

International Blind Golf Association (IBGA)

Statement on Corona Virus (COVID-19) – 14 June 2022

Little did we realise that when we issued our last statement on Corona Virus (1 April 2020) that the threat it poses would still be with us – although much reduced – some two years later.

The IBGA is happy to provide sponsorship for blind golf events. However, we encourage associations to remain vigilant. Should the Corona Virus situation pose a threat in a country hosting an IBGA-sponsored event, associations are encouraged to take appropriate action. This could include requiring all participants to be suitably vaccinated or possibly postponing the event, etc.

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 an event if they intend to postpone/cancel.

Should an association at any time decide to go against the Board's strong recommendation to postpone or cancel an event, 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 previous statements in 2020, 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.

We also remind Member Associations (as per our previous statement on Corona Virus) 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.