

THE INDIAN GOLF UNION

*(Registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860 — Registration No. 22833 of
1955-1956)*

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION AND RULES AND REGULATIONS

Adopted at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on
_____, 2026

Registered Office: Kolkata, West Bengal

Secretariat: New Delhi

First published 1955 | This consolidated edition, 2026

PART A — MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

Name

1. The name of the Society is **"THE INDIAN GOLF UNION"** (hereinafter called "the Union" or "the IGU").

Registered Office

2. The Registered Office of the Union shall be situated at Kolkata in the State of West Bengal. The Union may, by resolution of the Governing Council and subject to applicable law, establish and maintain a Secretariat and branch or administrative offices at New Delhi and at such other places in India as the Governing Council may determine.

Status and recognition

3. The Union, established in 1955, is and shall function as the National Sports Federation for the designated sport of Golf for the whole of India.

In particular—

- (a) the Union is recognised by, affiliated to, and is the sole national member body for India of the International Golf Federation (hereinafter "the IGF"), being the International Federation for the sport of Golf recognised by the International Olympic Committee ("IOC");
- (b) the Union is recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, as the National Sports Federation for Golf in India;
- (c) the Union has been recognised as a National Sports Federation for Golf by the Central Government, and shall comply with such law relating to the recognition and governance of national sports federations as may for the time being be in force; and
- (d) the Union shall at all times maintain its international recognition and affiliation with the IGF.

Primacy of the International Golf Federation

4. The Union shall primarily be guided by the International Charters and Statutes in the governance of its affairs. The Statutes, Charters, bye-laws, rules and regulations of

the International Golf Federation, together with the Olympic Charter, shall accordingly have primacy over any other right or authority in relation to the governance of the Union, and such primacy shall operate over and above any guideline or direction of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Objects

5. The objects for which the Union is established are the following; and it is declared that the several sub-clauses of this Clause, and all the powers mentioned in it, are cumulative, and that in no case is the generality of any sub-clause to be narrowed or restricted by any particularity of any other sub-clause, nor by the application of any rule of construction *ejusdem generis* or otherwise:—
- (a) To promote and develop the game of golf in India, and to foster and maintain a high standard of golf in India.
 - (b) To arrange for the conduct of the Junior, Amateur and Professional Tours and Championships of and in India.
 - (c) To promote, arrange and participate in golf matches and competitions in India and in other countries.
 - (d) To select the team or teams of golfers to represent India in all National and International tournaments, including the Olympic Games, the Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games (where golf forms part of the programme), the World Amateur Team Championships, the Asia-Pacific Amateur and Junior Championships, the Asian Amateur Championships, the South Asian and SAARC events, and events of like nature of the IGF.
 - (e) To establish, administer and regulate a national handicapping system, and to rate golf courses.
 - (f) To prescribe and interpret the rules governing the game of golf in India in conformity with the Rules of Golf and the Rules of Amateur Status as administered by R&A Rules Limited, and in conformity with the Statutes of the International Golf Federation.
 - (g) To own, operate and assist in the layout and upkeep of golf courses and other golf-related facilities.

- (h) To maintain liaison with the Government of India, the Indian Olympic Association, the International Golf Federation, the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation, R&A Rules Limited and all Indian and foreign golf federations, unions and tours, in the interest of golf.
- (i) To establish and run the National Golf Academy of India for the training, coaching, certification and accreditation of players, coaches, academies and technical officials.
- (j) To accredit such bodies involved in the various aspects of the game of golf as may be deemed fit by the Governing Council, and to design, procure and distribute golf merchandise in aid of the development of the game.
- (k) To apply for, receive, administer and disburse grants and other financial assistance from the Government of India, State Governments and other appropriate bodies, and to account for the utilisation thereof.
- (l) To function as the National Sports Federation for Golf in accordance with the International Charters and Statutes and the law for the time being in force; and to discharge the duties of a recognised National Sports Federation.
- (m) To uphold and implement the basic universal principles of good governance, ethics and fair play of the Olympic and sports movement, the Olympic Charter and the Statutes of the International Golf Federation.
- (n) To frame and enforce a Code of Ethics, to implement the Safe Sports Policy, and to maintain an internal grievance redressal mechanism for the protection and welfare of athletes, women, minor athletes and other vulnerable persons associated with the Union.
- (o) To constitute an Athletes Committee, an Ethics Commission, a Dispute Resolution Committee and an institutional Arbitration Commission of the Union, and to provide thereby for the fair, timely, equitable, independent and effective resolution of sports grievances and sports disputes related to Golf.
- (p) To carry on any kind of lawful activity which can conveniently be carried on along with the foregoing, or which is necessary or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing.

Application of income and property

6. The income and property of the Union, whensoever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Union as set forth in this Memorandum of Association, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever, to the members of the Union: PROVIDED THAT nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any employee of the Union, or to any member or other person, in return for services actually rendered to the Union.

Dissolution

7. If, upon the dissolution of the Union, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Union or any of them, but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Union, to be determined by the votes of not less than three-fifths of the members present at the time of the dissolution, or in default thereof by the principal Court of Original Civil Jurisdiction of the district in which the Registered Office of the Union is situated.

Management

8. The management of the affairs of the Union shall be entrusted to a Governing Council, being the Executive Committee of the Union, constituted in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Union. The Governing Council may from time to time delegate any of its powers to Committees constituted in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, and may from time to time revoke such delegation.

Bye-laws

9. This Memorandum of Association and the Rules and Regulations set out in Part B, together with the Schedules annexed hereto, constitute the bye-laws of the Union, and shall be read together as one instrument.

PART B — RULES AND REGULATIONS

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. These Rules and Regulations may be called the Rules and Regulations of the Indian Golf Union, 2026, and shall come into force on the date on which they are adopted by the General Assembly at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose, and thereafter filed with the Registrar of Societies.

Definitions

2. In these Rules and Regulations, unless inconsistent with the subject or context, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them below:—
 - (a) "**Affiliate**" means any organisation of all-India standing connected with golf and granted affiliation by the Council, but without voting rights.
 - (b) "**Arbitration Commission**" means the Arbitration Commission of the Indian Golf Union constituted under Chapter XIV of these Rules, being the arbitral institution of the Union.
 - (c) "**Arbitration Rules**" means the Indian Golf Union (Arbitration Commission) Rules and Regulations framed under Clause 90 of these Rules, being the arbitration rules of the Union.
 - (d) "**Athletes Committee**" (also styled the "Athletes Commission") means the Athletes Committee of the Union constituted under these Rules.
 - (e) "**bye-laws**" means the Memorandum of Association and these Rules and Regulations of the Union, together with the Schedules annexed hereto, and includes any bye-laws, rules, regulations, policies or standing orders framed by the Council thereunder.
 - (f) "**CAS**" means the Court of Arbitration for Sport established at Lausanne, Switzerland.

- (g) "**Council**" or "**Governing Council**" means the Governing Council of the Union constituted under Chapter VII of these Rules, being the Executive Committee of the Union.
- (h) "**Director General**" means the Director General of the Union for the time being appointed by the Council under Clause 52, being the chief executive officer of the Secretariat, and includes any person temporarily appointed to perform the duties of the Director General.
- (i) "**Dispute Resolution Committee**" or "**DRC**" means the Dispute Resolution Committee constituted under Chapter XIII of these Rules, being the internal dispute resolution committee of the Union at first instance.
- (j) "**Elected Post**" means all posts on the Council other than the two posts reserved for the representatives of the Athletes Committee.
- (k) "**Electoral Officer**" means the person appointed by the Council under Clause 55 of these Rules for the conduct of elections.
- (l) "**Ethics Commission**" means the Ethics Commission constituted under Chapter XI of these Rules, and governed by the Indian Golf Union (Ethics Commission) Rules and Regulations framed under Clause 72.
- (m) "**General Assembly**" or "**General Body**" means the General Body of the Union as constituted under Chapter IV of these Rules.
- (n) "**Golf Club**" means any entity (whether owned by an individual, an association of persons, a society, a company, a body corporate, a statutory authority, having a functioning golf course, which is affiliated to the Union or is seeking affiliation to the Union, and which satisfies Clause 11 of these Rules as a Golf Club affiliated with the Union.
- (o) "**Honorary Secretary**" means the Honorary Secretary of the Union, who shall be the Secretary General of the Union.
- (p) "**Honorary Treasurer**" means the Honorary Treasurer of the Union, who shall be the Treasurer of the Union.
- (q) "**IGF**" or "**International Golf Federation**" means the International Golf Federation, being the International Federation for the sport of Golf recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

- (r) **"International Charters and Statutes"** means the Olympic Charter and the Statutes, Charters, bye-laws, rules, regulations and constitution, by whatever name called, of the International Golf Federation and of such other International Sports Bodies as are applicable to the Union, as adopted, amended or issued from time to time.
- (s) **"in writing"** and **"written"** include printing, electronic mail and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form.
- (t) **"MYAS"** means the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
- (u) **"Office Bearers"** means the President, the Vice-President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer of the Union.
- (v) **"President"** means the President of the Union for the time being, being the head of the Union.
- (w) **"Recognised Body"** means any association, club, society, company, body corporate, governmental organisation, statutory authority, sports control board or other body involved in the promotion of golf in India and granted recognition by the Council, which shall not by reason only of such recognition be a voting member of the Union or of any State Golf Association.
- (x) **"Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit"** or **"SOM"** means a person included in the male SOM Roster or the female SOM Roster of the Union prepared under Chapter V of these Rules, in accordance with Schedule I to these Rules.
- (y) **"State"** means a State specified in the First Schedule to the Constitution of India and includes a Union territory.
- (z) **"State Golf Association"** or **"SGA"** means the golf association of a State which is affiliated to the Union as its State level affiliate unit.
- (aa) **"Term"** means the term of office of the Council as provided in Clause 40 of these Rules.
- (ab) **"Union"** or **"IGU"** means the Indian Golf Union.
- (ac) **"Zone"** shall have the meaning assigned in Chapter XVIII of these Rules.

Interpretation

3. Words and expressions used in these Rules but not defined herein shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the International Charters and Statutes and, where applicable, in the law for the time being in force. Any reference in these Rules to the International Charters and Statutes, or to any enactment, shall be construed as a reference to that instrument as amended, substituted or re-enacted from time to time. Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine, and words in the singular include the plural, and *vice versa*.

CHAPTER II

STATUS, RECOGNITION, PRIMACY AND COMPLIANCE

Status as the National Sports Federation

4. The Union is the National Sports Federation for the designated sport of Golf for the whole of India, and is recognised as such by the International Golf Federation and by the Central Government.

International recognition to be maintained

5. The Union shall at all times maintain its international recognition and affiliation with the International Golf Federation, that affiliation being the foundation of its status as the National Sports Federation for Golf.

Primacy of the International Golf Federation

6. The Union shall be primarily guided by the International Charters and Statutes in the governance of its affairs. Accordingly—
- (a) the Statutes, Charters, bye-laws, rules and regulations of the International Golf Federation shall have **primacy** in the governance of the affairs of the Union, and such primacy shall operate over and above any guideline or direction issued by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and over any other authority, save to the extent that the law for the time being in force mandatorily provides otherwise;
 - (b) these Rules shall, so far as may be, be construed and applied so as to be consistent with the International Charters and Statutes, and no provision of these Rules

shall be so construed as to place the Union in breach of the International Charters and Statutes or to imperil its international recognition; and

- (c) in the event of any conflict between the International Charters and Statutes and any law, guideline or direction for the time being in force, the Council shall forthwith refer the matter to the International Golf Federation and to the competent authority for resolution, and pending such resolution the Union shall, to the extent permissible in law, be guided by the International Charters and Statutes.

Autonomy of the Union

6A. The Union is an autonomous and self-governing body, and shall be solely guided by the principles of the autonomy of a National Sports Federation. In the governance, administration, discipline, ethics and dispute resolution of the sport of golf in India the Union shall be guided only by these Rules, by the rules, regulations, codes and policies framed hereunder, by the International Charters and Statutes of the International Golf Federation, and by the law of the land.

7. The Union shall ensure that all its voting members and affiliate units, as applicable, comply with—
- (a) the International Charters and Statutes, as applicable, and shall exercise the rights, perform the duties and discharge the functions specified therein; and
 - (b) the law for the time being in force applicable to national sports federations and their affiliate units,
- and the Union shall take such steps as are necessary to secure such compliance.

Register of affiliate units

8. The Union shall maintain a register of its affiliate units, and shall facilitate such registration of its affiliate units with any competent authority as the law for the time being in force may require; and every affiliate unit of the Union shall ensure that it is so registered. The obligations of affiliate units in this behalf are set out in Clause 12 of these Rules.

CHAPTER III

MEMBERSHIP, AFFILIATION AND OBLIGATIONS OF AFFILIATE UNITS

Classes of members

9. The Union shall consist of the following classes of members:—

- (a) **State Golf Associations.** One State Golf Association for each State, affiliated to the Union as its affiliate unit. Every SGA shall be a legal entity registered as a not-for-profit company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, or a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or a trust created under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or an entity registered under state legislations governing societies and trusts, having the sole objective of promotion and development of Golf. SGA can be a voting or a non voting member of the Union subject to its compliance under the rules and regulations of the IGU and shall be represented in the General Assembly in the manner provided in Clause 18.
 - (a)1 A Non-Complaint SGA member shall be a non voting member of the Union and shall not have any voting rights in the General Assembly of the IGU. Such non-voting members SGA shall be referred to as Associate SGA members of the Union.
- (b) **Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit.** Four Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit, of whom two shall be male and two shall be female, who shall be voting members of the General Assembly and who shall be elected in the manner provided in Chapter V.
- (c) **Golf Clubs.** Golf Clubs affiliated to the Union, which shall be members of the SGA of the State in which they are situated, and which shall not, by reason only of such affiliation, have any voting rights or be voting members of the General Assembly of the IGU.
- (d) **Affiliates, Associates and Recognised Bodies.** Such Affiliates, Associates and Recognised Bodies as may be admitted by the Council under Clause 13, none of whom shall have voting rights.

Provided that only the members referred to in clauses (a) and (b) shall be voting members of the General Assembly, and only such members, or their

representatives, shall be entitled to be entered on the electoral roll for an election to the Council in accordance with Chapter IX of these Rules.

State Golf Associations — eligibility and affiliation

10. The Union shall recognise and affiliate one, and only one, SGA from each State. For such affiliation to be granted and to subsist, the following conditions shall be satisfied:—

- (i) the SGA shall be mandatorily registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or under the corresponding Act in force in that State, or as a not-for-profit company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, or as a trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or the corresponding Act in force in that State, and shall have the sole object of the development of the sport of golf;
- (iii) the bye-laws of the SGA shall conform to these Rules, the International Charters and Statutes, the law for the time being in force and the guidelines issued by the Union from time to time, and shall in particular provide for an Executive Committee, an Athletes Committee, , for the reservation of posts for women, and for the mandatory conduct of free and fair elections by secret ballot; Such election results shall be duly shared with the Council certifying the elections in terms of the Council's Rules and Regulations;
- (iv) the SGA shall have as its members all Golf Clubs situated in the State which are affiliated to the Union (including Golf Clubs of the Army, Navy and Air Force), ;
- (v) the SGA shall hold its Annual General Meeting each year, shall give the Union and the Zonal Committee concerned not less than twenty-one days' prior notice of its Annual General Meeting and of its election date, and shall submit to the Union its Annual Report, its audited accounts and the results of the elections to its Executive Committee within thirty days of the holding of its Annual General Meeting; and
- (vi) the SGA shall furnish to the Union, within such time as the Union may specify, the information and documents referred to in Clause 12.

Provided that an SGA may admit as an affiliate a golf course minimum yardage of 3600 yards with 9 independent holes., which offers all avenues of

wholesome sport; but no such golf course shall have any voting right in the SGA or in the Union.

Provided further that the conditions and guidelines in this Clause supersede all previous correspondence by which guidelines for SGAs have been issued by the Union.

- (v) SGA's having non complaint Golf Clubs as its members, shall be subject to the decision of the Council be relegated to the category of Associate Member SGA without any voting rights in the General Assembly.

Golf Clubs — eligibility

11. A Golf Club seeking affiliation to the Union shall apply in the form prescribed by the Union, addressed to the Director General, accompanied by a copy of its constitution and rules; and shall satisfy the following minimum requirements:—

- (i) a minimum yardage of 3,600 yards with nine independent holes;
- (ii) a general area, in addition to the golf course, for a driving range and for practising the short game and putting;
- (iii) unfettered access for all members of the Union, including all individual member golfers, to use the golf course and the said general area;
- (iv) it shall be a fully functioning club and shall not have been defunct for the two years immediately preceding the date of application;
- (v) it shall hold its Annual General Meeting each year and shall hold elections after every tenure in accordance with its constitution and applicable law; and
- (vi) it shall submit all up-to-date records, including its annual report and audited accounts, to the SGA concerned and to the Union.

The Council may, before considering an application, make such enquiries and call for such information as it thinks fit; may accept or reject the application; and may impose such conditions as it thinks fit while accepting it. The decision of the Council shall be communicated in writing with reasons, and shall be subject only to the remedies provided in Chapter XIII and Chapter XIV of these Rules.

Obligations of affiliate units

12. Every affiliate unit of the Union shall furnish to the Union, in such form and manner as the Council may specify, the following:—

- (a) a copy of the certificate of affiliation issued by the Union in respect of such affiliate unit;
- (b) a copy of its certificate of registration as a society, not-for-profit company or trust, as the case may be, under applicable law;
- (c) the names and designations of all members of its governing body, by whatever name called; and
- (d) any other information as may be specified by the Union, or as may be required to be furnished to any competent authority under the law for the time being in force.
- (e) Names of the affiliated Golf Clubs with the last elections held of its governing body.

Affiliates, Associates and Recognised Bodies

13. The Council shall have power to make, rescind and vary bye-laws relating to the admission of individuals and corporates as Associates of the Union (who shall not have voting rights), the affiliation of an Affiliate and the recognition of a Recognised Body. In granting any such admission, affiliation or recognition the Council may impose such conditions as it thinks fit. The categories of Associates, and the charges payable, shall be as prescribed by the Council from time to time.

Subscriptions

14. The annual subscription payable by members of the Union shall be as prescribed by the Council from time to time, and shall be due and payable on the 1st day of April of every year. If a subscription remains unpaid on the 30th day of June of the year concerned, the defaulting member shall cease to be a member of the Union, but may, at the discretion of the Council, be reinstated on payment of the subscription on or before the 30th day of September of that year together with such penalty as the Council may determine. A member wishing to resign shall give notice in writing addressed to the Director General and deposited at the Office before the 1st day of

April in any year, failing which it shall be liable to pay the subscription for the following year.

Elections to the Executive Committees of affiliate units

15.The elections to the Executive Committee and office bearers of every SGA and of every Golf Club affiliated to the Union shall be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner, and in particular—

- (a) the Union shall prepare and maintain an **Election Panel** for the conduct of free and fair elections of the Executive Committees of its affiliate units, consisting of such number of retired persons having adequate experience of the conduct of elections;
- (b) every affiliate unit shall appoint an electoral officer from the roster so maintained by the Union to oversee its election process and to ensure free and fair elections;
- (c) the electoral college of an SGA shall be constituted from amongst the Golf Clubs situated in the State which are affiliated to the Union duly compliant with the Union Rules and Regulations, and shall include the sportspersons of outstanding merit and such other representatives as these Rules require;
- (d) every election to any post shall be decided by secret ballot, and the timelines for the filing of nominations, the scrutiny and withdrawal of nominations and the declaration of the final list of contesting candidates shall be strictly adhered to; and
- (e) adequate notice of the elections of the SGA shall be given to the IGU by the SGA for the SGA to appoint a mandatory observer.
- (e) in the case of any ambiguity in relation to the election of the office bearers of an SGA, the matter shall be referred to the Union.

CHAPTER IV THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Composition

16.The General Assembly of the Union shall consist of the following voting members:—

- (a) **two representatives of each SGA**, being an equal number of representatives from each affiliate unit, nominated by the SGA by a writing signed by both its President and its Secretary (or by the office bearers holding the corresponding offices by whatever name called); of the two representatives so nominated, one shall preferably be a woman; All SGA members shall have a right to attend a General Assembly irrespective of their rights as a voting or a non voting SGA member of the IGU and
- (b) **four Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit**, of whom two shall be male and two shall be female, elected in accordance with Clause 30.

Provided that where the President and the Secretary of an SGA nominate different persons, the persons nominated by the President shall be deemed to be duly nominated.

Provided further that no other category of persons shall be included in the General Assembly unless required by the International Charters and Statutes, in which event the Council shall include such category by amendment of these Rules made in accordance with Clause 119.

Powers and functions

17. The powers, functions and duties of the General Assembly shall be—

- (a) to carry into effect and promote the aims and objects of the Union;
- (b) to hold elections to the Elected Posts on the Council at least once every four years, in accordance with Chapter IX;
- (c) to receive, consider and adopt the Annual Report of the Honorary Secretary, the audited statement of accounts for the previous financial year and the budget estimates of the Union, and to appoint the auditors and fix their remuneration;
- (d) to consider any decision of the Council requiring approval or ratification;
- (e) to hold and control the funds and other properties of the Union;
- (f) to consider and pass a motion of no-confidence under Clause 47; and
- (g) to amend the Memorandum of Association and these Rules in accordance with Clause 119.

Annual General Meeting

18. An Annual General Meeting of the Union shall be convened and held at least once in every year, at such place and on such date and at such time as the Council shall determine. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to receive, consider and pass the accounts of the Union made up to the 31st day of March immediately preceding; to conduct the elections to the Council as and when due; to appoint the auditors and fix their remuneration; to discuss the general work and policy of the Union; and to transact any other business with the permission of the Chair. Elections shall generally take place at the Annual General Meeting and, where so required, may also take place at a specially convened general meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting

19. All meetings of the General Assembly other than the Annual General Meeting shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings, and may be convened at any time by the Council for the transaction of any business. The Council shall, upon a requisition in writing made by not less than ten voting members stating the object of the meeting, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting within twenty-one days from the date of receipt of the requisition at the Office, failing which the requisitionists may themselves convene the meeting.

Notice

20. Not less than twenty-one days' notice, specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in the case of an Extraordinary General Meeting, the nature of the business to be transacted, shall be given to every voting member and shall be published on the website of the Union. Any meeting may be held on shorter notice if more than one-half of the voting members so agree in writing. The inadvertent omission to give notice to, or the non-receipt of notice by, any member shall not invalidate any resolution passed or proceeding had at such meeting.

Quorum

21. Ten voting members, present in person or by their duly nominated representatives, shall form a quorum at any General Meeting. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the following week at the same time and place; and if at such

adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour, the members present shall constitute a quorum.

Voting

22. Voting at meetings of the General Assembly shall be regulated as follows:—

- (a) At an election to the Council — (i) every individual Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit in the General Assembly shall have one vote; and (ii) every SGA member of the IGU not being an associate SGA member of the Union shall have a maximum of two votes, to be exercised by its two separate individual representatives.
- (c) Voting at an election shall always be by secret ballot. Voting on any other question shall be by show of hands, unless not less than one-fourth of the members present demand a ballot.
- (d) Voting members must vote in person where required. **Voting by proxy or by post shall not be permitted** at any meeting of the General Assembly, including at any election.
- (e) Unless otherwise provided in these Rules, a question at a meeting of the General Assembly shall be decided by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting, a quorum being present. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his own vote, save in the case of an election.

Proceedings and minutes

23. The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at every General Meeting; and in the absence of both, the members present shall elect one of their number to be the Chairperson of the meeting. The minutes of every General Meeting shall be prepared and signed by the person who presided, by the Honorary Secretary and by the Director General, and an attendance sheet signed by the members present shall be annexed thereto. The minutes shall be circulated to all voting members and published on the website of the Union within fifteen days of the meeting.

CHAPTER V

SPORTSPERSONS OF OUTSTANDING MERIT

Call for applications

24. The Union shall call for applications from persons seeking to be considered as Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit. The call for applications shall specify the General Eligibility Criteria and the Tiered Eligibility Criteria set out in Schedule I to these Rules (which sets out the criteria adopted by the Union for the sport of golf), and shall be published on the website of the Union and communicated to every SGA. The call for applications shall be issued in sufficient time to permit the SOM Rosters to be prepared within the time limited by Clause 28.
25. Any person seeking to submit an application shall satisfy the General Eligibility Criteria, and shall submit the application to the Union **within sixty days from the issuance of the call for applications**, in such form and containing such information as the Council may specify.

The SOM Rosters

26. On consideration of the applications received, the Union shall prepare a **roster of male Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit** and a **roster of female Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit** in respect of the sport of golf, **at least ninety days prior to the expiry of the Term of the incumbent Council**. Each such roster shall include **ten times** the number of male, or female, Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit, as the case may be, in the General Assembly; and accordingly, so long as the General Assembly comprises two male and two female Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit, each roster shall contain **twenty names**.
27. In populating each SOM Roster the Union shall adhere to the following procedure:—
- (a) in the first instance, all applicants satisfying the General Eligibility Criteria and Tier 1 of the Tiered Eligibility Criteria shall be included;
 - (b) if the roster cannot thereby be populated to the threshold in Clause 28, applicants satisfying the General Eligibility Criteria and the Tier immediately following the Tier last considered shall be included, sequentially, until the threshold is met;

(c)where the number of applicants qualifying under a particular Tier exceeds the threshold, the **eldest applicant by age shall receive preference and priority** in selection from among the candidates qualifying under that Tier; and

(d)where the Union is unable to populate a roster to the threshold by the steps in clauses (a) to (c), it may issue a further call for applications, or frame and adopt additional tiered criteria for that roster based on the principles set out in Schedule I to these Rules, which shall be approved by the Council and published on the website of the Union.

The SOM Rosters, as finalised, shall be **published on the official website of the Union** . Every person appearing on an SOM Roster shall be a Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit in respect of the Union for the purposes of these Rules.

Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit in the General Assembly

28. Four Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit : two male and two female shall be members of the General Assembly with voting rights. They shall be **elected by secret ballot by the persons on the relevant SOM Roster from amongst themselves**, the male Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit on the male SOM Roster electing the two male members, and the female Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit on the female SOM Roster electing the two female members. Such election shall be conducted by the Electoral Officer and shall be completed **prior to the expiry of the Term of the incumbent Council**.

Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit on the Council

29. Two Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit : one male and one female shall be members of the Council. Those posts are **Elected Posts**, and shall be filled by election in accordance with Chapter IX of these Rules, the post of male Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit and the post of female Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit being separate categories for the purposes of the poll, the count and the declaration of results. Only a person on the relevant SOM Roster shall be eligible to contest such a post.

CHAPTER VI

THE ATHLETES COMMITTEE

Constitution

30. The Union shall have an **Athletes Committee** (also styled the Athletes Commission), **consisting of elected members**.. The Athletes Committee shall consist of **six members**, of whom not less than three shall be women, elected by and from amongst the athlete electorate defined in Clause 33. The constitution, operation and procedures of the Athletes Committee are provided in this Chapter, and shall additionally be in compliance with such guidelines as may be specified in the International Charters and Statutes, and, in the absence thereof, with such guidelines as the Council may adopt.

Athlete electorate and eligibility

31. For every election to the Athletes Committee, the Electoral Officer shall prepare a roll of the athlete electorate, which shall consist of golfers who is an Indian citizen and who, within the period of **eight years** immediately preceding the date of the call for the election—

(a) has represented India in golf at a competitive international event or match sanctioned by the International Golf Federation, the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation, the International Olympic Committee or the Olympic Council of Asia; or

(b) has participated in a National Championship of the Union or in the golf event of the National Games.

Every person on the roll of the athlete electorate who is an Indian citizen, has attained eighteen years of age, is not disqualified under Clause 43, and is not a member of the Council or an office bearer of an SGA or a Golf Club, shall be eligible to contest an election to the Athletes Committee.

Election

32. The election to the Athletes Committee shall be conducted **by secret ballot, by the Electoral Officer appointed under Clause 55**, in accordance with Chapter IX and Schedule II to these Rules. The election shall be completed before, and the results declared not later than the date of, the election to the Council, so that the

representatives of the Athletes Committee may take office with the Council. Voting may, if the Electoral Officer so directs, be conducted by a secure electronic ballot which preserves the secrecy of the vote, having regard to the geographical dispersal of the athlete electorate.

Representatives on the Council

33. The Athletes Committee shall, immediately upon its constitution, **elect two of its members from amongst themselves** to be its representatives on the Council. At least one of the two representatives shall be a woman. The two posts so filled are not Elected Posts. The representatives of the Athletes Committee on the Council shall have full voting rights.

Functions, term and procedure

34. The Athletes Committee shall represent the interests of athletes; shall advise the Council on selection policy and criteria, training, competition calendar, athlete welfare, safe sport, integrity and fair play; shall nominate athlete representatives to such other Committees of the Union as the Council may determine; and shall have the right to place any matter before the Council through its representatives. The term of the Athletes Committee shall be co-terminous with the Term of the Council. The Athletes Committee shall elect a Chairperson from amongst its members, shall meet not less than twice in each year, shall have a quorum of one-half of its members, and shall record and publish minutes of its meetings on the website of the Union. A casual vacancy shall be filled by the candidate securing the next highest number of votes at the last election, and failing that, by a bye-election conducted in accordance with Clause 34.

CHAPTER VII

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Council to manage the affairs of the Union

35. Save where these Rules expressly provide otherwise, the affairs of the Union shall be under the control and management of the Governing Council, which shall be the Executive Committee of the Union for all purposes.

Composition

36. The Governing Council shall consist of **not more than fifteen members**, comprising

- (a) **Office Bearers (Three), all elected** (i) the President; (ii) the Honorary Secretary; and (iii) the Honorary Treasurer;
- (b) **Elected Members (eight) including a Vice President**, elected by the electoral roll from amongst persons nominated in accordance with Chapter IX, of whom **not less than two shall be women**;
- (c) **Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (two)** one male and one female elected in accordance with Clause 31; and
- (d) **Representatives of the Athletes Committee (two)**, of whom at least one shall be a woman, elected by the Athletes Committee from amongst themselves in accordance with Clause 35.

Provided that not less than four members of the Council shall be women,

Provided further that the Council shall have no ex officio members, and the total strength of the Council shall not in any event exceed fifteen.

37. The Elected Posts on the Council are accordingly the three Office Bearers, the Eight Elected Members and the two Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit thirteen posts in all; and the posts of the two representatives of the Athletes Committee are not Elected Posts.

Term of office

38. The **Term** of the Council, and of every Office Bearer and member thereof, shall be **four years** from the date of assumption of office, or until the next election is held, whichever is earlier. An election to all Elected Posts shall be conducted at least once every four years.

Term limits and cooling-off

39. No person shall continuously hold the position of **President, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer**, whether separately or in combination thereof, for more than **three consecutive Terms**; and such person shall be eligible for election to any such post, or to the Council, only after a **mandatory cooling-off period of one full**

Term,. The other Office Bearers and members of the Council shall be eligible for re-election without any cooling-off period, subject always to Clause 42.

Eligibility

40. A person shall not be qualified to contest for election, or to seek nomination, to the Council unless—

- (a) he is a **citizen of India** who has attained at least **twenty-five years** of age;
- (b) his nomination is duly **proposed and seconded by a voting member of the General Assembly**, being a person on the electoral roll;
- (c) he has not been declared to be of unsound mind;
- (d) he complies with the International Charters and Statutes and these Rules relating to the age and Term of the Council, and in particular **is not more than seventy years of age on the last date of nomination** for the election;
- (e) where he is a government servant, he has obtained the necessary approvals from the Government under which he serves, and produces a No Objection Certificate to that effect with his nomination; and
- (f) he is not in breach of the Rules of Amateur Status as administered by R&A Rules Limited and applied in India by the Union, where he seeks election in a capacity for which amateur status is a requirement of the International Charters and Statutes.

Provided that a person shall not be qualified to contest for election, or to seek nomination, to the post of President, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer unless such person is a Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit, or has previously served as a member for at least one full Term in the Council of the Union, or as the President, the Honorary Secretary or the Honorary Treasurer in an affiliate SGA of the Union..

Disqualifications

41. A person shall be **disqualified** from being a member of the General Assembly or of any Committee of the Union, and shall not be eligible to contest an election to the Council or to the Athletes Committee, if such person—

- (a) is declared insolvent under applicable law;

- (b) is subject to a conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction in India for an offence, followed by a sentence of imprisonment;
- (c) is subject to a ban from holding any such position by an order of the Ethics Commission of the Union;
- (d) is a member of any other National Sports Body other than the National Olympic Committee; or
- (e) has not completed a cooling-off period of one Term after having held the position of President, Secretary General or Treasurer in any other National Sports Body.

Provided that the disqualification in respect of (i) clause (a) shall be for the period of insolvency as applicable; (ii) clause (b) shall be for a period of one full Term of the Council after the completion of such sentence; and (iii) clause (c) shall be for the duration of such ban.

Cessation of office and casual vacancies

42. A member of the Council shall cease to hold office upon death, resignation, the expiry of the Term, the incurring of any disqualification under Clause 43, the loss of the qualification by reference to which he was elected, absence without leave of the Council from three consecutive meetings of the Council, or removal pursuant to a motion of no-confidence under Clause 47. A casual vacancy in an Elected Post shall be filled for the residue of the Term by the Council from amongst the members of the General Assembly, and such filling shall be placed before the General Assembly for ratification at its next meeting; and a casual vacancy in the representation of the Athletes Committee shall be filled in accordance with Clause 36. A casual vacancy shall be so filled as to preserve the minimum representation of women required by Clause 38.

Powers, functions and duties of the Council

43. The powers, functions and duties of the Council shall include—

- (a) to conduct the administration of the Union through the Secretariat for the achievement of its aims and objects;

- (b) to supervise the functioning of the affiliate units, including their elections, and to ensure that they conduct their affairs in accordance with their respective bye-laws, these Rules and the law for the time being in force;
- (c) to prepare and finalise the Annual Calendar of events, training camps and other activities, and to ensure that such events are held;
- (d) to appoint national and international coaches, and to arrange training, including abroad where necessary;
- (e) to appoint the Selection Committee and such other Committees as are required for the formation of teams to represent India;
- (f) to ensure proper discipline and good conduct on the part of the teams, players, officials and support personnel representing India or the Union;
- (g) to cause proper books of account to be kept, and to prepare and place before the Annual General Meeting an audited set of financial statements for the most recent financial year;
- (h) to affiliate, suspend or disaffiliate any SGA or Golf Club, subject to Chapter XV and the International Charters and Statutes;
- (i) to appoint the Arbitration Commission under Clause 86, the Ethics Commission under Clause 71, the Dispute Resolution Committee under Clause 80, and every other Committee and Commission of the Union, and to fill every vacancy therein;
- (j) to frame the Indian Golf Union (Arbitration Commission) Rules and Regulations, the Indian Golf Union (Ethics Commission) Rules and Regulations (which shall include the Code of Ethics), the Safe Sport implementation protocol, the selection criteria, the Athletes Commission Rules and such other rules, regulations, policies and standing orders as are contemplated by these Rules, provided that the same do not conflict with these Rules or the International Charters and Statutes;
- (k) to constitute and appoint any other Committee or Commission for the functioning of the Union, and to delegate to it such of the powers of the Council as it may specify, and to revoke such delegation; and
- (l) to do all other lawful acts as may promote or assist in achieving the aims and objects of the Union.

Proceedings of the Council

44. The Council may meet for the despatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit, including by video-conference or audio-conference, but shall meet not less than four times in every financial year. The President, or any six members of the Council entitled to vote, may convene a meeting by notice in writing addressed to the Honorary Secretary. **Six members** entitled to vote shall form a quorum. A question arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes, and in the case of an equality of votes the person presiding shall have a casting vote. The President shall take the chair; in his absence, the Vice-President; and in the absence of both, the members present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to preside. A resolution in writing circulated to all members of the Council and assented to by a majority of them shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a duly convened meeting, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.

Motion of no-confidence

45. Only the General Assembly, at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting, shall be competent to consider a motion of no-confidence against any Office Bearer or any member of the Council. Such a motion shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of not less than two-thirds of the SGAs; shall specify the grounds; shall reach both the President and the Honorary Secretary of the Union at least twenty-one days before the meeting; and shall be circulated by the movers to all affiliate units at least fifteen clear days before the meeting. The motion shall be validly adopted only if approved by not less than a two-thirds majority of the members of the General Assembly present and voting, being also more than two-thirds of the total voting strength of the General Assembly. The person against whom the motion is moved shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before the vote is taken.

CHAPTER VIII

OFFICE BEARERS AND THE SECRETARIAT

The President

46. The President shall be the **head of the Union** and shall preside over the meetings of the Council and of the General Assembly, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Council.

The Vice-President

47. The Vice-President shall perform such duties as may be delegated by the President, and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President.

The Honorary Secretary

48. The Honorary Secretary shall be the **Secretary General** of the Union and shall be the **head of administration responsible for carrying out all decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly**, . The Honorary Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the General Assembly and of the Council; shall conduct the correspondence of the Union; shall place the Annual Report before the Annual General Meeting; and shall exercise general superintendence over the Secretariat and the Director General.

The Honorary Treasurer

49. The Honorary Treasurer shall be the **custodian of the funds and the accounts of the Union**. The Honorary Treasurer shall collect and receive all money due to the Union and deposit the same in such bank as the Council may approve; shall keep an accurate statement of receipts and expenditure; shall present at each Annual General Meeting a statement of receipts and expenditure; shall report on the finances of the Union at each regular meeting of the Council; and shall prepare the budget in consultation with the President and the Honorary Secretary for the consideration of the Council.

The Secretariat and the Director General

50. The Secretariat shall consist of the Director General and such other officers and staff as the Council may appoint. The Director General shall be the **chief executive officer of the Secretariat**, appointed by the Council on such terms and remuneration as the

Council may determine, and shall discharge the administrative functions of the Union **under the general superintendence and direction of the Honorary Secretary and subject to the control of the Council**. The Council shall determine the duties and authority of each officer and may delegate to the Secretariat such powers as may be necessary. Nothing in this Clause shall derogate from the position of the Honorary Secretary as the head of administration under Clause 50.

CHAPTER IX ELECTIONS

Application of the Election Rules

51. Every election in the Union including the election to the Elected Posts on the Council, the election to the Athletes Committee, and the election of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit to the General Assembly shall be conducted in a fair and transparent manner and in conformity with the International Charters and Statutes. The election rules, timelines and model calendar in Schedule II to these Rules shall be read as forming part of these Rules, and the provisions of this Chapter are supplemental thereto.

Elected Posts

52. The Elected Posts on the Council are those specified in Clause 39. Elections to all Elected Posts shall be conducted at least once every four years.

The Electoral Officer

53. The Council shall, **by resolution**, appoint an Electoral Officer, of ability and integrity having experience of the conduct of elections maintained by the Union for that purpose, for the preparation of the electoral roll and the conduct of the elections to the Council and to the Athletes Committee. Such appointment shall be made **not later than ninety days prior to the expiry of the Term of the incumbent Council**, so that the Electoral Officer may also conduct the election of the Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit to the General Assembly under Clause 30; and the appointment shall in no event be made later than sixty days prior to the expiry of the Term. Where the Charters or Statutes of the International Golf Federation require the appointment of any other person as electoral officer, the Union shall appoint such other person,

and shall record the qualifications and experience of that person in the resolution of appointment.

54. The Electoral Officer shall discharge the functions specified in Schedule II to these Rules; his decision shall be final and binding on all administrative matters relating to any election not covered by these Rules; and the Union shall provide the requisite number of administrative staff specified by him. The Union shall, on the basis of mutual agreement with the Electoral Officer, pay a maximum amount of **rupees five lakhs** as fees, together with a mutually agreed amount for an assistant to such officer, if any or as decided by the Union.

The electoral roll

55. The **draft electoral roll** shall be prepared and released by the Electoral Officer, in consultation with the then current Council, **at least forty-five days prior to the expiry of the Term** of that Council; and the Electoral Officer shall allow **not less than seven days** from the release of the draft electoral roll for the receipt of, and his response to, objections regarding the composition of the final electoral roll. The decision of the Electoral Officer shall be final and binding in respect of the inclusion or non-inclusion of any person on the electoral roll. The electoral roll shall consist only of such voting members of the General Assembly, or their representatives, as are entitled to vote under Clause 24 and are not otherwise disqualified, and shall be in the form prescribed and published by the Electoral Officer.

Notification of the election and the electoral calendar

56. The Council shall, in consultation with the Electoral Officer, **notify the date for the elections at least fifty days prior to the expiry of the Term**. The Council shall call the elections, in consultation with the Electoral Officer, **at least thirty days prior to the expiry of the Term**, and the call for elections shall include the final electoral roll and an invitation for nominations. The Electoral Officer shall conduct the elections in accordance with the model calendar set out in Schedule II to these Rules, and may modify it only for reasons of practical necessity while ensuring that the elections are completed within a maximum period of twenty-one days. The timelines applicable to the Union are consolidated in Schedule II to these Rules.

Nominations, scrutiny and withdrawal

57. A nomination shall be in the form prescribed and published by the Electoral Officer; shall be **proposed and seconded by persons on the electoral roll**; and shall be delivered to the Electoral Officer **in person by the candidate himself** within the deadline specified. No member shall propose or second more than one candidate for the same Elected Post, and if he does so, only the first valid nomination shall be accepted and all other nominations endorsed by him for that post shall be void. No person shall be permitted to withdraw his name as proposer or seconder once the nomination form endorsed by him has been delivered. The Electoral Officer shall scrutinise each nomination, permitting each candidate or his authorised representative to be present and to object in relation to a nomination for the post for which he has himself filed; and shall prepare and publish the draft list of nominations, the list of validly nominated candidates and the final list of contesting candidates. A validly nominated candidate may withdraw his candidature by writing delivered to the Electoral Officer prior to the commencement of the election, and such withdrawal shall be final.

Campaign practices and neutrality

58. Every candidate, voting member and other participant in an election shall comply with this Clause and with Schedule II to these Rules, and shall in addition be subject to the Code of Ethics of the Union. In particular campaigns shall be conducted with dignity and moderation; criticism shall be confined to policies, programmes, past record and work; there shall be no appeal to caste or communal feeling; the promotion of a candidature shall exclude publicity, including through new media or social networks, and no public meeting or gathering may be organised in the process of promoting a candidature; no candidate shall give any present, donation, gift or advantage of whatever nature, directly or indirectly, to a voting member; incumbent members of the Council shall not use their official position, the official transport, media channels or discretionary funds of the Union for the purposes of an election campaign, and shall refrain from making any public declaration in support of a candidate; the voting members shall not announce publicly their intention to vote or not to vote for a candidate; and the Secretariat and staff of the Union shall maintain a strict duty of neutrality at all times.

Polling, counting and declaration

59. Polling, counting and the declaration of results shall be in accordance with Schedule II to these Rules. Where the number of contesting candidates for an Elected Post or category of Elected Post equals the number of posts to be filled, all such candidates shall be deemed to be duly elected unopposed and no poll shall be taken for that post. In every other case a **secret ballot** shall be taken. The results shall be declared by the Electoral Officer at the general meeting and shall be **published on the official website of the Union**. In the case of an equality of votes, the Electoral Officer shall decide between the candidates by lot. The sealed envelopes containing the counted ballot papers shall be retained by the Union at least until the declaration of the results of the next election to the Council, or until the disposal of any legal proceeding relating to the election, whichever is later.

Election disputes

60. Any decision of the Electoral Officer under these Rules shall be final and binding. A complaint or objection regarding the conduct of an election shall be brought to the notice of the Electoral Officer, who may refer any breach of the election rules to the Ethics Commission of the Union for action. A challenge to the conduct or the outcome of an election shall lie only to the Arbitration Commission of the Union under clause (a) of Clause 92, and to no other forum; shall be confined to a violation of the provisions of this Chapter or of Schedule II to these Rules relating to the process of conduct of the election; and shall be preferred within thirty days from the declaration of results and not thereafter.

Failure to hold elections in time

61. If for any reason an election is not held on the due date, the Office Bearers and members elected at the previous election shall continue in office until the election is held and the new Council assumes office; but the Council shall forthwith record the reasons in writing, report the matter to the International Golf Federation, and cause the election to be held at the earliest possible date. Nothing in this Clause shall be construed as extending the Term beyond four years for the purposes of Clause 41.

CHAPTER X

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Power to constitute Committees

62. To assist the Council in formulating or implementing its policies, the Council may from time to time establish or disband any number of Committees, Sub-Committees or Commissions. Save as these Rules otherwise provide, such bodies may make recommendations to the Council on matters within their terms of reference, but shall have no other power except as expressly delegated by the Council.

Standing Committees and Commissions

63. The Union shall have the following Committees and Commissions, in addition to such others as the Council may constitute:—

- (i) the **Athletes Committee** (Chapter VI);
- (ii) the Ethics Commission (Chapter XI);
- (iii) the **Dispute Resolution Committee** (Chapter XIII);
- (iv) the **Arbitration Commission of the Indian Golf Union** (Chapter XIV);
- (v) the Championship Committee;
- (vi) the Technical, Rules and Amateur Status Committee;
- (vii) the Selection Committee;
- (viii) the National Coaches Selection Committee;
- (ix) the Finance Committee;
- (x) the Ladies Committee;
- (xi) the Juniors and Golf Development Committee;
- (xii) the Greens Committee;
- (xiii) the International Relations Committee;
- (xiv) the National Golf Academy of India Committee; and
- (xv) the Internal Committee constituted under Clause 77.

The Athletes Committee, the Ethics Commission, the Dispute Resolution Committee, the Arbitration Commission and the Internal Committee shall be constituted, and shall operate, exclusively in accordance with the Chapters

and Clauses governing them; and nothing in Clause 64 or Clause 66 shall apply to them so as to derogate from their independence.

Composition and procedure of Committees

64. Save as otherwise provided, each Committee shall comprise a Chairperson and not less than five members. The members shall be nominated by the Council from amongst the General Assembly in consultation with the SGAs, and the Chairperson shall be appointed by the Council from amongst the members of the Council. The Chairperson of a Committee may induct persons who are not members of the Council as invitee members in order to broad-base its functioning; and one woman member nominated by the Ladies Committee shall be invited to every golf-related Committee. The duties and responsibilities of the several Committees shall be laid down by the President and ratified by the Council.

Championship Committee

65. Immediately after each Annual General Meeting the Council shall nominate a Championship Committee to regulate all international, national and zonal golf championships held in India, including the dates and the conditions and rules of play. The Championship Committee shall be responsible for conducting all events of the Union and shall be answerable to the Council. The Council shall be the sole authority for conducting negotiations with any national or international golf federation, association or society, or with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in respect of the participation of representative teams from India in any national or international golfing event.

Selection Committee

66. The Council shall each year appoint a Selection Committee comprising a Chairperson (who shall be the President), the Honorary Secretary (who shall be its convener), the National Coach, two members of the Council, and two eminent retired sportspersons or recipients of the Arjuna Award, of whom at least one shall be a woman. The Selection Committee shall hold office for one year, and its Chairperson may continue for a maximum of four years, provided that if the Chairperson ceases to be a member of the Council he shall immediately vacate office. The Union shall frame and publish on its website objective selection criteria, formulated in

consultation with the Athletes Committee, before the commencement of each selection cycle; and selection shall be made strictly in accordance with the criteria so published. Only citizens of India are eligible to be selected for an Indian national team.

Ladies Committee, the National Golf Academy of India and coaches

67. The Chairperson of the Ladies Committee shall be one of the women members of the Council elected under clause (b) of Clause 38. The National Golf Academy of India shall function as a Committee of the Union under rules framed by the Council, its primary object being the training and certification of golf coaches, players, academics and officials. The National Coach and the Assistant Coaches shall be selected by the National Coaches Selection Committee, of which the President shall be the Chairperson, in accordance with the applicable guidelines.

Affiliation with R&A Rules Limited and other bodies

68. The Union is an affiliate of good standing of R&A Rules Limited, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland, and recognises the United States Golf Association for programmes such as course rating. The Union shall align with the International Golf Federation and with the appropriate governing bodies of golf in all relevant matters, and shall remain a member of good standing of the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation and of the European Disabled Golf Association.

CHAPTER XI

CODE OF ETHICS AND THE ETHICS COMMISSION

Constitution of the Ethics Commission

69. The Union shall have an Ethics Commission, being independent of the Council. It shall be appointed by the Council and shall consist of not less than three and not more than seven members, of whom at least one shall be a woman, including—
- (a) a Chairperson, who shall be a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India or of a High Court, or an advocate of not less than fifteen years' standing;
 - (b) a member who is a person of eminence in public life, sports administration or the profession of chartered accountancy; and
 - (c) a member who is a former sportsperson who has represented India.

No person who is a member of the Council, an Office Bearer, an employee of the Union, or an office bearer of an SGA or of a Golf Club shall be appointed to, or continue as a member of, the Ethics Commission. The term of the Ethics Commission shall be four years, and its members shall continue in office notwithstanding the expiry of the Term of the Council which appointed them. A member may be removed before the expiry of his term only on a ground specified in Clause 87, and by the procedure there provided, which shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Code of Ethics

70.The Ethics Commission shall formulate, and the Council shall adopt, a **Code of Ethics** for the members of the Council and of the other Committees, the employees, staff, sponsors, coaches, athletes, officials, members, affiliates and such other relevant persons. The Code of Ethics shall form part of the Indian Golf Union (Ethics Commission) Rules and Regulations framed by the Council, and shall—

- (a) establish minimum standards for the ethical and appropriate conduct of the persons specified above;
- (b) be framed in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the International Sports Bodies, including the IOC Code of Ethics and the Code of Ethics of the International Golf Federation, and in consonance with the applicable laws in India; and
- (c) provide measures for the protection of vulnerable persons against abuse by a person in a position of trust, responsibility or authority.

Explanation. — For the purposes of clause (c), a "person in a position of trust" means any person who exercises authority, control or influence over another person, or a person on whom another person is dependent, and who is connected or associated with the affairs of the Union.

Operation and procedure

71.The Ethics Commission shall be governed by the Indian Golf Union (Ethics Commission) Rules and Regulations framed by the Council under Clause 72, and shall regulate its own procedure consistently with those Rules and with the principles of natural justice, and shall in particular provide for — the receipt of complaints and the taking

of cognisance on its own motion; a preliminary examination; the framing and communication of charges; the furnishing of the material relied upon; a reasonable opportunity of being heard, including the right to be represented; the recording of evidence; and a reasoned decision in writing communicated to the parties. It shall meet as often as necessary, shall have a quorum of two members including the Chairperson, and shall ordinarily conclude a proceeding within ninety days of taking cognisance. It shall submit an annual report of its work to the General Assembly.

Sanctions and appeal

72.The Ethics Commission may, upon a finding of breach, issue observations, a warning, a censure, a fine, a suspension from participation or from office for a specified period, or a ban, for a specified period, from holding any office in the Union or in any affiliate unit; and where the breach relates to an election, may act under Clause 62. An appeal from a decision of the Ethics Commission shall lie to the Arbitration Commission of the Union under Clause 92, and to no other forum, and shall be preferred within twenty-one days of the communication of the decision; and the decision of the Arbitration Commission in such appeal shall be final and binding upon the parties and upon every organ of the Union.

CHAPTER XII

SAFE SPORT, WELFARE AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

Safe Sports Policy

73.The Union shall comply with, and shall implement across all its activities, events, operations and proceedings and those of its affiliate units, a comprehensive Safe Sports Policy framed and adopted by the Council, which shall include provisions to ensure the protection and safety of women and minor athletes and such other vulnerable persons as the Council may determine, and which shall have regard to any national policy on safe sport for the time being in force. The Council shall appoint a Safe Sport Officer, shall publish the Safe Sports Policy on the website of the Union, shall require every SGA and Golf Club to adopt and implement it, and shall take specific measures for the protection and safety of women and minor athletes at every event and training camp of the Union.

Internal grievance redressal mechanism

74. The Union shall establish and maintain an **internal grievance redressal mechanism** to address the grievances raised by athletes, coaches and other individuals associated with the Union in a fair, timely and transparent manner. The Council shall designate a Grievance Officer, whose name and contact particulars shall be published on the website of the Union. A grievance shall be acknowledged within seven days and disposed of by a reasoned communication **within thirty days** of its receipt. A person aggrieved by the disposal of a grievance may refer the matter to the Dispute Resolution Committee under Chapter XIII.

Internal Committee under the law relating to sexual harassment at the workplace

75. The Union shall constitute an **Internal Committee** in accordance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, and shall require every SGA and Golf Club to do likewise. A complaint falling within that Act shall be dealt with exclusively in accordance with that Act, and shall not be entertained by the Dispute Resolution Committee or by the Arbitration Commission.

Athlete welfare and inclusion

76. The Union shall frame rules for the redressal of players' grievances, including an appeal process; shall evolve a system by which players approaching retirement may opt for specialised training to become coaches, referees and technical officials; shall formulate an Inclusion Strategy for players with disability for their increased participation in golf; and shall take such measures for the protection of the rights and welfare of athletes and support personnel as the Council may determine or as may be required by the law for the time being in force.

Exhaustion of internal remedies

77. The mechanisms provided by Chapters XI to XIV constitute the internal remedies available within the Union; and every person bound by these Rules shall exhaust those remedies before approaching any other forum, save where recourse to them would result in unnecessary delay or unreasonable prejudice.

CHAPTER XIII

THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Constitution

78. The Union shall have a Dispute Resolution Committee. It shall be appointed by the Council and shall consist of **three members**, of whom at least one shall be a woman, namely a Chairperson who is a retired Judge of a High Court or an advocate of not less than ten years' standing, and two members possessing legal, sports-administration or golf expertise. No member of the Council, Office Bearer or employee of the Union, and no office bearer of an SGA or Golf Club, shall be appointed to or continue on the Dispute Resolution Committee. Its term shall be four years, and its members shall continue in office notwithstanding the expiry of the Term of the Council which appointed them; and a member may be removed before the expiry of his term only on a ground specified in Clause 87 and by the procedure there provided, which shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Jurisdiction

79. The Dispute Resolution Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction at first instance over every dispute arising out of or in connection with the bye-laws, the activities or the decisions of the Union, other than a matter excluded by Clause 93. Every such dispute shall, in the first instance, be referred to the Dispute Resolution Committee.

Operation and procedure

80. The Dispute Resolution Committee shall regulate its own procedure, consistently with the principles of natural justice, and shall provide for the filing of a reference, notice to the parties, an opportunity to file replies and documents, a hearing (which may be held by video-conference), and a reasoned decision in writing. It may in an appropriate case attempt conciliation between the parties, and shall record any settlement so arrived at. It shall have a quorum of two members including the Chairperson, and shall ordinarily dispose of a reference **within sixty days** of its filing, or within such shorter period as the urgency of the matter requires. Its decisions and the reasons therefor shall be communicated to the parties and, in an appropriate case, published in redacted form on the website of the Union.

Appeal to the Arbitration Commission

- 81. An appeal from a decision of the Dispute Resolution Committee shall lie to the Arbitration Commission** under Chapter XIV, and shall be preferred within twenty-one days of the communication of the decision. No proceeding shall lie before the Arbitration Commission in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Dispute Resolution Committee until that Committee has decided it, or has failed to decide it within the period specified in Clause 82, whichever is earlier.

CHAPTER XIV
INSTITUTIONAL ARBITRATION — THE ARBITRATION COMMISSION OF
THE INDIAN GOLF UNION

Establishment and institutional character

82. The Union shall have its **own Arbitration Commission**, to be styled the **Arbitration Commission of the Indian Golf Union**, which shall be the **arbitral institution of the Union**. Arbitration under these Rules shall be **institutional arbitration and not ad hoc arbitration**. Accordingly—

(a) the Arbitration Commission shall not itself adjudicate a reference; it shall **administer** the arbitration, register references, constitute Arbitral Tribunals from its Panel of Arbitrators, decide challenges to arbitrators, fix and administer fees, supervise compliance with the Arbitration Rules and maintain the record;

(b) every reference shall be heard and determined by an **Arbitral Tribunal** constituted by the Arbitration Commission under Clause 94 and administered under the Arbitration Rules; and

(c) the Arbitration Commission shall maintain a registry, a seal and a secretariat separate from the Secretariat of the Union, and shall publish its Panel of Arbitrators, its Arbitration Rules and its schedule of fees on a page of the website of the Union maintained for that purpose.

83. For the avoidance of doubt, and consistently with Clause 71 and Clause 80 the Union having its own Ethics Commission and its own Dispute Resolution Committee the arbitral forum of the Union is the **Arbitration Commission of the Indian Golf Union, and not the Arbitration Commission of the Indian Olympic Association**; and the Indian Olympic Association shall have no arbitral authority or jurisdiction in respect of the disputes of the Union.

Appointment by the Council

84. The **Arbitration Commission shall be appointed by the Council**, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the total strength of the Council, and shall consist of a Chairperson and not less than two and not more than four other members, of whom **at least one shall be a woman**. A person shall not be appointed unless he

is a person of ability, integrity and standing who possesses special knowledge or practical experience in law, arbitration, sports law, sports governance or sports administration; and—

- (a) the **Chairperson** shall be a person who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court of India or of a High Court, or an advocate of not less than twenty years' standing;
- (b) at least one other member shall be an advocate of not less than fifteen years' standing having experience of arbitration, or a person who is or has been an arbitrator on the list of the Court of Arbitration for Sport; and
- (c) at least one other member shall be a person who has represented India in golf, or who has held office as the President, Secretary General or Treasurer of a National Sports Body or of an affiliate unit thereof, and who has no subsisting association with the Union.

The appointment shall be recorded in a resolution stating the reasons, shall be reported to the General Assembly at its next meeting, and shall be published on the website of the Union together with the particulars of the qualifications and experience of each member appointed.

Term, removal and vacancies

85. The term of office of the Chairperson and of every member of the Arbitration Commission shall be **four years** from the date of appointment, and they shall be eligible for reappointment for one further term. **They shall continue in office notwithstanding the expiry of the Term of the Council which appointed them,** until their successors are appointed. The Council shall remove a member of the Arbitration Commission who—

- (a) has been adjudged an insolvent;
- (b) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Council, involves moral turpitude;
- (c) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a member;
- (d) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a member; or

- (e) Or in the interest of the Union render his continuation in office prejudicial to the interests of the Union or of the sport;

A member who ceases to hold office shall nevertheless continue to act for the purpose of completing any function of the Arbitration Commission in relation to a reference which is part-heard before an Arbitral Tribunal constituted by it. A vacancy shall be filled by the Council within sixty days, in the manner provided in Clause 86, and the person so appointed shall hold office for a full term.

Independence and conflict of interest

86. The Arbitration Commission shall discharge its functions **independently of the Council**, and neither the Council nor any Office Bearer or officer of the Union shall interfere with, or seek to influence, the Arbitration Commission or any Arbitral Tribunal in the discharge of its functions or in relation to any reference. No person shall be appointed to, or continue as a member of, the Arbitration Commission who is a member of the Council or of any other Committee of the Union, an Office Bearer, an employee or a retained professional adviser of the Union, an office bearer of an SGA or of a Golf Club, or an office bearer of any other National Sports Body. Every member of the Arbitration Commission, and every arbitrator on the Panel, shall make and keep current a written disclosure in the form prescribed by the law relating to arbitration in India of any circumstance likely to give rise to justifiable doubts as to his independence or impartiality; and the grounds specified by that law as rendering a person ineligible to be appointed as an arbitrator shall apply.

Panel of Arbitrators

87. The Arbitration Commission shall prepare and maintain a **Panel of Arbitrators** consisting of not less than five persons, of whom not less than one-third shall be women, **No member of the Arbitration Commission shall be appointed as an arbitrator in a reference administered by it.**

Arbitration Rules

88. The Council shall, on the recommendation of the Arbitration Commission, frame the Indian Golf Union (Arbitration Commission) Rules and Regulations, which shall be the Arbitration Rules of the Union. The Arbitration Rules shall provide for — the

form and registration of a request for arbitration; the answer and counterclaim; the constitution and challenge of Arbitral Tribunals; consolidation and joinder; interim and emergency relief; an expedited procedure; the conduct of hearings, including by video-conference; the making, scrutiny, correction and communication of awards; costs, fees and deposits; confidentiality; and the publication of awards in redacted form. Until the Arbitration Rules are framed, the Arbitration Commission shall administer references in accordance with this Chapter and, so far as may be, the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

Agreement to arbitrate

89. Every SGA, Golf Club, Affiliate, Associate and Recognised Body; every member of the General Assembly, of the Council and of every Committee of the Union; and every player, coach, referee, rules official, technical official, team manager, support personnel, employee, agent, sponsor, commercial partner and contractor of the Union and every other person who accepts affiliation, membership, recognition, accreditation, registration or selection from the Union, or who participates in an event, activity or programme of the Union or of an affiliate unit —shall by that fact be deemed to have **agreed in writing to submit to arbitration before the Arbitration Commission**, under the Arbitration Rules, every dispute falling within Clause 92; and such agreement shall constitute an arbitration agreement in writing within the meaning of the law relating to arbitration in India, so far as that law applies. The Union shall include a clause to this effect in every certificate of affiliation, entry form, accreditation, selection letter, employment contract and commercial contract; but the omission to do so shall not affect the operation of this Clause.

Jurisdiction

90. Subject to Clause 93, the Arbitration Commission shall administer, and an Arbitral Tribunal constituted by it shall hear and determine—
- (a) **by way of appeal** — an appeal from a decision of the Dispute Resolution Committee under Clause 83; an appeal from a decision of the Ethics Commission under Clause 74; an appeal from an order of suspension or disaffiliation under Chapter XV; and a challenge to the conduct or the outcome of an election under Clause 62;

- (b) **by way of original reference** — a dispute between the Union and an SGA, Golf Club, Affiliate, Associate or Recognised Body; a dispute between two or more affiliate units referred to the Union; a dispute between the Union and a player, coach, official, support personnel, employee, sponsor, commercial partner or contractor; a dispute arising out of a contract to which the Union is a party which provides for reference to the Arbitration Commission; and any dispute referred by the Council, by the General Assembly, or by the consent of the parties; and
- (c) a challenge to a decision on selection to an Indian national team or on eligibility to compete, on the ground that the published selection criteria or the applicable regulations were not applied, or were applied in bad faith, arbitrarily or without a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

An Arbitral Tribunal constituted under this Chapter shall rule on its own jurisdiction, including on any objection to the existence or validity of the arbitration agreement.

Excluded matters

91. Neither the Arbitration Commission nor an Arbitral Tribunal shall have jurisdiction in respect of—

- (a) a doping-related dispute, in respect of which the disciplinary and appeal panels constituted under the anti-doping law for the time being in force have exclusive jurisdiction;
- (b) a challenge to the conduct or the outcome of an election brought otherwise than in accordance with Clause 62 and clause (a) of Clause 92;
- (c) a dispute or conflict arising during the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games, or any other similar event organised by an International Federation, which shall be dealt with in accordance with the applicable Charter, Statute or event regulation;
- (d) a matter within the exclusive jurisdiction of the International Golf Federation, of any other International Sports Body, or of the Court of Arbitration for Sport;
- (e) a decision of a referee or rules official taken on the field of play in the application of the Rules of Golf or the conditions of a competition, save where such decision is shown to be vitiated by fraud, bad faith or arbitrariness;

- (f) a matter within the jurisdiction of the Dispute Resolution Committee which that Committee has not yet decided, subject to Clause 83;
- (g) a complaint under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013; and
- (h) a matter which by law is not capable of settlement by arbitration.

Constitution of Arbitral Tribunals

92. Upon the registration of a request, the Arbitration Commission shall constitute an Arbitral Tribunal from the Panel of Arbitrators, as follows:—

- (a) in an appeal under clause (a) of Clause 92, and in a reference under clause (c) of Clause 92, a **sole arbitrator** appointed by the Arbitration Commission;
- (b) in an original reference under clause (b) of Clause 92 in which there is an amount in dispute, or which does not admit of valuation, a **sole arbitrator** appointed by the Arbitration Commission; and

The Arbitration Commission may, on the application of a party or of its own motion and for reasons recorded in writing, direct that a reference under clause (a) or clause (b) be heard by three arbitrators, having regard to its complexity, importance or value. In making every appointment the Arbitration Commission shall have due regard to the qualifications required of the arbitrator by the agreement of the parties, to the nature of the dispute, and to the independence and impartiality of the arbitrator. A challenge to an arbitrator shall be made within fourteen days of the constitution of the Tribunal, or of the date on which the party becomes aware of the circumstance relied upon, and shall be decided by the Arbitration Commission, whose decision shall be final.

Seat, venue and language

93. The **seat** of arbitration shall be **New Delhi**, India, and the arbitration shall be governed by the law of India. The Arbitral Tribunal may, for reasons of convenience and after consulting the parties, hold hearings at any other place in India or by video-conference, without any change in the seat. The **language** of the arbitration shall be English.

Interim and emergency relief

94. An Arbitral Tribunal may, at the request of a party, grant such interim measure of protection as it considers necessary, and every party shall comply with such measure. Where a party requires urgent relief before the constitution of an Arbitral Tribunal, the Chairperson of the Arbitration Commission shall, appoint an **emergency arbitrator** from the Panel, who shall decide the application **within seven days**, after giving the parties the shortest reasonable opportunity of being heard; and the order of the emergency arbitrator shall bind the parties until it is confirmed, varied or vacated by the Arbitral Tribunal when constituted. This Clause shall apply in particular to a dispute concerning selection, eligibility or accreditation in respect of which an entry deadline is imminent.

Procedure and timelines

95. An Arbitral Tribunal shall conduct the reference in accordance with the Arbitration Rules and the principles of natural justice; shall treat the parties with equality and give each a reasonable opportunity of presenting its case; and shall make a **reasoned award in writing**. An award shall be made **within six months** of the constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal, which period the Arbitration Commission may extend, for reasons recorded in writing, by not more than three months. In an appeal under clause (a) of Clause 92, and in a reference under clause (c) of Clause 92, the award shall be made **within thirty days** of the constitution of the Tribunal, or within such shorter period as the urgency of the matter requires.

Awards and enforcement

96. An award of an Arbitral Tribunal shall be **final and binding** on the parties and on the Union, subject only to an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport under Clause 101. The Union, its affiliate units and every person referred to in Clause 91 shall give effect to an award without delay. An award made in a reference to which the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 applies shall be enforceable in accordance with that Act; and an award made in the exercise of the appellate jurisdiction conferred by these bye-laws shall bind the parties as a matter of contract and shall be given effect to by the organs of the Union. The Arbitration Commission shall communicate the award to the parties, shall maintain the record of every reference,

and shall report annually to the General Assembly on the references registered and disposed of.

Costs, fees and access

97. The Council shall, on the recommendation of the Arbitration Commission, frame a schedule of the fees and expenses of the Arbitration Commission and of arbitrators, and of the deposits payable by the parties, which shall be published on the website of the Union. The Arbitral Tribunal shall determine by whom, and in what proportion, the costs of a reference shall be borne. **No athlete shall be denied access to the Arbitration Commission by reason of want of means;** and accordingly the Arbitration Commission may waive or reduce the fees and deposits payable by an athlete, and may maintain a panel of counsel willing to appear *pro bono* for an athlete who is unable to engage counsel.

Confidentiality

98. The arbitral proceedings and the award shall be confidential, save to the extent that disclosure is necessary for the implementation or enforcement of the award, or is required by law or by the International Charters and Statutes. The Arbitration Commission may publish an award in redacted form for the guidance of the members of the Union.

Appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport

99. **An appeal from an award of an Arbitral Tribunal constituted by the Arbitration Commission shall lie to the Court of Arbitration for Sport** at Lausanne, Switzerland, in accordance with the Statutes of the International Golf Federation and the Olympic Charter, and shall be preferred within twenty-one days of the communication of the award, or within such other period as the Statutes of the International Golf Federation, the Olympic Charter or the Code of Sports-related Arbitration may prescribe. The decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport shall be final and binding upon the parties. This Clause gives effect to the International Charters and Statutes, to which the Union is subject.

Exclusivity of the internal dispute resolution machinery of the *courts*

100. The internal dispute resolution machinery of the Union — comprising the Dispute Resolution Committee, the Ethics Commission, the Arbitration Commission and the appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport — is the exclusive machinery for the resolution of disputes within the Union. Every person bound by Clause 91 shall submit every dispute falling within Clause 92 to that machinery and to no other forum, and shall not institute or prosecute any proceeding in respect of such a dispute before any other forum, save for such recourse against an award as the law relating to arbitration in India permits: provided that nothing in these Rules shall affect or purport to affect the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India or of any High Court under the Constitution of India—

CHAPTER XV

DISCIPLINE — SUSPENSION AND DISAFFILIATION OF AFFILIATE UNITS

Grounds

101. The Council may suspend or disaffiliate an SGA, a Golf Club, an Affiliate, an Associate or a Recognised Body where such body—

- (a) fails to comply with Clause 10, Clause 12 or Clause 13, including a failure to furnish the information and documents required for its registration, elections, governing body, legal status, Complaine and recognition of Golf Clubs, or to communicate a change therein within thirty days;
- (b) contravenes these Rules, the bye-laws of the Union, the International Charters and Statutes, the law for the time being in force, or any direction or guideline lawfully issued by the Union;
- (c) has failed to hold elections for its Executive Committee, or has committed gross irregularities in the election procedure thereof;
- (d) has failed to publish its annual audited accounts;
- (e) has misused, misapplied or misappropriated any public funds, or any funds of the Union;
- (f) has been reported by the Registrar of Societies or the Registrar of Companies for gross irregularities in its internal functioning, or has had its name removed from the register;

- (g)has ceased to hold, or has had suspended or cancelled, any registration or recognition required of it under these Rules or under the law for the time being in force;
- (h)has failed to pay its subscription within the time allowed by Clause 16; or
- (i)has conducted itself in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the sport of golf or of the Union, or has brought the sport or the Union into disrepute.

Show cause and hearing

- 102.** No order of suspension or disaffiliation shall be made unless the body concerned has been given a **notice to show cause** stating the grounds and the material relied upon, allowing not less than twenty-one days to reply, and a **reasonable opportunity of being heard**; and the order shall be in writing, shall record the reasons, and shall be communicated to the body concerned and, in the case of a Golf Club, to the SGA concerned. The order shall be made by a resolution of the Council passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

Provided that where the Council is satisfied, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that the interests of the sport require immediate action, it may suspend a body with immediate effect pending inquiry, and shall in that event issue the notice to show cause forthwith and afford a hearing within that period; and on the expiry of that period the interim suspension shall lapse unless a final order has been made.

Effect of suspension

- 103.** Upon suspension, and for so long as it subsists, the body concerned shall cease to be entitled to nominate representatives to, or to vote at, any meeting of the General Assembly or at any election of the Union; to have its nominees considered for any Committee of the Union; to host or conduct any event of the Union; to nominate players to any team, trial or camp of the Union; or to receive any grant or disbursement from the Union. The Council shall communicate every order of suspension or disaffiliation to the International Golf Federation and to such authority as the law for the time being in force may require. A suspended or disaffiliated body shall not use the name "India", or the name of any State or district in India, nor

conduct any sports trial, tournament or event as a body affiliated to the Union, nor claim to be affiliated to the Union or to be its State Golf Association

Disaffiliation and interim administration

104. An order of disaffiliation shall be placed before the General Assembly at its next meeting for ratification by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting, and shall stand vacated if not so ratified. Where an SGA stands suspended or disaffiliated, or has failed to hold its elections within the time required by these Rules, the Council may constitute an ad hoc administrative body in respect of that SGA, consisting of such persons as the Council may determine, of whom at least one shall be a sportsperson who has represented that State in golf; and the ad hoc administrative body shall administer the SGA so as to secure compliance with these Rules, and shall cause fresh elections to be held at the earliest possible date and in any event within six months of its constitution. Without prejudice to the foregoing, the Council may, pending the restoration of a suspended SGA, make interim arrangements for the administration of golf in the State concerned through the Zonal Committee of the Zone in which that State falls.

Appeal

105. An appeal from an order of suspension or disaffiliation made under this Chapter shall lie to the **Arbitration Commission** under clause (a) of Clause 92, and shall be preferred within twenty-one days of the communication of the order. The pendency of an appeal shall not by itself operate to stay the order appealed against, unless the Arbitral Tribunal or the emergency arbitrator so directs.

CHAPTER XVI

FINANCE, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Powers in relation to property and funds

106. The Union shall have power to do all such lawful acts and things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of its objects, including to raise funds by way of annual subscriptions and special levies; to apply the funds of the Union in carrying out its objects; to acquire, hold, sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise deal with movable and immovable property; to invest, lend or otherwise deal with its funds and to vary

investments; to borrow or raise money upon such terms as it thinks fit; and to enter into contracts, agreements and arrangements conducive to its objects. All property of the Union, whether movable or immovable, shall be deemed to be vested in the Council, which shall have power to deal with the same in furtherance of the objects of the Union.

Accounts, audit and banking

- 107.** All bank accounts, deposits and investments shall be opened, kept and made in the name of the Union. The Council shall cause true accounts to be kept of all sums received and expended and of the assets and liabilities of the Union. The accounts shall be audited once in each year, in respect of the financial year ending on the 31st day of March, by chartered accountants appointed by the General Assembly. The subscriptions received from corporate members shall be retained in a separate fund styled the "Special Golf Development Fund", the corpus of which shall not be utilised and the income from which shall be applied towards the objects of the Union. All cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes and similar instruments shall be drawn, accepted or made on behalf of the Union by such person or persons as the Council may by resolution nominate.

Annual audited accounts and disclosure

- 108.** The Union shall **publish its annual audited accounts** on its website within thirty days of their adoption by the General Assembly, and shall furnish them to such authority as the law for the time being in force may require; and a failure by an affiliate unit to publish its annual audited accounts shall be a ground for action under Chapter XV. The Union shall require every affiliate unit to publish its annual audited accounts likewise.

Public funds and the Right to Information Act

- 109.** Being a recognised sports organisation, the Union is eligible to receive grants and other financial assistance from the Central Government and from State Governments. The Union, in receipt of such grants or assistance, shall to the extent required by law be a public authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005 with respect to the utilisation of such grants or assistance. The Director General shall be the Central Public Information Officer and the President shall be the First Appellate Authority.

The Union shall maintain separate accounts of all public funds received and shall place a utilisation certificate before the General Assembly each year.

Filing with the Registrar

- 110.** The Council shall cause to be filed once in every year, on or before the fourteenth day succeeding the day on which the Annual General Meeting of the Union is held, a list with the Registrar appointed under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 of the names, addresses and occupations of the members of the Council.

CHAPTER XVII

USE OF NATIONAL NAMES AND INSIGNIA

- 111.** The Union, desirous of using the word "India", "Indian" or "National", or any national insignia or symbol, in any language in its registered name, operating name, logo or otherwise in its affairs, shall obtain such no-objection certificate or approval from the Central Government for such use as the law for the time being in force may require. The Union shall not use the name "India", or the name of any State or district in India, nor conduct any sports trial, tournament or event, upon the suspension or cancellation of its recognition.
- 112.** No person or group of persons, either individually or collectively, shall represent or be allowed to represent India, or any State or district in India, in any sports trial, tournament or event of golf, without an authorisation by the Union or its affiliate unit.

CHAPTER XVIII

ZONES

- 113.** For the purpose of clubbing the SGAs into Zones, and for the purpose of player representation in categorised events of the Union, the members of the Union shall be divided into four Zones, as follows:—
- (a) **The East Zone** — Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- (b) **The West Zone** — Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- (c) **The North Zone** — Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- (d) **The South Zone** — Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, the Union Territory of Puducherry and Lakshadweep.

The Council shall constitute a Zonal Committee for each Zone, and may by resolution reassign a State to another Zone, or create an additional Zone, having regard to the number of affiliated Golf Clubs and to administrative convenience.

CHAPTER XIX MISCELLANEOUS

Long-term development plans

- 114.** The Council shall prepare Long-Term Development Plans on a four-year cycle, containing a statement of specific and measurable objectives in respect of the development of sportspersons, coaching, officiating, participation and broad-basing, the development of clubs, the domestic tournament schedule, participation in international tournaments, the hosting of major events, professionalisation of management, financial management, marketing and promotion, sports sciences, facilities and equipment, and special projects, together with a detailed annual plan and a detailed statement of the costs involved and the projected income.

Measures for promotion and development; data and privacy

- 115.** The Union shall give effect to such measures for the promotion and development of sports as the Council may adopt or as may be prescribed by law, including the guiding principles for the conduct of elections, the promotion of the welfare and interests of sportspersons, **the protection of the data and privacy of sportspersons**, and the appropriate use of technology and analytics in the context of sport. The Union shall process the personal data of sportspersons in accordance with applicable law, and shall publish a privacy policy on its website.

Guidelines and directions of the Ministry

116. The Union shall abide by the applicable guidelines of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and by the lawful directions of the Central Government: provided that such guidelines and directions shall operate subject to the primacy of the International Charters and Statutes of the International Golf Federation and to the autonomy of the Union, as provided in Clause 6 and Clause 6A of these Rules.

Amendment of the Memorandum and these Rules

117. Notice of any alteration or addition to the Memorandum of Association or to these Rules may be proposed by the Council, or by not less than one-third of the voting members of the General Assembly, and shall be given to the Honorary Secretary in writing not less than 21 days before the General Meeting at which it is to be moved. Full particulars of every such alteration or addition shall be sent to the members with the notice convening the meeting and shall be published on the website of the Union not less than twenty-one days before the meeting. An alteration or addition shall be carried only if a majority of **not less than two-thirds of the votes cast** by the members entitled to vote and present in person is cast in its favour. Every such alteration or addition shall be consistent with the International Charters and Statutes and with the law for the time being in force; shall, where required, be submitted to the International Golf Federation and to such authority as the law may require; and shall be filed with the Registrar of Societies in accordance with law.

Notices

118. A notice may be given by the Union to any member by electronic mail to the address last notified by the member, or by registered post or courier to its address, or by publication on the website of the Union; and where a notice is served by post it shall be deemed to have been served at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post, and in proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter was properly addressed, prepaid and posted. Every member shall notify the Union of an address for electronic mail and shall keep it current.

Protection of action taken in good faith

119. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any member of the Council, any Office Bearer, any member of any Committee or of the Arbitration

Commission, or any officer or employee of the Union, for anything which is done or is intended to be done in good faith under these Rules or the rules and regulations framed thereunder.

Residuary and overriding provision

120.Any matter not expressly provided for in these Rules shall be governed by the International Charters and Statutes and by the law for the time being in force. In the event of any inconsistency between these Rules and the International Charters and Statutes, or any mandatory provision of law, the International Charters and Statutes or that provision of law, as the case may be, shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency; and these Rules shall be deemed to be modified to that extent, and the Council shall place the necessary amendment before the General Assembly at its next meeting.

CHAPTER XX
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

121.These Rules are adopted in supersession of the previous Rules and Regulations of the Union, so as to conform the governance of the Union to the International Charters and Statutes and to the law for the time being in force. Where the law for the time being in force permits an application for the relaxation of any requirement, the Council may make such application as it considers necessary

122.The Council in office on the date on which these Rules come into force shall continue until the expiry of its Term, and shall, within thirty days of that date, initiate the steps required by Chapter V and Chapter IX so that the next election is conducted in accordance with these Rules. The first Arbitration Commission, the first Ethics Commission and the first Dispute Resolution Committee shall be appointed by that Council **within ninety days** of the coming into force of these Rules.

123.Every proceeding pending before any Committee of the Union on the date on which these Rules come into force shall stand transferred to the corresponding Committee constituted under these Rules and shall be heard and determined from the stage at which it stood, or heard afresh if that Committee, for reasons recorded in writing, so directs.

- 124.** The Rules and Regulations of the Indian Golf Union as amended and in force immediately before the coming into force of these Rules are hereby superseded; but nothing in this Clause shall affect anything duly done or suffered, any right, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred, or any proceeding instituted, thereunder.

SCHEDULE I

(See Clauses 26 to 31)

SPORTSPERSONS OF OUTSTANDING MERIT ELIGIBILITY RULES

as applied to the designated sport of Golf

This Schedule sets out the eligibility criteria adopted by the Union for the recognition of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit in the sport of golf. The Council may revise this Schedule so as to conform to the International Charters and Statutes and to the law for the time being in force.

1. General Eligibility Criteria

Any person seeking to be designated as a Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit of the Union shall be—

- (a)an Indian citizen;
- (b)of sound mind;
- (c)not less than twenty-five years of age; and
- (d)retired from active sports, and shall not have participated in any competitive sport event which leads to selection to represent a district, State or India **for at least one year prior to the date of application** under Clause 27.

2. Tiered Eligibility Criteria

An applicant seeking inclusion in an SOM Roster of the Union shall have achieved the milestone in the relevant Tier **in the designated sport of golf only, while representing India** — except in the case of Tier 10, where the applicant shall have represented a particular State. For the purposes of this Schedule—

- (a)references to the "Summer Olympic Games", "Winter Olympic Games", "Commonwealth Games", "Asian Games" and "Asian Winter Games" apply *mutatis mutandis* to the "Summer Paralympic Games", "Winter Paralympic Games", "Para events that form a part of the Commonwealth Games", "Para-Asian Games" and the "Winter edition of the Para-Asian Games (if any)"; and

(b)"sanctioned" refers to any competitive international event or match organised under the auspices, approval and sanctioning power of a relevant International Sports Body, and in relation to golf means an event or match sanctioned by the International Golf Federation, the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation, R&A Rules Limited, the International Olympic Committee or the Olympic Council of Asia.

Tier 1

Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal in the Summer Olympic Games or the Winter Olympic Games; provided that a medal, if rescinded, shall not be considered for the qualification of having achieved outstanding merit under this Tier.

Tier 2

Applicants who have participated in two or more editions of the Summer Olympic Games or the Winter Olympic Games.

Tier 3

Applicants who have participated in at least one edition of the Summer Olympic Games or the Winter Olympic Games.

Tier 4

Applicants who have been awarded a Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award or an Arjuna Award by the Central Government; provided that an award, if rescinded or returned, shall not be considered for the qualification of having achieved outstanding merit under this Tier.

Tier 5

Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal, or an equivalent placing, in a World Championship or an equivalent competition; provided that a medal, if rescinded, shall not be considered under this Tier.

Tier 6

Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal, or an equivalent placing, in the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games or the Asian Winter Games; provided that a medal, if rescinded, shall not be considered under this Tier.

Tier 7

Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal, or an equivalent placing, in an Asian Championship or an equivalent competition; provided that a medal, if rescinded, shall not be considered under this Tier.

Tier 8

Applicants who have participated in at least five sanctioned international events (golf being an individual sport), or in at least five sanctioned international matches where the applicant competed in a team event.

Tier 9

Applicants who have participated in at least one sanctioned international event (golf being an individual sport), or in at least one sanctioned international match where the applicant competed in a team event.

Tier 10

Applicants who have won at least one of any gold, silver or bronze medal, or an equivalent placing, in the National Games or a National Championship or an equivalent competition, while representing a particular State.

3. Application to golf

For the purpose of applying the Tiered Eligibility Criteria to golf, the Council shall, before each call for applications, notify on the website of the Union a list identifying the competitions which, for the time being, constitute a "World Championship or equivalent competition" for Tier 5, an "Asian Championship or equivalent competition" for Tier 7, and a "National Championship or equivalent competition" for Tier 10. The list so notified shall be settled in consultation with the International Golf Federation and the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation, and shall have regard in particular to—

- (a)for **Tier 5** — the World Amateur Team Championships conducted by the International Golf Federation (the Eisenhower Trophy and the Espirito Santo Trophy), and such other competition as is recognised by the International Golf Federation as a world championship in golf;
- (b)for **Tier 7** — the amateur championships and team championships of the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation, including the Asia-Pacific Amateur

Championship, the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship and the Asia-Pacific amateur team championships; and

(c)for **Tier 10** — the National Championships conducted by the Union and the golf event of the National Games.

Where the Union is unable to populate an SOM Roster to the threshold in Clause 28 by the application of Tiers 1 to 10 — having regard in particular to the requirement in paragraph 1(d) that an applicant be retired from active sports — the Union shall proceed under clause (d) of Clause 29 by issuing a further call for applications, or by framing and adopting additional tiered criteria based on the principles set out in this Schedule, which shall be approved by the Council and published on the website of the Union before the applications are considered.

SCHEDULE II

(See Clauses 53 to 63)

ELECTION TIMELINES AND MODEL CALENDAR

This Schedule sets out the election timelines and the model calendar adopted by the Union. It applies to every election in the Union and is to be read as forming part of these Rules.

Part 1 — Timelines

Provision	Event	Timeline
Clause 27	Submission of application to be a Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit	Within sixty days of the call for applications
Clause 28	Preparation of the male and female SOM Rosters (each of twenty names)	At least ninety days prior to the expiry of the Term of the incumbent Council
Clause 55	Appointment of the Electoral Officer by resolution of the Council	Not later than ninety days prior to the expiry of the Term
Clause 30	Election of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit to the General Assembly	At least seventy-five days prior to the expiry of the Term
Clause 55	Appointment of an Electoral Officer — outer limit	At least sixty days prior to the expiry of the Term
Clause 58	Notification of the election date	At least fifty days prior to the expiry of the Term
Clause 57	Preparation and release of the draft electoral roll	At least forty-five days prior to the expiry of the Term
Clause 57	Period for objections to the draft electoral roll	Not less than seven days from the release of the draft roll
Clause 58	Call for elections, release of the final electoral roll and invitation for nominations	At least thirty days prior to the expiry of the Term

Part 2 — Model calendar (maximum twenty-one days)

Event	Day
Call for elections, invitation for nominations and release of the final electoral roll	Day 1

Event	Day
Filing of nominations	Day 8 to Day 10
Announcement of the draft list of nominations received	Day 10
Objections to the draft list of nominated candidates	Day 11 to Day 14
Scrutiny and disposal of objections to the draft list of nominated candidates	Day 15 to Day 16
Final list of nominated candidates	Day 17
Withdrawal of nominations	Day 18
Final list of contesting candidates	Day 19
Polling and announcement of results	Day 21

The Electoral Officer may, only for reasons of practical necessity, modify the model calendar, while ensuring that the elections are completed within a maximum period of twenty-one days. The Electoral Officer shall prescribe and publish the forms to be used for the electoral roll, nominations, the lists of nominations, validly nominated candidates and contesting candidates, the notice of withdrawal, the ballot paper, the result of the counting of votes, and the declaration of results respectively.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, being members of the Governing Council of the Indian Golf Union, do hereby certify that this Memorandum of Association and these Rules and Regulations, as amended and consolidated, are a true and correct copy of the Memorandum of Association and the Rules and Regulations of the Indian Golf Union, and constitute the bye-laws of the Union.

Adopted at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Indian Golf Union held on _____, 2026.

President

Name: _____

Honorary Secretary

Name: _____

Place: _____

Date: _____, 2026