International Blind Golf Association (IBGA) Event Sponsorship

Effective from: August 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1 The IBGA is willing to sponsor international golf events for the blind and vision impaired.

This document sets out the conditions under which such sponsorship will be provided and the possible sponsorship amounts. It further sets out the information that is required upon application for such sponsorship, as well as the information which must be provided after the event.

1.2 Applications should be submitted at least 3 months in advance of the event, to allow the IBGA Board time to decide whether the event should be sponsored.

1.3 The IBGA will meet any bank charges, relating to any sponsorship granted, levied by the issuing bank. An Association receiving any such sponsorship will be required to meet any charges levied by the receiving bank.

1.4 Under normal circumstances sponsorship will not be provided to a member association during its first year of membership of the IBGA or to Member Associations with fewer than two active players.

2. Qualifying Events & Sponsorship Amounts

2.1 IBGA National Associations hosting the following events may apply for sponsorship:

(a) World Championships
(b) Vision Cup
(c) National Open Championships (medal play event, as well as for a standard stableford division within an otherwise medal play event)

2.2 The IBGA Board will not consider a new application for sponsorship from an IBGA Member Association it that association has not complied with the sponsorship requirements for a previous event, including the submission of all required documentation after the completion of that event.

2.3 The sponsorship amount will be determined by the IBGA Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis, but will generally be as follows

(a) World Championships: $1000 US per player, up to a maximum of 54 players in a 36-hole competition.
(b) Vision Cup: To be determined.
(c) National Opens: $750 US per player, up to a maximum of 36 players in a 36-hole competition. The maximum number of Stableford entries funded shall be limited to 30% of the field.

2.4 In determining the sponsorship amount the Board may also take into account factors such as:

(a) Previous amounts granted to the National Association.
(b) Whether the National Association has complied with all of the sponsorship requirements relating to previous grants.
(c) The number of places which may be taken by players from other National Associations.
(d) Other factors deemed to be of relevance.

2.5 If sponsorship is awarded to a National Association the following will apply:

(a) 85% of the sponsorship will be paid to the National Association after the closing date for entries, based on the list of entrants as provided to the IBGA Board at that time. This payment will not be made earlier than 3 months prior to the tournament, or as agreed by the IBGA Board for the payment of deposits.
(b) The balance of the sponsorship will be paid to the National Association after the event, based on the actual number of participants and following receipt of all required reports.
(c) The Board will consider reimbursing the host country for the expenses incurred in respect of late withdrawals upon verification of the expenses and details of the withdrawals.
(d) If the actual number of entrants exceeds the expected number, the overall sponsorship for the event may be increased – up to the maximum number of entrants as specified by the National Association in the application for sponsorship, and as approved by the IBGA Board.

(e) Some of the sponsorship paid may need to be returned to the IBGA if, for example, the event did not attract sufficiently close to the forecast number of participants, or if the National Association (on completion of the event) made a large profit from the event.

3. Sponsorship Conditions

National Associations granted sponsorship must ensure that all of the conditions below are satisfied:

3.1 Participants will be provided with at least:
- (a) 3 rounds of golf (a practice round and two competition rounds).
- (b) Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis for 4 nights.
- (c) An additional meal per day (lunch, dinner, or both).
- (d) Buggies (possibly at an additional cost to the player) for all B1 players and all players who medically need to make use of a buggy. All efforts should be made to make buggies available to all players who request one.
- (e) A closing dinner. Prizes can be handed out during this function if this was not done on completion of play.

3.2 The course should have a minimum Course Rating of 68 and a minimum Slope of 120 for medal Strokeplay. For Stableford events lower Course Ratings or Slopes will be permitted. Variations to the restrictions for medal events need to be pre-approved by the IBGA Board of Directors.

3.3 The event will offer prizes for at least:
- (a) Best gross per sight category (B1, B2 and B3), provided there are at least 2 competitors in the category. If there are at least 2 women participating in the event, best gross for women should be awarded. If not, men and women shall compete for the same gross prizes.
- (b) Best overall net and runner-up (all sight categories combined). If there are at least 2 women, men and women shall play in separate net competitions (each receiving a winner and runner-up prize).
- (c) If a half-way cut is made, a prize should be awarded for the best performer of those players who did not make the cut. This may be on a standard stableford basis, and may be based on both days' play or only the second day's play.

3.4 Players should not be restricted to winning only one of the above prizes, and should receive each of the above prizes for which they qualify. Associations may offer prizes in addition to those listed above.

3.5 Conditions of Play:
- (a) Competitions must be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf (as modified for blind golfers) set out by the R&A/USGA.
- (b) Only players who are members of an IBGA National Association or an Associate Member and who are registered as active on the IBGA Sight List may participate, and only players with an official handicap shall be eligible for net prizes.
- (c) The tournament must be played strictly in accordance with the IBGA Handicap Policy rules and handicap limits.
- (d) All B1 players must wear blackout glasses.

3.6 N.B. All prizes to be awarded, as well as any play-off rules which may apply, must be clearly set out in the initial letter advertising the event. If play-offs are not used, the IBGA Countback Rules must be strictly applied.

3.7 Other requirements:

(a) An application and budget must be submitted using the form in Section 4 of this document.

(b) At least 40% of the places in the event shall be made available to IBGA-registered players who are not members of the host National Association running the event.

(c) The organizing Association must provide full information of the event, including all prizes on offer, to all players with the entry forms in order to allow potential participants to make an informed decision as to whether or not to enter.

(d) The IBGA should be recognized as a sponsor in all publications at and about the sponsored event.

(e) The event should be named the ISPS HANDA xxx (e.g. British/US/etc.) Open.

(f) A pre-tournament meeting should be held at which participants can be advised of any local rules/regulations, and related administration matters can be finalized (e.g. transport, etc.).

(g) Random eye tests may be requested by the IBGA Board (at the expense of the IBGA). Where eye tests are carried out the results of all tests should be forwarded to the IBGA Vice-Chairman/Administration after the competition.

(h) An appointed Rules Official conversant with the Rules of Golf should be available on the competition days.

4. **IBGA Sponsorship Application Form & Budget**

Name of Association	
Tournament Name	
Tournament Dates	
Closing date for Entries	
Maximum number of competitors which could be accommodated in the event	
Estimated number of competitors: - From host Association - From other IBGA Associations - Total	
Proposed Entry Fee (indicate currency)	
Sponsorship amount applied for (US $)	

Name of golf course			
- Men	Par:	Rating:	Slope:
- Ladies	Par:	Rating:	Slope:
Brief description of the golf course:			

Accommodation Details:	
Name of hotel	
Rating of hotel	
Address	
Distance from golf club	
Distance from shops	
Brief description of accommodation:	

Itinerary & Prizes:	
Arrival date	
Arrival airport	
Practice / Pro-Am date	
Competition dates	
Departure date	
Details of transport to be provided	
Prizes available (N.B. refer to section 3 for the minimum set required)	
Other relevant information:	

Please complete the event budget below, based on the (realistically) expected number of competitors, adding additional items as appropriate:

Please specify the currency you have used: [ ]

PROJECTED EXPENSES	Amount	**PROJECTED INCOME**	Amount
Hotel Accommodation		Entry Fees	
Green Fees		IBGA Funding Requested	
Buggy Hire		Fund-raising (non-IBGA)	
Welcome Pack		Other Income (list below)	
Practice/Pro-Am Day			
Trophies & Prizes			
Half-way lunches			
Dinners			
Closing Dinner			
Additional Catering			
Administration			
Eye Tests			
Transportation			
Banners & Flags			
Other Expenses (list below):			
TOTAL EXPENSES		TOTAL INCOME	
		PROJECTED LOSS	
		OR: PROJECTED SURPLUS	

Details of your last event that received IBGA sponsorship:	
Name of event	
Date	
Final number of participants	

We agree to adhere to the conditions for sponsorship set out by the IBGA.

This form has been completed by	
Position in host Association	
Date of application	

5. Requirements on Completion of the Sponsored Event

5.1 Results:

(a) Scores should be conveniently displayed each day of competition, as soon as possible after completion of play.

(b) Competitors should be provided with a set of results (hard copy or electronic).

(c) All scores should be submitted to the IBGA Handicap Secretary for loading to the handicaps website.

(d) Scorecards should be made available to the competitors' IBGA National Association Handicap Secretary if requested.

(e) All scores of competitors who have a WHS Handicap Index should be entered on the WHS as soon as possible after completion of a round. This may be done by national associations, clubs or by the competitors themselves using appropriate applications.

5.2 The following shall be submitted to the IBGA Vice-Chairman/Administration:

(a) The full set of results – to be submitted within 1 week of the completion of the event.

(b) A final financial report (on the form provided in Section 6) – to be submitted within 1 month of the completion of the event.

(c) An article about the event suitable for publication on the IBGA website – to be submitted within 1 month of the completion of the event.
Ordinarily this article should be a narrative report, including the following items:

(i) Name (and dates) of event and host association.
(ii) The golf course (with a short description if desired).
(iii) Brief summary of weather conditions.
(iv) Number of competitors (as well as the number from other countries).
(v) Main prize-winners.
(vi) Anything else which may be noteworthy.
(vii) Thanks to sponsors, volunteers, etc.
(viii) Some pictures (optional).

(d) Any other documents specifically requested by the IBGA Board, for example sight surveys relating to players admitted to an IBGA trial.

5.3 If all of the items in 5.2 above have not been submitted to the IBGA Board within 3 months of the completion of the event, the IBGA will make no further payments to the Member Association for that event.

5.4 National Associations should take note that under any of the following circumstances the IBGA Board may request that some of the sponsorship payment made is refunded:

(a) The number of actual participants is well below the forecast number used for budgeting.

(b) The hosting Association had raised significant funds from other sources, and thus did not require the full sponsorship.

(c) All of the conditions laid down by the IBGA have not been met.

6. **Final Income & Expenditure Report**

This page should be completed and submitted to the IBGA Board of Directors on completion of the event.

Name of Association	
Tournament Name	
Number of competitors: - From host Association - From other IBGA Associations - Total	

Please complete the Income & Expenditure statement below. Feel free to amend the various items of income and expenditure listed as appropriate.

Please specify the currency you have used: [ ]

EXPENSES	Amount	**INCOME**	Amount
Hotel Accommodation		Entry Fees	
Green Fees		IBGA Funding:	
Buggy Hire		- Received to date	
Welcome Pack		- Outstanding requested	
Practice/Pro-Am Day		Fund-raising (non-IBGA)	
Trophies & Prizes		Other Income (list below)	
Half-way lunches			
Dinners			
Closing Dinner			
Additional Catering			
Administration			
Eye Tests			
Transportation			
Banners & Flags			
Other Expenses (list below):			
TOTAL EXPENSES		TOTAL INCOME	
		LOSS	
		OR: SURPLUS	

This form has been completed by	
Position in host Association	
Date	