

STONEWALL



GOLFERS

Stonewall Golfers

Mission Statement, Bylaws, Practices & Policies

(Amended as of November 15, 2012)

Article I. Organization Name

The name of the organization is *Stonewall Golfers*.

Article II. Mission Statement

Stonewall Golfers is a group of gay and lesbian golfers based in Palm Springs, California. The organization exists to schedule, participate in and enjoy regular golf and social events and to provide desert residents and visitors with gay and lesbian golfing companions in a friendly environment.

Article III. Bylaws

(a) Membership

A member in good standing is one who has paid their annual dues to *Stonewall Golfers*.

Members are encouraged to read, adhere to and abide by the *Stonewall Golfers* By-Laws and the *USGA Rules of Golf*.

Members are encouraged to maintain a golf handicap index via the *SCGA* or other officially sanctioned organization. The *Stonewall Golfers* shall maintain the *SCGA* golf handicap index of those members who have authorized the *Stonewall Golfers* do so.

Members and non-members are subject to the cancellation policy outlined in Article VIII - Practices & Policies.

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(b) Membership Information and Privacy Policy

The Board will maintain information from each member as supplied by them on their application, and handicap information as covered above in the section on membership; this information will be available to the Board.

The Board will publish a list of current members' names and email addresses in the Members-Only section of the Stonewall Golfers website. Members who do not wish to have their listing visible can modify their online profile on the Stonewall Golfers website to hide this information.

The Stonewall Golfers membership mailing list may be used periodically to send email communication to the membership that the Board considers useful content. The Board will not make the membership mailing list available to any individuals or other organizations.

(c) Membership Communication

Communication of scheduled events, tournaments and meetings to the membership will be made via the website and via email.

Article IV. Officers and Board of Directors

The Board will be responsible for maintaining and fostering an active membership in the Stonewall Golfers, scheduling golf locations and dates, organizing tournaments, organizing social events and calling for committees, as necessary. The Board will meet quarterly, or more frequently as needed.

There will be two officers: President and Treasurer and three *ex-officio* board members; these five members will comprise the Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as the Board.

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Board Members will use sound judgment and professional decorum when conducting the governance and business of Stonewall Golfers. If circumstances should arise where a Board Member's actions are perceived to be outside these bounds, the Board has the right and the duty to ask that fellow Board Member to either change their behavior or resign from the Board. A majority vote of the Board shall be used to approve the appropriate course of action in such a circumstance.

Election of the Board and Annual Club Year

All Board members will be elected bi-annually at the General Membership Meeting by a simple majority of members present OR via online voting mechanism prior to the General Membership Meeting. The annual year will correspond to the calendar year, January 1st through December 31st.

The President, Treasurer and one ex-officio Board member will be elected in odd-numbered years; the two remaining ex-officio Board members will be elected in even numbered years, so as to ensure continuity on the Board.

Should a vacancy occur in any Board position during the year, the position shall be filled by appointment by the President with the Board's approval. If the President should vacate, then the Board will jointly appoint a new President. These appointments will serve the remainder of the term of the Board seat vacated. In addition, the Board will designate back-up roles for the two officer positions, so as to provide continuity in the event of temporary absence or incapacity.

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Article V. Elected Board Duties

(a) President

The President will be responsible for the following:

- Providing overall guidance and leadership on behalf of the club
- Coordinating Board activities and responsibilities
- Communicating with members and potential members on matters of interest to the club
- Marketing the club for the purpose of increase membership and value to the membership
- Maintain relationships with all sponsors
- Calling and chairing both the *General Membership* and Board meetings
- Working with the Board to select *Committee Chairs*
- Surveying the membership for feedback and continuous improvement ideas throughout the year
- Ensuring the remaining Board members have adequately been trained to back up the two officer positions

(b) Treasurer

The Treasurer will be responsible for:

- Installing and using the organization's accounting software program on their personal computer for recording all of the organization's financial transactions
- Promptly depositing incoming funds
- Managing the club's bank account and reconciling monthly bank statements
- Issuing payments as approved by the Board
- Establishing an annual budget for the club

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- Providing financial status reports to the Board, as requested
- Providing financial status reports to the general membership at the General Membership Meeting

(c) Ex-Officio Board Members

The Ex-Officio Board Members will be responsible for:

- Establishing the club's schedule of golf and social outings
- Administering official handicaps for members and tournament players, as needed
- Oversee Tournament Committees for the Rainbow Challenge, Sin City Shootout and Match Play.
- Function as club starter on a rotating basis
- Maintaining the membership roster
- Recording minutes at meetings
- Coordinating all communications with members and website updates
- Providing adequate back up for the two officer positions, in the event of temporary absence or incapacity

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Article VI. Committees

Committees will be created for specific purposes as needed and will serve at the discretion and under the guidance of the Board.

There will be no standing committees. The Board must approve all committee decisions involving an expense of \$250.00 or more. Committee chairs will organize and hold committee meetings as necessary, and hold primary responsibility for the successful completion of their specified committee tasks.

It will be the President's responsibility to enlist Committee Chairs from the General Membership. Committee Chairs will then enlist Committee Members from the General Membership, as needed to perform the work necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the Committee.

All committee chairs will submit specific requests to the Treasurer for payments to vendors, and submit all incoming funds to the Treasurer with specific advice as to source and purpose of said funds. All financial submissions to the Treasurer must be made within a reasonable amount of time to ensure their successful completion by all parties concerned.

All committee chairs must submit a written summation of the committees' progress to the Board on request, and a final summary of the committee's activities including financial reckoning as needed, to the Board within a reasonable time after the completion of their specific purpose.

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Article VII. General Membership Meeting

The annual *General Membership* meeting will be held in the last calendar quarter of each year to elect Board members, discuss and vote on policies, bylaws, and other issues of concern to the membership. Other general membership meetings may be called, as necessary, throughout the year by either the Board or the general membership at the annual meeting.

A simple majority of members present at meetings will be sufficient to pass policies, bylaws and elect Board members. The Board may also choose to facilitate voting on association matters via online voting mechanism prior to the *General Membership Meeting* and to have the results of the voting announced at that meeting.

Article VIII. Practices & Policies

(a) Funds

Membership dues are collected to pay for operating expenses and advance deposits for event reservations, which will be reimbursed from the entry fees collected for events.

The annual individual membership fee in the Stonewall Golfers is \$35.00, which is due and payable by the start of the club year. Membership dues collected after October 1st but prior to January 1st will apply to the balance of that calendar year and the next club year. All other membership dues collected will apply to the year in which they are received. The Board shall conduct an annual review to determine if the current annual membership fees need to be adjusted for the following year.

Membership dues are non-refundable.

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(b) Playing Policies

Members and non members should arrive a minimum of a half-hour prior to their starting tee time at all events. Golfers should play a full 18 holes at events and tournaments, bearing in mind that some play formats, e.g. "best ball" or "scrambles", require players to play all 18 holes. Players not completing 18 holes of play will not be eligible for tournament prizes, if any. Tournaments with prizes require players to submit their handicap, which can be validated via the means discussed in the Membership section.

Members are encouraged to play "ready golf"! While participating in events, members will discourage slow play and keep play moving in a smooth flow, staying within range of the golfers ahead. Golfers will maintain an average 10 to 15-minute pace per hole (unless the forward group is lagging). If a ball is lost during play, the player(s) will not spend more than 5 minutes looking for the ball. All recording of scores should be done at the next hole while waiting to tee off; not at the green/hole for which score is being recorded.

If the player has not holed out before their 10th shot (total of all shots including putts) said player will lift the ball, prepare to move to the next hole and record the score of 10. The only exceptions to this are for events which award prizes based on an accurate count of putts. When putts need to be counted, the player should finish that hole normally if their 10th or less shot landed on the green. If the player pulled the ball prior to the green, then said player should place the ball on the green, at the point farthest from the hole and putt out. In either case, the player should then record the number of putts for that hole.

Players are encouraged to follow all USGA and club rules as known. Players will follow the accepted rules of etiquette during play. Stonewall Golfers may provide access to materials and seminars covering rules and etiquette.

Stonewall Golfers members will understand that each one of us represents the whole group when we participate at Stonewall Golfers sponsored events and tournaments. It will be expected that members abide by all Golf Course Rules and Regulations when participating in events and tournaments. These rules may include, but not be limited to, such things as dress codes (collared shirts, no denim, soft

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spikes), cart limitations, etiquette during play and respect for equipment and the course. While some courses may not require a certain dress code, etc., it is expected that members and guests use good judgment in all areas, so as to not offend, by neither word nor deed, other Stonewall Golfers members, guests, other players on the course or the golf course management. If the circumstances should arise that a Stonewall Golfers member is truly jeopardizing the group's well being and public position, the Board has an obligation and right to ask that member to change their behavior or leave the Stonewall Golfers, in the event of more severe and irresponsible situations. If this latter situation should occur, the member requested to leave will not be refunded their membership fee.

(c) Cancellation Policy

Members and non-members of Stonewall Golfers are required to sign up for a tee time via Stonewall Golfers website for all scheduled golf events. Members and non-members are also required to cancel their participation via the website prior to the posted cutoff date when they determine, for any reason, they cannot play. At that point, the scheduled golf course will then be provided with a firm number of Stonewall Golfers tee time reservations. Failure to either - (a) cancel prior to the posted cutoff date, or (b) to show up on the day of play - will subject the member or non-member to full payment and no refund of paid green fees if the scheduled course requires payment by Stonewall Golfers of all reserved green fees.

Article IX. Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of Stonewall Golfers, any remaining funds will be used to pay any outstanding debts and after debts are paid, the balance donated to a gay/lesbian supportive charity of the Board's choice.

Note: Amended and submitted for online vote on November 15, 2012. The results of the vote will be announced at the General Membership Meeting on December 1, 2012.