

WBA supporters Golf Society - OFFICIAL SOCIETY RULES

NEW REVISED ISSUE DATED 2019 – ALL PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE NOW OBSOLETE

1. The WBA Supporters Golf Society was formed primarily to offer an alternative leisure activity for supporters or friends of West Bromwich Albion Football Club but has developed into a society that welcomes all to enjoy sport and celebrate the social camaraderie inherent in sporting leisure.

2. Membership year & Societies accounting year is from 1st. June to 31st. May.

- Members are recruited upon the full completion of the Societies official Membership Application Form, payment of the agreed membership fee, agreement to the Societies Code of Legislated Conduct and then finally sanctioned by the Membership and Society Secretary.
- Applications may be rejected by the Membership Committee which reserves the right to veto any applicant who it deems unsuitable to become a member of the Society. An appeal regarding this decision can be made to members.

3. Members are requested to behave at all times in a civil & dignified manner. Abusive non conducive behaviour will certainly not be tolerated and anyone found guilty of improper conduct will be banned from the Society with immediate effect. A reinstatement appeal can be made to members.

4. The Society is managed by an elected management committee comprising of: - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Handicap Secretary/ Statistician, Membership Secretary, Events Coordinator and Captain. The remainder of the committee is made up of a support team of 3 additional members.

5. Election onto the main management committee cannot be considered unless the member applicant has served a full** 2 years as a general committee member. Likewise a recruited member cannot apply for a position on the general committee until he or she has been a Society member for** 2 full years. ** This rule can only be contradicted or changed under the most extreme circumstances that are apparent at the time or by special concession & instruction from the Chairman.

6. Each FULL MEMBER ONLY will have voting rights; casual or part members do not have voting rights. Votes can only be cast at the Society's Annual General Meeting. The Society Chairman will have the final casting vote if required.

7. Any issues that any member may wish to raise must be, in the first instance, made in writing to the Secretary and should be presented at least 1 month before the AGM. Then if the issues raised are considered to be of importance they will be presented to the membership at the AGM for consideration and voting purpose.

8. **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:** Will be given to members, who the management committee considers worthy in respect of commitment, dedication and goodwill, or have shown diligence, above the call of duty, in establishing and improving the Society for the benefit of all members.

9. MEMBERSHIP FEES: - PLUS SENIOR/ADULT/ + NON PLAYING MEMBERSHIP

Fees are reviewed annually. All new FULL members for the first year include Membership of the official WBA Supporters Club, plus the Societies embroidered collared shirt. Thereafter the balance of all renewal fees is used to promote events, purchase of tournament prizes and general administration expenses, supported by **CASC funding** from travel mileage donations in which participation is accepted by all members.

- Membership rates for new members and annual renewal membership rates will be circulated prior to the beginning of the Society year 1st June. Categories are Senior Membership 60 + years: Adult Membership 18-59 years: Junior Membership up to 18 years: Non - playing Membership and Family Membership.

10. **EVENTS:** It is planned to organise a minimum of 8 events per calendar year at various Golf Clubs throughout the UK, including an Annual Captain's Day, to raise fund for the incumbent's nominated charity, and the Society's inaugural flagship event The Concept Classic.

It is important to note that Green Fees are payable IN ADVANCE (usually on or before the THURSDAY prior to the event) for each entered tournament; ENTRY PAYMENT ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT IS NOT ACCEPTED. The Events Co-ordinator will ensure the best possible rates are made available to our Society.

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11. DRESS CODE: It is a requirement that in **any tournament, organised by the Society, all members MUST wear Society clothing when purchased**. Please note, only shirts with collars are allowed & MUST be tucked into trousers or shorts, no T-shirts, Jeans or Denims are allowed. During summer months tailored shorts are allowed - but NOT Hawaiian style or brightly/heavily patterned shorts, or shorts with patch pockets.

12. PLAYING RULES: Most golf clubs now insist on players having an official handicap. Our Society is unable to issue officially recognised handicap certificates, however we do have our own unique 'Trust Handicap' system, please refer to the Handicap or Society Secretary for further information.

13. LOCAL RULES: All golf clubs have common local rules. It is important that members familiarise themselves with these rules BEFORE commencing play. These rules are usually printed on the Golf Clubs score cards.

14. RULES OF COMPETITION: All official Society events that include 'Player of Year' (POY) points are played under Stableford rules and points scoring system in which only registered members can participate. In all events ALL players will play off their PRESENT WBASGS "Trust Handicap ". Guest players are allowed to win on-course prizes (such as Longest Drive, 2's, Nearest to the pin and Nearest to the pin in two). Guest players' results/points scores will not contribute to the WBASGS Player of the Year (POY) whilst holding "Guest" status. Score will not be counted retrospectively.

15. HANDICAP RULINGS: The WBASGS maintains a unique trust Handicap system, which determines that any fully paid and registered NEW member will be allowed to win from the first event entered.

The Society Handicap applies at all events and only the Handicap Secretary can make adjustments. **Starting maximum for a player is 36**. Each society player will be allocated a Society '**Trust**' Handicap to play off in all society events. Existing members have been allocated a trust handicap based on their performance from the previous year.

- Based on the average Stableford score an 'adjustment' is made as follows:
- NEW members who join the society who are not members of a golf club will be given a 'Trust' handicap immediately, this to be verified by either the person introducing them or based on previous or existing official CONGU handicaps.

HANDICAP MOVEMENTS:

In order to balance competition play with an equal winning opportunity, adjustments are made after each event. As most events occur monthly from February to November, these adjustments are more radical than in a normal golf club, in order to fashion relativity of performance between society players.

HANDICAP REDUCTIONS:

- Winning (irrelevant of score) H/Cp reduced 1 : Score of 41+ Stableford points reduction is 3 : Score of 39-40 reduction is 2
- Score of 37-38reduction is 1 : Score of 25-36no change

HANDICAP INCREASES:

Pink Shirt: (last player - irrelevant of score) Handicap increased by 1
Score of 24 or lessHandicap is increased by 1

Handicaps **WILL NOT** be re-set after each season but carried through to the next year.

16. A bank and deposit account must be held in the name of the Society with both holding the policy off any committee member to sign for a withdrawal to be effected. This will enable an easy acquisition of debit cards when applications are made.

17. All purchased trophies & boxes are owned by the Society; keeping time limited to 9 months. Every winner has a duty of care and responsibility for their return in pristine condition. In the event of damage or loss it is the trophy holder's responsibility to accept payment of repair or replacement costs. An immediate return when requested will be appreciated.

18. Personal information or photographs relating to competition, meetings, marketing purposes or publishing on the website are for society records only and will not be passed on to third parties. **Data Protection Act 1998 & GDPR 2018 apply. Please read the Act.**

19. On the dissolution of the Society any money held in the bank account will not be returned to members but paid into a Dream It Believe It Achieve charity account. Any unspent grant will be returned to the grant-making body if this was the condition upon which it was made.

