

International Blind Golf Association (IBGA)

Statement on Corona Virus (COVID-19) – 1 April 2020

Subsequent to our Statement on Corona virus (dated 13 March 2020) the world situation has generally worsened (as could have been expected). We should probably expect that things will continue to get worse before they eventually get better, and we can get back to a normal existence. We hope that you, and all of your members, are staying safe in the meantime.

Owing to the inevitable risk which will persist for at least several months, the IBGA Board of Directors strongly recommends that Member Associations which have IBGA-sponsored events scheduled for the remainder of 2020 consider postponing (or cancelling) these events until next year for the safety of all concerned.

To allow individuals enough time to cancel travel arrangements, and associations enough time to cancel hotel/course bookings, etc., we require associations to advise us at least 10 weeks prior to each event of their intention to proceed/postpone/cancel. Should an association at that time decide to go against the Board's strong recommendation to postpone or cancel, the IBGA will need to distance itself from the event by insisting that the IBGA and ISPS Handa names are not associated with the event.

As indicated in our Statement of 13 March, we appreciate that the decision as to whether or not to go ahead with an event rests with the host association, and we will meet our obligation to fund any such already approved event. We are also prepared to consider applications from Member Associations to help refund any reasonable losses which they may incur caused by postponement/cancellation. In this way we hope to make it easier for associations to be able to postpone/cancel events without the fear of their incurring significant losses. We would, unfortunately however, not be able to assist with reimbursing individuals' travel costs, although hopefully airlines will be reasonably obliging under the current circumstances.

We also remind Member Associations (as per our Statement of 13 March) to notify all of their players that should they participate in any blind golf event they should ensure that they have their own travel and medical insurance. The IBGA and ISPS accept no liability in this regard, and it would be unreasonable to expect the host Association to be responsible for any such costs which participants might incur.