

VALLEY GOLFERS ASSOCIATION (VGA) CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Article I – NAME OF THIS GOLF LEAGUE IS KNOWN AS: VALLEY GOLFERS ASSOCIATION (VGA)

The VGA is recognized as a legal entity by the State of Arizona's Corporate Commission under the name of Valley Golfers Association, Entity ID number 23057995.

Article II - PURPOSE

To stimulate interest in golf by bringing together a group of golfers desirous of forming a golf organization.

- a) To promote and foster among the members a closer bond and fraternity for their joint and mutual benefit, and to promote and conserve the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in the ancient and honorable traditions.
- b) To encourage conformance to the United States Golf Association (USGA) Rules of Golf by creating a representative authority.
- c) To maintain a uniform system of handicapping as set forth in the USGA Handicap System, and to issue USGA Handicap Indexes to the members.
- d) To provide an authoritative body to govern and conduct club competitions.

Article III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be available to individuals who share a mutual love and respect for the game of golf.

Section 2. Memberships in the club are individual and non-transferable.

Section 3. Except as indicated in Section 6.1.1, only golfers with a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with fellow members, and who can personally return scores for posting, may be members and receive USGA Handicap Indexes from the club.

Section 4. Membership confers no voice in the operation of any golf courses, clubhouses nor any facilities of the courses.

Section 5. Membership confers no special privileges in connection with any golf course.

Section 6. *Removed per board decision, Q. 4 2023 board meeting held on December 13, 2023.*

Section 6.1. Except as indicated in Section 6.1.1, membership will be renewed annually provided the appropriate member fee is paid in a timely manner according to the payments method(s) prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 6.1.1. The Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to establish an honorary members list for persons long associated with the club as members but who are no longer active participants in scheduled golf events. Honorary membership will be renewed annually provided the appropriate member fee is paid.

Section 7. The fiscal year for the club shall be January 1st through December 31st.

Section 8. A candidate for membership may be proposed by an active member in good standing or by referral from the Arizona Golf Association with which the club is affiliated for purposes of administering the handicap system. The candidate shall be accepted as a member in good standing upon payment of the membership fee and shall be afforded immediate privileges including the right to play in club events.

Section 9. In the event that any member of the club shall commit any act that reflects discredit or disrepute thereon or shall refuse or neglect to comply with the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors or the duly appointed officers, such member shall be subject to suspension or expulsion, after ten days written notice and the right to be heard, by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors at any regular meeting or special meeting called for the purpose.

Section 9.1. All members must adhere to the spirit of the game in a friendly and respectful manner while on the course and when interacting with other club members. This includes, but is not limited to fair play, respect for the host course and its staff, as well as respect for other club members. If there is any VGA player disagreement that needs to be addressed, the VGA Board Directors will ask the affected members to formally apologize to (if needed): 1. Each affected member. 2. Any outside party to the VGA that was involved and to the golf facility. Examples of behavior that will have a zero-tolerance policy:

1. Verbally threatening or physically contacting/harming other VGA members and/or any other person at the golf facility.
2. Obnoxious behavior that affects the VGA course relationship.
3. Any other detrimental behavior not covered that may be disseminated to the Board of Directors.

Failure to adhere to this VGA policy will result in immediate suspension from the club by the VGA Board of Directors and a further VGA board review for permanent termination.

Section 10. The annual meeting of the Valley Golfer's Association shall be held at the final tournament held at year's end. The Board of Directors shall provide for the holding of such other meetings as may be deemed necessary or desirable, and they shall call special meetings upon written petition signed by not less than 10% of the membership.

Section 11. A legal quorum at any meeting shall be twenty members present in person or by proxy. Each active member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 12. All membership dues and fees shall be established by the Board of Directors from time to time in such amounts as they deem to be adequate to operate and maintain the club. All members shall pay the dues established by the Board of Directors and will not accrue benefits of membership until paid. All monies collected shall accrue to the benefit of the membership.

Article IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of at least five members in good standing with a maximum of 15 members or 10%± of the existing membership, whichever is less and they shall exercise all powers of management of the club not specifically excepted by these bylaws.

Section 2. Directors shall be elected to staggered terms of two years duration, with up to one-half of the Board elected at each annual meeting.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee to fill any vacancies for the term of office beginning on the day of the annual meeting. Names of other members in good standing may be nominated by petition signed by at least ten members and submitted to the Board at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting. At least one week prior to the Annual Meeting, a list of candidates nominated shall be mailed to each member at their last known address.

Section 4. Voting shall be by show of hands unless the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, at which time voting shall be by written ballot.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall meet at such times and places as they may select and a majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. A quorum is defined herein as 50% of the general membership. If quorum is not met at the annual meeting, then the board will continue “as is” until such time a director (board member) decides to resign. *This section revised at Q. 4 Board Meeting held on December 13, 2023.*

Section 6. In the case of any vacancy through death, resignation, disqualification or other cause, the remaining Directors, even though less than a quorum, may elect a successor by majority vote to hold office for the remaining term of the Director whose place shall be vacant, and until the election of his successor.

Section 7. A board member must play at a minimum, 10 rounds of golf during a calendar year to remain a board member and be in good standing with the VGA, or by Board of Directors discretion.

Article V – OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. Following the annual meeting and election, The Board of Directors shall meet and elect the club officers.

Section 2. The officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Their duties shall be such as their titles indicate or such as may be assigned to them respectively from time to time.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall authorize and define the powers and duties of all committees. The President shall appoint the Chairmen and Members of all committees and the President shall be an ex- officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

Section 4. The following committees shall be appointed each year, with such other committees, as the President may deem necessary or advisable: *Revised below per VGA Board approval on December 13, 2023. See Board Meeting Minutes – Q. 4 2023 for reference.*

- a) **Handicap Committee**, with the responsibility to establish a fair and proper system of handicaps in accordance with procedures set forth in the USGA Handicap Manual and by the Arizona Golf Association (AGA).

Article VI – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

The Board of Directors shall have the power to repeal or amend any of these bylaws provided that such action is made known to the membership in writing and the membership is at liberty to petition the Board for further action regarding the matter(s).

Adopted as amended by the Board of Directors December 10, 2010.

To become a board member, this person must be a VGA member in good standing for a minimum of 5 years, or by Board of Directors discretion.

Adopted as amended by the Board of Directors on August 30, 2023.

Appendix A – Roles and Responsibilities

President

- Appoints the Chairmen and Members of all committees
- Is an ex- officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee
- Provides general operations oversight of committees and officers

Vice-President

- Assumes the duties of the President when the President is absent or temporarily unable to serve
- Performs various duties as delegated by the President

Secretary

- Keeps a record of the league business meetings
- Responsible for the compilation of handicaps
- Keeps the web site up-to-date along with the web master

Treasurer

- Collects and maintain records of all money received
- Disburses funds only with proper authorization
- Maintains a meticulous record of disbursements.
- Ensures that each member pays his or her annual dues in the AGA web site.

Scheduler (Wednesday, Saturday and Special Tournaments)

- Select the venues for their tournaments
- Negotiate rates and terms withing boundaries set by the board
- Notifies the President and Vice President of deviations from policy
- Acts in the best interests of VGA
- Operate in an ethical manner accepting no special favors, comps or kickback from venues

Tournament Managers

- Announce the availability of tournaments to the members
- Inform members of special requirements or terms related to the tournament
- Manage tournament signup by members
- Assign tee times to players
- Check in players in for tournaments
- Verify player eligibility
- Ensure players have paid their green fees during check in
- Compiles tournament results
- Disburses winning in accordance with tournament rules

