee. If instructed thereto by the Committee, the Secretary shall then notify all members in writing of such nomination to afford members an opportunity of objecting or supporting the election of the prospective member. Should no valid objection be received within 14 days of the date of such notice and provided the Committee is satisfied that the prospective member will be a desirable and active member, the prospective member will be invited to meet the Committee and play a round of golf with

the President, Vice-President or Captain at a monthly meeting. No member of the Committee may propose or second a prospective member and any attempt to influence a member or members of the Committee to secure the selection of an applicant will nullify the application.

(g) Priority in the election of a prospective member to membership may be granted where, in the opinion of the Committee, outstanding services to the game of golf have been rendered by him.

(h) The Committee may refuse any application for membership without assigning any reason therefore, and, in the event of such refusal, at least one year must elapse before a further application may be considered.

(i) No member may either propose or second a candidate for membership unless he himself is a member of not less than three years' standing.

(j) No member may either propose or second more than one candidate for membership in any one calendar year. The applicable year shall be that during which the final form "Application for Admission to Membership", is received by the Secretary of the Society.

(k) The Committee may determine what action, if any, shall be taken where a member, without reasonable excuse fails, in its opinion, to maintain a sufficiently active interest in the activities of the Society and in particular may, in its discretion, transfer him to the class of "Non-Active" member or end his membership. Activities include, monthly meetings, participation in tournaments with other Societies and National Championships.

(l) The liability of members is limited to the amount of their subscription and any monies owing by them to the Society. The Committee may, in its discretion, suspend the entrance fee at such times and for such periods as it may deem fit.

6. BEHAVIOUR OF MEMBERS:

The Committee shall have power, without assigning any reason therefore, to cancel the membership of any member whose conduct is considered to have been prejudicial to the interests of the Society, and a member so expelled shall have no claim whatsoever against the Society, any member thereof, or its Committee arising out of his expulsion. At the Committee Meeting at which such case is considered a majority of two-thirds of those present must agree to any decision to expel.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS:

(a) Each member shall, subject to the provisions which appear hereafter, and according to his class of membership, pay to the Society an annual subscription which shall be determined from time to time by the Committee, provided that:

- (1) any variation shall only come into operation at the beginning of the next financial year,

- (2) the Committee may in its discretion waive payment of subscriptions by Veteran Senior members, and
- (3) no subscriptions shall be payable by Honorary Life Members.

(b) All subscriptions shall become due on the first day of January each year. If any member fails to pay his subscription within six months after such date, final notice thereof shall be sent to him by letter, email, SMS or a phone call, by the Treasurer, and if the subscription is not paid within one month after the date of posting of such notice, the defaulter shall automatically cease to be a member of the Society, and his name shall be erased from the books accordingly. The Committee may, however, reinstate such defaulter on payment of all subscriptions in arrears on such conditions as the Committee may deem fit. No member shall be entitled to any of the privileges of the Society if his subscription is over six months in arrears.

8. MANAGEMENT:

The affairs of the Society shall be governed and managed by a Committee of not more than twelve, including a President, Vice-President, Captain and Vice-Captain, Treasurer and Secretary. These officials, who shall be named the office-bearers, as well as previous holders of such offices, shall with the exception of the Secretary and Treasurer, be eligible for nomination for a further period of one year only to the same office.

9. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE:

(a) Nominations for the Committee must be submitted in writing prior to the Annual General Meeting, and shall be signed by two members of the Society, and must be in the hands of the Secretary not less than eight days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

(b) Retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election without special nomination.

(c) In the event of more than six being nominated for election to the Committee, the election shall be by ballot of the members present and eligible to vote. Votes cast for less than six candidates to the Committee shall be invalid.

10. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

(a) The Committee shall remain in office until a new Committee has been elected, and shall have power to fill such vacancies (including appointing an Auditor), as may occur during their term of office.

(b) The retiring Committee shall appoint the office bearers mentioned in Clause 8.

(c) To donate, grant subsidies, or invest the funds of the Society for any purpose calculated to promote the interests and objects of the Society, and make donations for such other purposes as they may think fit.

(d) To appoint paid officials if necessary and to fix their remuneration.

(e) 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 these Rules and Regulations to be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

(f) The Committee shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees for any purpose, and to delegate to subcommittees such powers as may be deemed desirable.

11. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE:

(a) The Secretary shall on the instructions of the President, or on a written request of at least two members of the Committee convene a Committee meeting, and failing a request for a meeting, the Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter.

(b) The President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, shall be Chairman at all meetings of the Committee, and the Chairman of any meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his deliberative vote.

(c) At all meetings of the Committee the members present shall be a quorum.

(d) Any member of the Committee absenting himself; without leave, for three consecutive meetings, of which due notice has been given, shall cease to be a member of the Committee.

(e) The President and the Captain shall be ex-officio members of all Sub-Committees, and in their absence, the Vice-president and Vice-Captain shall be their respective alternates.

12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

(a) An Annual General Meeting of members, of which not less than fourteen days' notice shall have been given, shall be held at such time and place as the Committee may determine, not later than the end of February of each year.

(b) A quorum for an Annual General Meeting of members shall be the members present.

(c) The business to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting of members shall be:
(1) To confirm the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, and of any Special General Meeting that was held.

(2) To receive the report of the Committee on the affairs of the Society up to 31st December preceding, together with a financial statement to that date, certified by the auditor.

(3) To elect a Committee for the ensuing year, as set out in Clause 8, and subject to provisions of Clause 10(b).

(4) To appoint an auditor for the current year, who shall preferably be a member of the Society.

(5) To elect life members, on the recommendation of the Committee, of which notification has been given in the notice calling the meeting.

(6) To announce the Home Course for the ensuing year.

(7) To consider any resolution concerning the affairs of the Society, of which due notice has been given, and any business concerning the affairs of the Society, which may arise out of the report of the Committee,

(8) The Committee may, however, at any meeting of members, bring forward any business which it considers to require an urgent decision, or action by members of the Society.

(d) At the General Meetings the Chairman shall be the President, or in his absence, the Vice-president, the Captain, or the Vice-Captain, in that order.

13. VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS:

All matters requiring a decision at any General Meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes, unless otherwise provided for in these Rules and Regulations. In all cases of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote, and unless a ballot be demanded as hereinafter provided, the declaration by the Chairman of the result of the voting shall be conclusive. All votes shall be taken by a show of hands, but a ballot may be demanded by not less than ten ordinary members. The Chairman shall fix the time and mode of such ballot. The Meeting may be adjourned from time to time by a majority of votes.

14. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING:

(a) The Committee may at any time call a Special General Meeting of members, by giving not less than fourteen days' notice, specifying the purpose for which the meeting is called. The Committee shall, in like manner, call a Special General Meeting of members, upon receipt of a requisition signed by twenty members of the Society, specifying the purpose for which such a meeting is desired. Subject to the powers of the Committee referred to in Clause 12, Para. (c) (8), no business, other than that specified in the notice, shall be transacted at such meeting, and no other resolution, unless strictly relating to such business, may be submitted to such a meeting.

(b) A quorum for a Special General Meeting shall be twenty members present.

15. HOME COURSE:

The Committee shall determine the Society's home course for the ensuing year.

16. HANDICAPS:

A member's handicap shall be his lowest handicap as calculated by Handicaps SA.

17. EVENTS:

(a) The Committee may arrange matches and competitions between and for members of the Society, at such places, and on such dates as may be decided upon, from time to time, and may also arrange matches between this Society and teams of any recognised Golf Club, Golfing Society, or Golf Union.

(b) In any competition of the Society the Committee may, for the purpose of play, decide that members shall be classified as follows or combinations thereof:

Class A - 55 to 59 years

Class B - 60 to 64 years

Class C - 65 to 69 years

Class D - 70 to 74 years

Class E – 75 years and older.

(c) (1) CHAMPIONSHIP: Play in the Society's Annual Championship event is restricted to members of the Society, but visiting Senior Golfers from other centres shall be permitted to enter for certain handicap competitions prescribed by the Committee. The player returning the lowest gross score, irrespective of class, will hold the Senior Golfers' Championship Cup for the year.

(2) VETERANS' CUP: This shall be played for concurrently with the annual championship event. The winner of this floating trophy will be the member 65 years and older who returns the lowest gross score in the Annual Championship Competition. He will hold the cup for the specific year.

(d) In the event of a tie in any individual competition the competitor senior in age shall be declared the winner and in any competition involving sides of two or more partners, that side the total combined ages of the partners of which is the greater, shall likewise be declared the winner,

(e) If a competitor wins two or more events at a meeting, he may accept one prize only, but he is entitled to choose the event in which he prefers to be the prize-winner. In the other event, or events, the runner-up will receive the prize which the winner forfeits under this rule.

18. ACTIONS AT LAW:

All legal proceedings by or against the Society shall be instituted in the name of the Society and be handled by the Committee.

19. INTERPRETATION:

In the case of doubt as to the meaning or interpretation of any Clauses of this Constitution, the Committee shall be the final arbiter and its decision shall be binding upon the Members.

20. Commencement:

This Constitution shall replace any previous Constitution and shall come into force on the 19th day of July 2017.