

The Johannesburg Go Club Articles of Operation

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Article 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be The Johannesburg Go Club, also sometimes referred to as the JHB Go Club or the Joburg Go Club. The Johannesburg Go Club will be referred to as “the Club” for the remainder of this document.

Article 2: Purpose

The purpose of the Club shall be to provide a framework for the playing Go in Johannesburg. This includes, but is not limited to, convening regular gathering for the purposes of playing Go, and ensuring the availability of a venue for such gatherings. The Club will also occasionally purchase and sell Go equipment as the opportunity arises.

Article 3: Right to Act

No club officer or member, in any role, has the right to incur any debt or become involved in any business under the title or by implying the title of a club in any way unless given full authority to do so by the Club.

Mechanisms for the allocation of duties are described in Article 7, and responsibilities and rights of officers and members in Article 5.

The Club will accept no liability for any obligation incurred by any member or any official outside the acceptable mechanisms delineated in these Articles of Operation.

Article 4: Roles

4.1 Officers:

The Club will regularly appoint 2 Club Officers, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6. They are:

4.1.1 Asset Secretary

The Asset Secretary is the person tasked with maintaining the updated register of club assets. For the purposes of this document, “Club Assets” are defined as all funds accrued by club activities, and any objects purchased by such funds for club use and held in common. This includes sets, stones, books, videos and the like.

The role of Club Asset Secretary is filled in accordance with the provisions of Article 6, and only Voting Members (see 8.5) are eligible to fill the role.

4.1.2 Information Secretary

The Information Secretary is the person tasked with maintaining the updated registers of the main information generated by the Club. For the purposes of this document, “Club Information” is understood to mean all information regularly generated by the club, such as email addresses, contact numbers and game records.

The position of Club Information Secretary is filled in accordance with the provisions of Article 6, and only Voting Members (see 8.5) are eligible to fill the role.

4.2 Members:

Membership of the Club shall be open to any person, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or ability, who nominates themselves for membership, with the caveat that they must have attended at least three club evenings.

Voting Membership is a status that a member attains by recording 5 club games in the six-month period immediately prior to the date of a proposed Vote. See also 8.5. It follows that Voting Membership is a status earned and maintained by recording games, and it can neither be nominated nor elected.

Article 5: Responsibilities, Rights and Duties

5.1 Club Asset Secretary

- The Club Asset Secretary is responsible for the collection and administration of any funds associated with club activities. This includes venue fees, and any membership dues that are decided to be applicable by the Club.
- The Club Asset Secretary is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date, written, asset-register detailing funds and other assets.
- The Club Asset Secretary is responsible for maintaining an adequately documented audit trail for any Club expenditures and/or sales.
- The Club Asset Secretary can be called upon at any time to provide that asset register or audit trail, by any Voting Member, and must thereafter provide it within no more than 14 days.
- The Club Asset Secretary is responsible for issuing a financial statement at calendar year end, detailing the Club's Assets.
- Term of duty is six months

5.2 Club Information Secretary

- The Club Information Secretary is responsible for maintaining a written index (or electronic database) of club members contact details, including but not limited to email addresses.
- The Club Information Secretary is responsible for the submission of club game records to the on-line ranking engine, and for the maintenance of such records in written form.
- The Club Information Secretary can be called upon at any time to provide access to the stored written game records, by any Voting Member, and must thereafter provide it within no more than 14 days
- Term of duty is six months.

5.3 Member

- Any member is entitled to propose any disposition of club funds and assets they see fit, and any such proposal will be handled in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 and Article 8.
- A Voting Member is entitled to request sight of all Club Information and Asset indices, registers or databases, as well as any written records, documents or audit trails in support of such indices, registers and databases.
- A Voting Member is entitled to propose the recall of any Club Officer on grounds of incompetence, or malfeasance, which grounds will thereafter have to be demonstrated by the proposer in accordance with the provisions of Articles 7 and 8, and specifically Section 8.4.
- If a function usually done by a Officer (for example, collection of club fees), cannot be done because the Officer is unable to do so (for example, isn't at the club), members should do that function on as-needed basis.

5.4 Notes about Duties

- Members' duties are voluntary and proceed by consensus.
- Club Officers' duties are transferable, while Club Officers' responsibilities are not. In effect, this means that, if an Asset Secretary passes a task to another person to perform for him or her, no problem arises.

From the point of view of the club, it is irrelevant how an Officer discharges his duties, except insofar as they accord with or contravene these Articles of Operation. In the example given, the designated officer remains responsible and the Club deals with him, just as though he were doing the work. His responsibility of outcomes cannot be transferred, except in the Special Case of Tournament Equipment.

- Control of equipment during a Tournament is the only Special Case in terms of which the responsibilities vested in a Club Officer are transferable. For the duration of a Tournament, responsibility for the control management and safety of any club equipment used in that Tournament, vests in the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Convener. The transfer of responsibility is temporary, and responsibility for equipment reverts to the Club Officer on completion of the Tournament.

Article 6: Succession

Rotational Scheme for Johannesburg Go Club

Purpose: The ethos behind the rotational scheme is that all players who benefit from the Johannesburg Go Club take a 'turn' in the administration of the Club. With benefit comes responsibility and duty.

Positions for Rotation: Asset Secretary and Information Secretary, terms and duties as laid out in the Articles of Operation of the JHB Go Club.

Qualification: All active players are eligible for selection to fill one of the above mentioned positions. A list of active players is to be provided by the outgoing Information Secretary for the purpose of selection.

How selection/rotation works: A list of active players is compiled by the outgoing Information Secretary. Two sets of players exist in terms of this list; those who have already worked as administrators for the Club, and those who haven't. Those who have are put at the bottom of the list, with the most recent administrator right at the bottom and ascending in order of date served. From the other set, those who have yet to administrate, two persons are selected for duty by random draw. In the event of all possible candidates having served a term as an administrator, the two administration positions are filled by the two players with the greatest span of time between the present and last served (i.e. these two players should be at the top of the list).

Example List 1:

Player A: Never served
Player B: Never served
Player C: Never served
Player D: Never served
Player E: Served 2005
Player F: Served 2005
Player G: Served 2006
Player H: Served 2006

In this case, the next two administrator would be chosen from the pool of Player A-D via a random draw.

Example List 2:

Player A: Served 2003
Player B: Served 2003
Player C: Served 2004
Player D: Served 2004
Player E: Served 2005
Player F: Served 2005
Player G: Served 2006
Player H: Served 2006

In this case, Players A and B would be selected to serve.

Example List 3:

Player A: Never served
Player B: Served 2003

Player C: Served 2004
Player D: Served 2004
Player E: Served 2005
Player F: Served 2005
Player G: Served 2006
Player H: Served 2006

In this case, Players A and B would be selected to serve.

Acceptance of Position: Selection is not compulsory, and can be declined. In which, case a new player would be selected. However, declining a position is contrary to the spirit of the JHB Go Club.

Equivalent to Having Served: If a player organizes at least 2 ad hoc events (handicap tournaments, go days, etc.) within a calender year or plays 20 teaching games (recorded as such on the game records) as the teacher within a calender year, he/she will have been considered to have served the equivalent as a term as an Administration Officer or Information Officer.

Article 7: Actions

Caveat:

None of the provisions of this section (Article 7) should be understood to limit the actions of members in organizing events, except insofar as such organization requires the disposition of assets or amendment of structures in the Club. Club members are encouraged to organize, discuss, debate and participate in Club activities to the fullest, without excessive consideration for the provisions of this Article. The primary purpose of this Article is outline how the few formal activities of the Club are to be organised.

7.1 Regular Actions

For the purposes of this document, Regular Actions are defined as those obligations regularly incumbent on the Club in terms of its own constitution or in terms of its formal affiliation to other organizations. These consist only of:

- The election of Club Officers, and
- Administration of the Johannesburg Open Go Tournament and submission of the results to the South African Go Association (SAGA).

7.2 Ad Hoc Actions

For the purposes of this document, Ad Hoc Actions are defined as all propositions and/or events organized by or on behalf of the Club, other than those defined as Regular Actions, that either require the use, or other disposition, of club assets or which may change the structure and operation of the club, or that are deemed necessary by the proposing member to be put to vote.

Any member whether Voting or non-voting, may propose an Ad Hoc Action. However, only Voting Members may vote on a proposition.

Where disposition of club assets is required, such as a purchase using club funds, or the sale or donation of club assets, the proposition must be put to a vote in accordance with the provisions of Article 8. All Ad-Hoc Actions proposed that are put to a vote require a Simple Majority of a Regular Quorum of members to pass. (See Article 8 for definitions of these terms).

It is the duty of the member proposing the action to notify and inform the Voting Membership of the nature and details of the proposal. It is acceptable to do so by email directly, or on a mailing list associated with the Club. A list of Voting Members must be requested from the Club Information Secretary.

7.3 Tournaments

Any Club Member may propose a tournament and put their proposal to a vote. For the purposes of voting, any Tournament Proposal other than the Johannesburg Open is regarded as an Ad Hoc Action, and proceeds in accordance with the provisions in Article 8.

The Club will support Club Tournaments (such as Handicap Tournaments, 9x9 Tournaments, Pair Go and Lightning Go tournaments) by providing material assistance in the form of sets, clocks and the like, as well as through suggested venues and details of costs. Tournament management information will be accessible through the SA Go Clubs web-site, or alternatively on request from the Club Information Officer.

7.4 Disputes, Propositions, Contentions and Other Club Business

Any disputes with respect to club business, decision, actions or any other matters associated with Club activities are regarded as Ad Hoc Events. For the purposes of voting, all matters of this type proceed in accordance with Section 7.2 and Article 8. (Exceptions are noted in Section 8.6.)

Article 8: Voting

8.1 Valid Votes

Valid and acceptable votes are For a Proposition, Against a Proposition or Abstention. Absence of a vote *does not constitute abstention*.

8.2 Regular and Full Quorum

8.2.1 A quorum is defined, for the purposes of this document, as being the minimum proportion of members participating actively in a decision necessary to ratify that decision.

8.2.3 For all purposes other than Special Circumstances (see 8.5), a quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the Club members eligible to vote (Voting Members). This is called a Regular Quorum. For example, if the club has 30 members eligible for voting, then a Regular Quorum is attained when at least 20 of them vote, irrespective of whether they vote for, against or abstain.

A Full Quorum is considered convened when all of the Voting Members cast Valid Vote.

8.3 Simple Majority

A simple majority is defined as being 50.01% or more of the cast vote.

8.4 Two-thirds majority

A two-thirds majority is defined as being 66.67% or more of the cast vote.

8.5 Eligibility for voting

A member (see 4.2) is eligible to vote if they have recorded at least 5 club games in the 6 months previous to the date of voting.

For example, a person who plays and records his or her first five games at the Club on a Wednesday is eligible to vote on the following Thursday, assuming that they have attended at least three club evenings in accordance with the criteria for membership (see 4.2). Similarly, a member who has not attended the club for 5 months, but who recorded 5 games immediately prior to that period is eligible to vote, assuming the same. A member who recorded their last game 7 months ago is not, irrespective of their attendance history.

8.6 Special Circumstances and Exceptions to Standard Voting

8.6.1 Amendments to the Constitution require a Full Quorum for ratification.

8.6.2 Recall/removal of a club officer require a *two-thirds majority* vote of a Regular Quorum.

8.7 Allocation of vote and vote-by-proxy

This constitution recognizes no right of allocation of vote – that is, no member may allocate their voting rights on a specific proposition to another member - nor does it recognize any vote by proxy. Any vote cast in such a manner will be regarded as spoiled for the purposes of the specific proposition under consideration.

8.8 Dispute Resolution

A dispute is regarded as an Event or Action or as the continuation of an Event or Action (see Article 7). There is no alternative mechanism for the resolution of disputes other than to those described in Article 7, as modified by Article 8. In the event of a dispute of any kind, the process undergone to that point should simply be repeated until a result is obtained, or should be resolved outside formal Club mechanisms.

8.9 Abstention and validity of the vote

In the event of overwhelming abstention, the entire vote is considered spoiled and the procedure must be repeated until a result is achieved or the proposal under vote is abandoned.

For the purposes of this document, Overwhelming Abstention is defined as abstention by one-third (1/3) or more of the quorum required by the issue under vote.

8.10 Acceptable mechanisms for voting

It is acceptable for a proposition requiring a vote to be circulated via email, or posted to a mailing list, if the proposer can demonstrate that the necessary Voting Membership was informed in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.2.

Similarly, it is acceptable for a physical vote to be convened and held by the initiator of a proposition. In the event of a physical vote, record of the vote must be kept by signed ballot and delivered to the Club Information Secretary. It is the duty of the Club Information Secretary to maintain such records and produce them on request. Such records shall be kept for a minimum of 1 year