

# Statutes of the Swiss Go Association

## 1. Name, headquarters, and goals of the Association

### 1.1. Name and legal form

Constituted under the name **Swiss Go Association** (*hereafter: SGA*) is a non-profit association governed by the present statutes and also by the articles of the Swiss Civil Code. It is of indeterminate duration, and is politically neutral and independent of religious denomination.

### 1.2. Headquarters

Its headquarters are located at the home of the president or of another committee member.

### 1.3. Goals

The association pursues the following goals:

In Switzerland:

- Practice and diffusion of the game of go
- Organisation of international, national, and regional Go tournaments
- Support of Swiss Go clubs
- Teaching of Go, notably in schools and universities
- Coordination between different actors involving Go in Switzerland
- Any other goal related directly or indirectly to the above-listed goals.

Internationally:

- Organisation of international meetings
- Delegation of Swiss representatives to international tournaments
- Active collaboration in the work of European and international Go associations, respecting their directives.

The SGA is a member of the following associations:

"EGF" : European Go Federation (<http://www.eurogofed.org>)

"IGF" : International Go Federation (<https://intergofed.org/index.php>)

## **2. Members**

### **2.1. Associations**

The members of the SGA are principally the clubs of go players located in Switzerland. The clubs of players are autonomous but must respect the obligations described in chapter 2.4.

All members of the clubs of players are automatically members of the association.

### **2.2. Isolated members**

Go players who reside in Switzerland or not, and who do not have a club in their region or who do not wish to belong to one, are called isolated members.

### **2.3. Honorary member**

Honorary members are those individuals deemed deserving of this appellation by the General Assembly, for example those who have contributed to the development of the association or to Go in general. The honorary members are exempt from paying dues.

### **2.4. Obligations of members**

The member clubs and the individual members are expected:

- To respect the rules of national tournaments and the directives concerning the rankings list.
- To adopt and support sporting behaviour, fair-play, rules of politeness, and the anti-drug rules in use in the world of Go and recommended by European and international federations.

The member clubs are expected to send to the central president:

- the addresses of board members
- on request, their statutes and their modifications
- communications relative to the organisation of tournaments
- before the end of December of each year, the complete list of all members
- the share of the federal dues that the club is obligated to collect from its members (and possibly from its own dues), in December for the following year.

Isolated members have the following duty:

- To pay the annual dues directly to the association.

### **2.5. Admission**

Requests for admission by new clubs or isolated members must be presented in writing (by post or email) to the president.

The candidate clubs must include the following in their request:

- A complete list of individual club members,
- A list of board members,
- A description of the location of the club and its meeting night
- The statutes (upon demand).

The Board of the SGA decides whether or not to accept a new member. In principal, it should make a decision within one month of the request.

## **2.6. Resignation**

All resignations of clubs or isolated members must be addressed to the central president.

The dues of the current year remain in place.

## **2.7. Exclusion**

The central Board can apply all penalties, to the extent of proposing the exclusion of the club or member not respecting the duties described above. This exclusion must be voted on in the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority.

## **3. Bodies**

The bodies of the association are:

- The General Assembly
- The Board
- The account auditors

## **4. The General Assembly (GA)**

### **4.1. Validity**

Composition

The General Assembly is sufficiently constituted whatever the number of members present.

### **4.2. Composition**

The General Assembly is composed of:

- the Board
- representatives of member clubs
- honorary members

### **4.3. Representatives of clubs**

The delegate from each club should be a club board member. If no delegate can attend, then any other individual player who is part of the SGA (a member of a Swiss Go club) can serve as a proxy.

### **4.4. Presidency**

The GA is presided over by the association president. If the president cannot attend, then another Board member present at the GA meeting can replace him.

### **4.5. Periodicity**

The GA meets at least one time per year, if possible at the time of the Swiss Go championship.

### **4.6. Convocation**

The GA meeting is announced ordinarily by the president at least one month in advance, accompanied by a meeting agenda. The announcement is sent by email and is posted on the forum of the website of the association.

The Board can announce extraordinary GA meetings when there is a need. In addition, an extraordinary GA

meeting can be called for only if at least one-third of the member clubs ask for this in writing to the president.

#### **4.7. Individual proposals**

Any individual proposals of clubs or members must arrive in writing at least two weeks before the assembly.

#### **4.8. Voting**

- Each Board member and each honorary member have one vote.
- The delegate of each member club participates with a number of votes that is proportional to the number of its member players, meaning the number of individual dues provided for the preceding year.

from 5 to 10 players	2 votes
from 11 to 20 players	3 votes
from 21 to 40 players	4 votes
from 41 to 60 players	5 votes
and so on.	

For clubs with less than 5 players, the isolated members or individual club members can attend and participate in debates of the GA, but without the right to vote.

- The decisions of the GA are based on a simple majority of the votes of present members. In case of an equally divided vote, the vote of the president counts twice.
- Decisions relative to the modification of the statutes and/or the dissolution of the association can be made only with a two-thirds majority vote of present members.
- Voting is done with hand raising. If at least 5 members make the request, the voting can be done by secret ballot.
- The voting rights granted by items 1) and 2) of this section are cumulative.

#### **4.9. Powers of the GA**

The GA is the supreme authority of the association. Notably, it has the following powers:

- To elect the Board and the account auditors
- Approve the accounts and reports submitted by the Board and the report of the auditors
- Monitor the activity of other bodies that may be revoked with good cause
- Modify the statutes
- Determine the cost of annual dues
- Decide on the admission or exclusions of members
- Dissolve the association

#### **4.10. Agenda**

The agenda of the ordinary annual GA necessarily includes:

- Approval of the minutes from the last GA meeting
- The Board report on the activity of the association during the previous year
- Reports from the treasury and the auditors
- Approval of the reports and the accounts and discharge of the board.
- The election of Board members and of the body of account regulation
- Individual proposals

## 5. The Board

### 5.1. Composition

- The Board includes at least 4 members.
- The Board is elected at the same time by the GA, for a one-year term renewable at each GA meeting.
- The president of the Board is elected by the GA for a one-year term renewable at each GA meeting.
- Besides the role of the president, the division of positions and their definition are freely decided by the Board after the GA and are not decided on by vote. There should be at least a treasurer and a vice-president.
- The Board can be enlarged by one member during the course of the year to replace a member who has resigned or for a special task (by assimilation into the Board).

### 5.2. Powers

- The Board is authorised to perform all acts that relate to the purpose of the association. It has the broadest powers for managing current affairs
- The management of the SGA and its representation with respect to third parties
- Preparation and convocation of ordinary and extraordinary GA meetings, and determining the agenda
- Execution of GA decisions
- Overseeing the following of the statutes
- Admission of sections and isolated members.
- Deciding whether to participate in international associations
- Administration of SGA property
- Drafting of an activity report for the GA
- Establishment of the accounts and of the budget
- Organisation of national tournaments
- Development of tournament rules
- Naming of the Swiss representatives to international events, respecting the relevant qualification rules
- Organisation of internships, training workshops, or any other event with the goal of teaching or promoting the game of Go
- Assuring the assessment of the level of its members, for example within a national, European, or international ranking list
- The Board members are volunteers and can only be compensated for their actual costs and travel expenses.
- Possible attendance fees may not exceed those paid for official commissions. For activities that go beyond the usual function, each Board member may receive appropriate compensation.

## **6. Finances and account auditors**

### **6.1. Bookkeeping**

The financial year of the SGA is the calendar year. The treasurer is responsible for maintaining accounts.

### **6.2. Auditors**

The auditor and his/her deputy are named at the time of the GA meeting. They audit the accounts and submit their report at the next GA meeting.

The auditor and his/her deputy must be members of the SGA (members of a club or an individual member), but may not be members of the Board.

### **6.3. Dues**

- The amount of the annual fee is set by the GA. It is determined on the basis of a fee by individuals who are part of the association, by clubs, or by individual members (being the "Players").
- Each club collects dues from individuals and turns them over to the SGA.
- The individual members pay their fees directly to the association.
- A member of several clubs pays his/her dues only once to the association.
- The dues can be different for people or clubs with low incomes.
- The Board can decide on reduced dues for individual members or a club beginning in the middle of the year or in special situations.

### **6.4. Resources**

The resources of the association are made up of:

- the annual dues of members
- the revenue of events (tournaments, internships, workshops, or special events)
- public or private grants
- sponsorship
- the product of the sale of material or go books
- gifts and bequests
- all other resources authorised by law

The members of the association and their successors have no right to the assets of the association. The funds must be used according to a public good.

## **7. Dissolution**

The dissolution of the association can only be decided by an extraordinary GA meeting specifically convened to discuss it. The quorum required is three-quarters of the member clubs.

If the quorum is not reached, a new GA meeting should be convened with the same agenda within a minimum of 15 days; in this case, the GA shall act by the majority of present members.

In case of dissolution, the GA will rule on the devolution of remaining assets, after payment of possible debts, designating as beneficiaries the groups or clubs pursuing a similar goal. In no event will the assets be returned to

the founders or members, nor be used to their profit in whole or part, in any manner whatsoever.

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The present statutes were adopted by the founding General Assembly from (...) to (...).

In the name of the association:

The President: Flavien Aubelle

The Secretary: Lorenz Trippel