

PART B: BMGA RULES OF MINIGOLF SPORT

Introduction:

- The rules that follow are an abridged version of the laws of the game as laid down by the World Minigolf sport Federation (WMF) and set out in the WMF's Handbook.
- The BMGA's rules for the playing of minigolf in general follow those laid down by the WMF. Where a difference exists, this is identified in the text. Players should be aware that in all competitions held outside Great Britain, in instances where BMGA rules conflict with WMF rules, the WMF rules are definitive.

SECTION ONE: PLAYING EQUIPMENT

- 1 The game is played with minigolf or golf clubs and minigolf or golf balls.
 - 1.1 Clubs
 - 1.1.1 Minigolf clubs or golf clubs can be used, but players may not use any club other than a putter.
 - 1.1.2 The area of the club face must not exceed 40 square centimetres. The club must have no sights or gadgets for aiming. This includes any kind of construction mounted on the club head or shaft that exceeds its width. Notches on the club head are however permissible.
 - 1.2 Balls
 - 1.2.1 Minigolf and golf balls of any material are permissible. The diameter of the ball must be between 37mm and 43mm.
 - 1.2.2 Balls must not bounce more than 85cm when dropped on concrete from a height of 1m at 25 degrees Celsius.
 - 1.2.3 Players using professional minigolf balls may only use those that have been licensed by the WMF.

SECTION TWO: THE INTERNATIONAL RULES OF MINIGOLF

1 General

Minigolf is played with a ball and club on a minigolf course. The aim is to get the ball from the teeing-off point to the target hole in as few strokes as possible.

2 Choice of ball and stroke

2.1 A player is allowed only one ball per hole. It is permitted to change ball used in a practice shot. It is permitted to change club.

2.2 A ball which has become so badly damaged during play that in the opinion of a referee it can no longer be played properly, or that has been lost on a run (or swiped by an angry seagull), can be replaced by another ball. The next stroke should be taken from the last resting place of the lost or damaged ball. No penalty will be incurred.

2.3 A ball in play can only be moved by a stroke of the club. It can only be played from a position of rest and can only be touched by the club at the moment of a stroke.

2.4 Before every stroke the ball should be addressed with the club held in both hands (players disabled in the arm excepted).

2.5 A stroke is played when a player, in readiness to play, brings the club into contact with the ball, thereby setting it in motion.

Explanation:

"Set in motion" means when the ball leaves its resting position.

2.6 Unintentional contact with the ball in the absence of clear readiness to play does not count as a stroke.

3 Readiness to play

A player is deemed ready to play when, in addressing the ball, he begins his back-swing. Any movement of the club back and forward after this counts as readiness to play.

4 Scoring

Each stroke counts as a point. If the ball still has not been holed after six strokes, another point is added. The highest possible score at one hole is seven (with the exception of penalty strokes).

5 Order of play and the playing of a hole

5.1 Unless stipulated by the tournament organisers (e.g., in the event of a 'shotgun start'), the holes should always be played in the order 1 to 18.

5.2 A hole can only be played once the previous player has played the hole and left the playing area.

5.3 Within a group, the same playing order should be maintained at every hole. (Exception: This does not apply in play-offs, where the order of play alternates after every hole.) A new hole can only be played once the last player of the group concerned has finished the previous hole.

6 Teeing-off and placement of the ball

6.1 The first shot at every hole is to be played from the teeing-off area. On WMF standardised courses, subsequent shots must also be played from the teeing-off area if the ball has not correctly passed the border line. In all other cases, the ball is to be played from where it has come to rest, except in the following situations:

6.1.1 On WMF standardised courses, when a ball in play leaves the playing area it is played from the point where it left the playing area. No penalty is incurred.

6.1.2 In BMGA organised competitions other than those held on a WMF standardised course type, when a ball leaves the playing area and comes to rest 'out of bounds', it is played from the point where it left the playing area. No penalty is incurred. There may be occasions where this rule does not apply, such as where a player may gain an

unfair advantage by deliberately playing a ball out of bounds. Exceptions are listed in Section 3, course specific rules.

- 6.1.3 Explanation: "Playing Area" is defined as the area within the perimeter boundary of the hole, excluding any area or 'island' that is defined (e.g., by means of having its own raised border) as being 'out of bounds'. A ball that comes to rest on the perimeter boundary may be played from where it lies.
- 6.1.4 When a ball comes to rest in a ditch, bunker or water hazard, it may either be played from where it lies (rule 6.1.3 regarding repositioning applies) or, at a penalty of one stroke, it may be replaced on the green (in any direction) within 20 cm of the bunker/water hazard.
- 6.1.5 When a ball comes to rest alongside or near to the perimeter boundary of a run, or to an obstacle, plateau or immovable obstruction, it can be repositioned (only by hand) up to 20 cm or 8 inches from it at no penalty. (As a guide, 8 inches is a little less than the width of the short end of a standard BMGA event score-card.) Repositioning is to allow the player a proper back-swing and/or follow-through. A ball must not be repositioned other than at 90 degrees to the obstruction in order to provide a direct line of sight to the hole if one did not exist from where the ball originally came to rest). See Figure 1 for an illustration. On WMF standard courses, the ball may be moved to the painted repositioning line.
- 6.1.6 When a ball in play comes to rest within an obstacle construction such that it is unplayable it must be repositioned outside the obstacle in the direction from which it came.
- 6.1.7 When a ball in play becomes trapped inside a pipe (e.g., hole number 5 at White Rock Gardens, Hastings), it may be repositioned by hand up to 20cm (or 8 inches) and at 90 degrees from the exit of that pipe. No penalty will be incurred.
- 6.1.8 When a ball in play rolls back to the teeing off area and comes to rest, it can be played from any point within the teeing off area. The original stroke is counted in the player's score.
- 6.1.9 On WMF standard courses, when a ball in play rolls back over a marked border line and comes to rest, it should be played from the point at which it first crossed the border line.

6.2 If a hole is playable only from the teeing-off area (e.g., volcano hole on *eternit* course), every stroke must be played from there.

6.3 The ball must be positioned such that its point of contact with the ground touches the teeing-off marking or area.

7 Obstacles

Obstacles must be passed in the prescribed way. (On courses with border lines, an obstacle is deemed to have been passed when a ball touches or has touched the border line with its point of contact.)

8 A holed ball

A ball is deemed to have been holed only when it comes to rest in the hole.

Explanation: A ball which has rebounded out of the hole does not constitute "a holed ball".

9 End of play

The playing of a hole finishes either when the ball is holed or when six strokes have already been recorded, in observance of rule 4.

10 The path of the ball

10.1 A player may only touch a ball in play lying within the playing area under the supervision of his fellow players or the referee (with the exception of a ball repositioned in accordance with the rules). If the ball must be picked up for cleaning, its position should be marked.

- 10.2 Each player is responsible for the cleanliness of the playing area. Players are permitted to move chance hindrances such as leaves or insects from the path of their ball.
- 10.3 The course of a ball in play must not be influenced intentionally either by the player or another person after the stroke has been played (except for wind shielding from outside the playing area).
- 10.4 If the path of a ball in play is subject to outside influence (apart from the weather), a referee can (on request) order that the stroke be retaken, providing the player does not thereby gain an unfair advantage or disadvantage.
- 10.5 If, through outside influence (apart from the weather), a ball in play is moved having already come to rest, it must be repositioned at that point where it first came to rest.
- 10.6 If, through the influence of the weather, a ball in play is moved having already come to rest, it may be repositioned only if it has been previously marked and only at that point.

11 Penalties

Penalties for breaking the rules of the game are listed in Section 8.

SECTION THREE: SYSTEM-SPECIFIC AND COURSE-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

1 "Eternit" courses

- 1.1 The edges of each run may only be touched with the toe-end of the shoe, with the heels on the ground. Crossing or jumping over the runs is not allowed because of the risk of injury or of dirtying the playing area. Straddling a run in order to make a stroke is allowed. In this case the run can be crossed from whichever direction necessary.
- 1.2 Stepping on the run to retrieve the ball is not permitted at the "Volcano" or the "Double wedge" holes. Stepping onto the run with one foot to retrieve the ball at the "Ski-jump" hole is permitted, as is loosening of the sand at the "Double wedge" hole.

2 "Betong" courses

- 2.1 Any golf club (i.e., not necessarily a putter) may be used on the "Hammer Cage" hole.

3 White Rock Gardens, Hastings

- 3.1 Where a green incorporates a small incline (lip) alongside the raised perimeter boundary, a ball may be repositioned (only by hand) up to 20 cm or 8 inches from the bottom of that incline, only so as to allow the player a proper back-swing.
- 3.2 Hole 4: A ball that comes to rest in the rockery at the far end of the run should be replaced on the green, at the nearest point, at no penalty to the player.
- 3.3 Hole 15 (Bridge over trouble water): The prescribed path to the green is either over the bridge with the ball in contact with the ground at the apex of the bridge, or via the stream and the pipe from the mezzanine green to the lower green. Any shot where the player is deemed by a referee to have hit the ball in the air deliberately to avoid the bridge and/or stream will constitute a foul stroke. The shot must be retaken, with the original shot counted in the player's score.

4 Sandbanks Crazy Golf, Poole

Hole 16 (Vesuvius): A ball that comes to rest in the crater at the summit of the volcano will be deemed to have been holed (even if it has not entered the cup).

5 Broomfield Park Adventure Golf

For the purposes of Section 2, Rule 6.1.1., there are no "low" perimeter borders at Broomfield Park.

6 Four Ashes Golf Centre, Dorridge

Hole 10 (Waves): A ball that comes to rest on the crest of either wave or in the hollow between the waves should be repositioned in the teeing off area and the next stroke should be played from there.

SECTION FOUR: REGULATIONS FOR TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS

Tournament participants must comply with the general rules of minigolf sport, as well as with the following regulations:

- 1 BMGA members may participate only in those minigolf tournaments that are held on courses that have been licensed by the WMF or by the relevant national minigolf association. In the UK, this does not apply to existing courses (i.e., those completed before 1 January, 2006) until 1 January, 2007.
- 2 Instructions given by tournament organisers or by referees must be followed immediately.
- 3 Every player participating in a tournament should carry a working pen or pencil for scorekeeping.
- 4 Any observed course defects must be reported to the tournament organisers or head referee before the tournament begins. If this does not happen, the facilities are considered to be acceptable for the tournament.
- 5 General practice time should end 10 minutes before the beginning of the competition.
- 6 At the beginning of each round, each group of players is allowed a 3 minute period of practice (playing-in time) at the first hole they play. Each player within the group, if they choose to practice, should only play a single stroke in turn (from the tee), and practice can continue until the official(s) signal that the round will begin. Where a shotgun start is implemented, this 3 minute period will only begin once all groups have received their scorecards, after which all groups will be sent to their start holes simultaneously
- 7 As regards scoring, section 6 must be observed.
- 8 The scorekeeper is obliged to watch the player for whom he/she is keeping score very carefully during play.
- 9 Any violation of the regulations must be reported to a referee or tournament official.
- 10 A player's attention must be drawn to the fact if he/she is about to play in a manner that constitutes an infringement of the rules (e.g. wrong positioning of the ball). After the stroke has been played, neither the scorekeeper nor the observing fellow-player may complain.
- 11 Unless the tournament referee has decided otherwise, the stipulated order of play amongst playing groups and moreover amongst members of the same group must be adhered to.
- 12 A playing group must wait at the run they have just completed until the next run becomes free.
- 13 Only one playing group may wait at any run.
- 14 In the case of disagreements about the interpretation of rules, a referee must be consulted immediately. Discussion amongst players is not permitted.
- 15 Every player must be ready to start play on a run as soon as the player in front has correctly passed the border line.
- 16 Unless otherwise announced by the tournament organisers prior to an event, players have 30 seconds to play each shot. (For the first shot, the time begins when the previous player has left the playing area.) Delaying playing a shot over 30 seconds (e.g., because of gusting wind, loudspeaker announcements or other noise) is not allowed. Players witnessed by a referee to be exceeding the time limit repeatedly (i.e., more than twice in any competition) *or* excessively (i.e., by more than 15 seconds) may be penalised according to the rules in section 8. (Exception: At tournaments that are included in the WMF's sport calendar, WMF rules regarding time limits apply.)
- 17 In the case of groups of only two players, the time limit for the first stroke begins when the scorekeeper has written down the results.
- 18 A group of players must move on to the next hole as quickly as possible.
- 19 Groups should leave the last hole immediately after completing their round. Scorecards should be submitted to the tournament organisers as soon as possible.
- 20 When a ball is in play, only the player whose ball it is may step on the run.

- 21 During a tournament, practice strokes and rolling of balls on runs are strictly forbidden. (Exception: a practice stroke is allowed on a player's first hole in accordance with Rule 5.)
- 22 No objects may be put on the playing surface, perimeter boundaries or obstacles during a tournament.
- 23 It is not permitted to make any alterations to the runs. Neither is it permitted for players to make any markings on or near the runs with writing implements, clubs or other objects before or during the tournament.
- 24 The use or carrying of playing aids (e.g. spirit levels, radio equipment, or trained squirrels) is forbidden for all players and coaches. Hole diagrams may however be used.
- 25 The lending of clubs and balls is allowed provided that the tournament is not disturbed by it.
- 26 Players must not be impeded in any way during a tournament. When a player addresses his ball in preparation to take a shot, other tournament participants and spectators nearby must remain quiet. It is also forbidden to take photographs with a flash, or to stand such that your shadow falls on the intended path of the ball.
- 27 A player may only take a short break and leave his group with the permission of a referee.
- 28 A general interruption of the tournament (e.g., because of rain or escaped lion) can be ordered by the head referee or lead organiser and must be observed. The tournament is continued only when the head referee or lead organiser determines it.
- 29 During interruptions in a tournament, a player whose round was interrupted must notify the tournament organisers if he wishes to leave the site (unless there is a lion in close proximity, in which case this rule may be disregarded).
- 30 Smoking is forbidden on the course throughout the competition.
- 31 It is forbidden to consume or to be in possession of alcohol or drugs during the practice and playing hours of any tournament, in the vicinity of the course.
- 32 Mobile phones must be switched off during tournaments.
- 33 The decisions of referees and/or tournament organisers should be accepted without argument. Written appeals to the head referee can be submitted up to 10 minutes after the end of the round of the playing group concerned. Verbal appeals will not be heard. **(NOTE – NEED TO CONSULT WITH WMF ON THIS, SO AS TO STANDARDISE BMGA RULES WITH WMF)**
- 34 A player can only pull out of a tournament after informing the head referee or tournament organiser and if he has convincing reasons for doing so.
- 35 Unsporting behaviour is not allowed. Examples of unsporting behaviour include throwing away a club in annoyance, deliberately miss-hitting a shot, disturbing a player during play, kicking any part of the course or failing to comply with the decisions of a referee or the tournament organisers pending any appeal.

SECTION FIVE: SAFETY

1. Players must at all times exercise due care, responsibility and caution as not to injure themselves or other persons.
2. For safety reasons, spectators and other players (including the scorer) in a group must stand at least 2 metres or 6½ feet away from the player making his/her shot.
3. Players must not perform any act of a reckless or dangerous nature. The following are examples of acts that may be considered to be of a reckless or dangerous nature:
 - 3.1. Making a full golf swing or raising the club above shoulder-height in an uncontrolled way
 - 3.2. Throwing of clubs or balls
 - 3.3. Intentionally hitting obstacles with clubs; or otherwise intentionally causing damage to the course or surrounding property
 - 3.4. Inappropriate or loutish behaviour (e.g., pushing people near a run)
4. When a player is addressing the ball in *readiness to play*, or in the process of playing a shot, all other players in the group (including the scorer), players from other groups in close proximity to or walking past the player in question, and all spectators must remain stationary until the player in question has completed his/her shot.
5. Should any player have occasion to consider another player's action reckless or dangerous, he or she should seek the judgement of a referee or the tournament organiser.
6. Players disregarding the above Safety rules risk being disqualified from an event and/or having their membership revoked.

DISCLAIMER: The BMGA accepts no liability for injuries sustained or accidents occurring at or during a BMGA associated tournament or event.

SECTION SIX: SCORE-KEEPING

- 1 Players are not allowed to keep their own scores.
- 2 A player's score is kept by his/her playing partner, or by a scorekeeper appointed by the head referee or the tournament organisers. In a group of more than two players, the last player keeps score for the first, the first for the second and so on.
- 3 Each stroke should be marked as it is played with a Line (|) or slash (/) in the appropriate box. Third and subsequent strokes may be marked with a shaded triangle (▲). Aces should be flagged up by a single straight line (———) drawn across the remaining empty boxes for that hole. (See sample score card at Annex 1.)
- 4 Before a final score for each hole is entered in the scorecard, the scorer should announce it.
- 5 Entries in the scorecard should be carried out immediately after being announced. Great care should be taken that the correct score is entered in the correct place. Special care will be needed when, in the case of a shotgun start, groups do not all begin at the first hole.
- 6 Unless the organisers of the tournament have determined otherwise, it is forbidden for a group of players to have their own non-playing scorekeeper.
- 7 Each player should make sure on submission of his scorecard that the entries have been made correctly, even when a scorekeeper appointed by the tournament organisers has kept the scores.
- 8 Incorrect entries should be crossed out in such a way that they remain legible, and the correct score should be written next to it and initialled by both player and scorer. (See sample score card at Annex 1.)
- 9 In groups of just two players, corrections should be made and initialled by a referee. In larger groups, this is necessary only when there is disagreement between the players. If there is agreement, the correction is made by the scorekeeper and initialled by all members of the group. When a change is made by a referee, the whole group and where applicable the scorekeeper should be consulted as to whether the change is justified.
- 10 Each player is in principle responsible for the correct keeping of his/her score.
- 11 A change can no longer be made if a subsequent score has already been entered for the player concerned.
- 12 Infringements of clauses 1 to 11 may result in penalties for both the player and the scorer. (See section 8.)
- 13 At the end of a round each player is obliged to total or check both his own score for the round and that of his playing partner(s). He should sign for his own. The scorekeeper should also sign the appropriate box on the scorecard. This should be done having already left the last hole free for the next group of players.
- 14 Any player failing to sign for his/her own score may be disqualified from the tournament should it later emerge that the total on his/her card was incorrect.

Explanation of score-keeping:

In a group of three players, player 3 is given the scorecard(s) at the start of the round. Player 1 plays the first hole and player 3, having announced the score, notes it on the card. After entering the score, player 3 hands the scorecard(s) to player 1. Player 1 should check the entry, before noting the score for player 2. Player 2 then receives the scorecard(s), checks his own score and notes the score of player 3. Only when the scorecard has been returned to player 3 can the group progress to the next hole.

SECTION SEVEN: REGULATIONS FOR SCORING AND PLAY-OFFS

- 1 The winner is the player with the lowest total number of strokes, including penalty strokes if applicable.
- 2 In the event of a tie for first, second or third place, or for any other place for which prizemoney is at stake, positions are decided by a sudden death play-off. This begins at hole 1 and will be played on the next holes until there is a difference in the players' scores. The playing order alternates at each hole.
- 3 At BMGA recognised events, podium positions may not be shared. Where tied players do not participate in a play-off, Rule 4 of this section (and if necessary rule 6.2) shall apply.
- 4 Non-appearance at a play-off within five minutes after the start is announced and signalled audibly automatically results in the lower placing.
- 5 At tournaments taking place at more than one course, the play-off must be held at the course on which the last round of the competition was played.
- 6 In the case of a tie for minor placings (i.e., those for which no prizemoney is at stake), players will be separated according to the following criteria:
 - 6.1 The smallest difference between the best and the worst rounds, then between the second best and second worst, etc.

SECTION EIGHT: PENALTIES FOR RULE INFRINGEMENTS (WHOLE SECTION TO BE REVIEWED)

- 1 Members of the Refereeing Committee shall have the authority to penalise players for failure to comply with the rules of the sport, including safety rules and any additional rules laid down for the tournament concerned.
- 2 In the case of unsafe or unsporting behaviour, the penalty shall be disqualification. Depending on the seriousness of the offence, the player concerned may also be disqualified from playing in next BMGA Tour event and/or have their Association membership revoked.
- 3 A player whose mobile phone rings during the course of a tournament will be disqualified from that competition. The disqualification will be commuted to a verbal warning if the player concerned agrees to pay a £5 fine, to be donated to charity.
- 4 A player who picks up his/her ball before holing out (other than to clean it or reposition it in accordance with the rules) will be given a score of 7 shots for that particular hole.
- 5 A player who plays a shot having incorrectly positioned or re-positioned their ball may be required by a member of the Refereeing Committee to re-take their shot, counting the original stroke in their score. In addition, the penalties set out in paragraph 6 will apply.
- 6 For other rule infringements (e.g., slow play; smoking or consumption of alcohol on the course; incorrect score-keeping and excessive loudness), penalties will be as follows:
 - 6.1 If the rule infringement is the player's first offence in a given competition, a verbal warning;
 - 6.2 If the rule infringement is the player's second offence in a given competition, a formal warning (yellow card) and, in addition, a one-shot penalty added to their score;
 - 6.3 If the rule infringement is the player's third offence in a given competition, disqualification (red card).
- 7 In the case of team competitions, disqualified players will be deemed to have taken 7 strokes at each hole of the competition they had still to play.
- 8 Tournament entry fees of disqualified players will not be refunded.
- 9 Members of the Refereeing Committee may, at their discretion, reduce the aforementioned penalties, e.g., in the case of new players who are unfamiliar with the rules.

SECTION NINE: FORMAT OF BMGA COMPETITIONS

- 1 Standard stroke play format should be used at all competitions except where an alternative format has been approved by the Executive Committee and made known to tournament competitors before the event begins. Examples of alternative formats are 'Cup Play' (where previous' rounds' scores are discarded for the final round(s)); 'Knock Out'; 'Match Play' and 'Skins'.
- 2 The British Open International Minigolf Tournament shall be a two-day event, the winner being decided over [90/108] holes of competition (and, where necessary, a sudden-death play-off). All participants shall play [36/54] holes on the first day of the competition. All players posting a [36/54]-hole score equal to or better than a qualifying standard specified in advance by the tournament organisers, or the top 50% of players and ties, whichever number of players is greater, shall qualify to play a further 36 holes on the second day of the competition. Paragraph 10 also applies. After [72/90] holes, the top four players and ties shall qualify for the Super Final (played over 18 holes).
- 3 The British Championship shall be a one-day event, the winner being decided over 54 holes of competition (and, where necessary, a sudden-death play-off). All participants shall play 36 holes. The top 9 players and ties shall qualify to play a further 18 holes. Paragraph 10 also applies. **(This paragraph requires updating.)**
- 4 The format for the World Crazy Golf Championship shall be agreed each year no later than 31 March. Details of the format should be available on request to the BMGA Sports Officer after that date. Special crazy golf rules may apply for all or some of the rounds.
- 5 Other BMGA stroke-play competitions must be played over a minimum of 36 holes.
- 6 Where practicable and provided suitable facilities exist in the UK, at least one BMGA Tour event should be played on a *betong, eternit* or *Swedish felt run* course.
- 7 For the first round of any BMGA Tour competition, players are divided into starting groups of three or, where necessary, two by means of a draw. The Tournament organisers may choose to seed Players for the Draw according to their positions in the BMGA rankings. Where possible, the draw should also be structured so that friends or members of the same family are not placed in the same group.
- 8 Unless otherwise determined by the tournament organisers, for the second (and subsequent) rounds of an event, all players are grouped according to their first round scores. The player with the lowest total score tees off last. Players with the same score are separated in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 7, 5.2.
- 9 Where a tournament is played over more than 36 holes, a cut may be made after 36 holes. Players who fail to make the cut are encouraged to spectate.
- 10 Except in Cup Play competitions, no player who missed the cut may be 'promoted' to take the place of another player who makes the cut but withdraws from the competition.
- 11 Unless otherwise decided by the tournament organiser, a maximum of 54 players may take part in any BMGA Tour event played on a single course. (At events played on two separate 18-hole courses at the same site, a maximum of 108 players may participate.) Where more than the maximum number of players permitted wish to take part in a tournament, the BMGA Sport Rules Committee shall determine allocation of starting places in consultation with the event organisers.
- 12 The BMGA will not officially recognise the results of tournaments or tournament categories in which fewer than four players take part.
- 13 Unless otherwise stated, BMGA Tour events are open to all players, male and female, aged at least 14 years of age on the date of the competition. Exceptions may be granted by the Executive Committee, on a case by case basis, to allow younger players to participate in particular events.
- 14 Players arriving late for any Tournament may forfeit their place in the draw.
- 15 Tournament entry fees will only be refunded in the event that the BMGA is forced to cancel a competition. (Where a Tournament is postponed, players unable to participate on the new date may request return of their entrance fee.)

Participation of Overseas Players and Guest Players

- 16 BMGA Tour events are also open to overseas players. However, prizes at all events other than the British Open, other events included in the WMF calendar and World Crazy Golf Championships

may be reserved for British players. A valid British passport shall be accepted as proof of nationality.

- 17 Non-BMGA members who are based in the UK, or who hold a British passport, may participate as 'guest players' at the discretion of the organisers provided that they have not already appeared as a 'guest player' at another BMGA Tour event held in the same calendar season.
- 18 Non-BMGA members who are based in the UK, or who hold a British passport, and who have already appeared as a 'guest player' at a BMGA Tour event must become members of the BMGA (paying the relevant membership fee) if they wish to play in another BMGA Tour event held in the same calendar year. (Exception: Participants in the British Junior Championship may also take part in one further BMGA Tour event held in the same year without becoming members of the BMGA.)

Novice Category

- 19 At all BMGA Tour events where there is a prize fund of £150 or more, a minimum of £25 of the prize fund, and a maximum of £50, should be ring-fenced for an award to the best-placed 'novice player'¹. This will not apply in the following circumstances:
 - 19.1 At competitions played on WMF-approved standardised course types (i.e., betong, eternit, Swedish Felt run), where all participants may use professional minigolf balls;
 - 19.2 At 'crazy golf' competitions, where all participants are required to use only a standard golf ball or course ball.

¹ A player (excluding an overseas player who is a member of another country's national minigolf association) who is taking part in his/her first, second or third BMGA Tour event (excluding the British Junior Championship and any other competitions expressly excluded by a decision of the Executive Committee) and who uses only a standard golf or course minigolf ball.

SECTION TEN: RULES FOR MINIGOLF CLUBS

- 1 All Minigolf Clubs that wish to affiliate to the BMGA must have a President/Chairperson and a Club Captain. It is allowed for the President/Chairperson to act as Club Captain. The names of these officials, who must be full BMGA members, must be notified to the BMGA Executive Committee.
- 2 The Club President/Chairperson will be responsible for ensuring that his/her club complies with the BMGA's Rules for Minigolf Clubs.
- 3 The Club Captain will be responsible for:
 - 3.1 Selecting players to play for the club at representative matches;
 - 3.2 Ensuring that the results of all ranking matches (Invitational or Open) organised by the club are forwarded to the BMGA Executive Committee within 14 days of the match being played.
- 4 Presidents of Minigolf Clubs must, on request, forward a list of their current members to the BMGA Executive Committee.
- 5 Members of Minigolf Clubs may either be players who are fully paid up members of the BMGA or those who are not members of the BMGA, but:
 - 5.1 As regards participation in any competitions organised by the BMGA or counting towards the BMGA rankings, rules 14 and 15 of Section 9, (concerning 'guest' players), will apply.
- 6 All minigolf clubs that have met their obligations to the BMGA may compete in the British Minigolf Club Championships, the format of which will be decided by the BMGA Executive Committee in consultation with captains of participating clubs at least 14 days before the commencement of the competition each year. The winners of the British Minigolf Club Championship will be eligible to play in WMF club championships the following year, although the BMGA will have no responsibility for the cost of their participation.
- 7 Club representative teams should consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of four players. For each round of competition, the three best scores registered by members of each team will be added together to give the team score.
- 8 Second teams may also participate in representative matches.
- 9 Selection procedure for representative matches is the responsibility of the Club Captain.
- 10 All members of the Minigolf Club involved should be informed of the selection process for the representative matches.
- 11 Minigolf Clubs may organise any of the following events:
 - 11.1 Invitational tournaments/matches
 - 11.2 Open tournaments or test matches (which count towards BMGA rankings)
 - 11.3 Friendly matches (which do not count towards BMGA rankings)
- 12 The selection procedure for participation in invitational events is the responsibility of the Club Captain, but as a guide should be based on one or other of the criteria set out in Rule 9. Results of all Invitational events that are regarded by the BMGA Executive Committee as recognised competitions shall count towards the BMGA rankings. Results must be submitted to the BMGA Sports Officer within 14 days of the match (or round(s), in the case of multi-day events) being played. However, only one invitational competition per Minigolf Club can count towards the BMGA rankings, The invitational competition that is to count towards the BMGA rankings must be decided and notified to the BMGA Sport Rules Committee at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the first round of that competition.
- 13 Only players who are full members of the BMGA will be eligible to score ranking points and be included in the BMGA rank list.
- 14 Open (as opposed to Invitational) competitions organised by the Minigolf Club should be open to all BMGA members. Details of the competition (date, time and venue) must be notified to the BMGA Executive Committee at least 14 days before the event, otherwise no ranking points will be awarded. Results must be submitted to the BMGA Sports Officer within 14 days of the match (or round(s), in the case of multi-day events) being played.

- 15 Friendly matches may be organised for Club members only (including associate members), or may be open to other BMGA members. Results will not count towards the BMGA rankings and scores need not be submitted.
- 16 The BMGA shall not be responsible for any cost, organisational, administrative or otherwise, that may be incurred by Minigolf Clubs or Club officials.
- 17 Clubs may sign new players during the course of the season. Players may switch clubs during the close season (01 December – 28/29 February) and be entitled to represent their club with no penalties. Players who move outside of this window will not be able to represent their new club in BMGA competition for 3 months from the date of notification to the Sports Officer of their change. This excludes invitational tournaments. Players who play in more than one Invitational Tournament in a season, may only receive ranking points for the first of those tournaments they play in.
- 18 The Sports Officer shall keep a record of which players are members of which Club. It is the duty of the Club President/Chairperson to inform the BMGA Sports Officer of the names of any players joining their Club. Players shall not be eligible to represent a Club in the Club Championships unless they have been registered with the BMGA Sports Officer as members of that Club at least 24 hours before the relevant match day.
- 19 On joining the BMGA, each new member shall be given a full listing of all British Minigolf Clubs, with their contact details.

SECTION ELEVEN: CALCULATION OF BMGA RANKINGS

1. Players earn points for the British rankings at the British Championship, British Open (if a separate event), British Masters, BMGA Players' Championship, English Open and World Crazy Golf Championship.
2. Players may also earn ranking points at other *recognised competitions*, provided that:
 - 2.1. The competition is played in accordance with BMGA or WMF rules.
 - 2.2. A minimum of four BMGA players participate in the competition, at least two of whom must be in the top fifteen of the British rankings prior to the start of the competition.
3. The winner of the British Championship, the best British player at the British Open (if played as a completely separate event) and the winner of the World Crazy Golf Championship⁴ will each receive 1000 ranking points.
4. The winner of other *recognised competitions*², excluding Invitational Tournaments and British Club Championship, will receive a number of points representative of the strength of the players participating in that competition. For this purpose, a quotient is ascribed to each player in the top fifteen of the *published* national rank list current at the start of the competition, as follows:

Rank	Quotient
1	100
2	90
3	80
4	70
5	60
6	50
7	45
8	40
9	35
10	30
11	25
12	20
13	15
14	10
15	5

5. Players ranked outside the top fifteen are ascribed a quotient of zero.
6. The number of points awarded to the winner of a given *recognised competition* will be the sum of the quotients of all the players participating in that competition. For example, if the players ranked 1st, 2nd, 14th and 16th compete in a competition, the number of points awarded to the winner of that event will be 200 (i.e., 100+90+10+0). Quotients of any players who enter the competition but withdraw prior to completing the prescribed minimum number of rounds shall not be taken into account in determining the number of ranking points on offer.
7. Notwithstanding (6), 600 ranking points will be awarded to the winner of the English Open and a minimum of 400 ranking points will be awarded to the winners of the British Masters and the BMGA Players' Championship.
8. Other players participating in a competition are awarded ranking points based on their average score per round relative to that of the competition winner, as follows:
 - 8.1. For each player, the average score of the competition winner is deducted from his/her own average score;
 - 8.2. For each player, the result of the computation in (8.1) is multiplied by 100;

² A *recognised competition* is defined as being one that is organised or sanctioned by the BMGA; and in which a minimum of four BMGA members compete.

⁴ Ranking points for the World Crazy Golf Championship will be calculated on scores after completion of minigolf rounds only. Scores for rounds played with crazy golf rules will not count for ranking points.

- 8.3. For each player, the result of the computation in (8.2) is deducted from the number of ranking points awarded to the competition winner to arrive at the number of ranking points awarded to that player.

Example based on 2002 British Championship:

John McIver received 1000 ranking points as competition winner.

John McIver averaged 33.67 shots per round.

Tim Davies, the runner-up, averaged 35.67 shots per round.

Tim Davies therefore received 800 ranking points: $1000(-100*(35.67-33.67))=800$

9. Notwithstanding paragraph 8, all players who participate in a *recognised competition* will receive a minimum of 1 ranking point. Negative points totals cannot be awarded (other than as penalties for rule infringements).
10. Players who make a cut in a tournament automatically receive at least as many ranking points as the best-placed player who failed to make that cut.
11. Players who withdraw from a competition before completing the minimum prescribed number of rounds receive 0 ranking points for that event.
12. Players who withdraw from a competition without playing the prescribed number of rounds will receive no ranking points. Players who make a cut but withdraw from a competition without completing the extra rounds for which they have qualified will receive no ranking points. Prior announcement of early withdrawal from the competition will not have any influence on this.
13. Players who are disqualified from a tournament receive 0 ranking points for that event.
14. Each minigolf club that is affiliated to the BMGA may each year also designate in advance one Invitational Tournament, organised by itself for its members, that will count towards the national rankings. Provided that a minimum of four BMGA members take part in that competition, the winner shall receive 200 ranking points; the runner up shall receive 100 ranking points; and the third-placed player shall receive 50 ranking points. These shall be issued as bonus points, suspended until 1 November in the current season and valid until 31 October of the next. Other participating players shall receive standard 1 ranking point each.
15. In Cup Play competitions, no player may receive more ranking points than the competition winner.
16. A player must have competed in a minimum of two recognised competitions held in the current or previous season in order to be classified in the rankings.
17. Rankings are calculated based on the total number of points that each BMGA member receives in their best four events held in the current season; and in their best two events held in the previous season.
18. Any player who has not participated in a *recognised competition* in the current season will have their ranking points total reduced by 50%. This calculation will only be made after the British Open or British Championship (whichever is held later in the season) has been completed.
19. Players participating in the World or European Minigolf Championships may earn no bonus points other than those awarded for a course record.
20. 50 bonus points will be awarded to the holder (or joint holders) of the record score at each course that has staged a *recognised competition* in either the current or the previous season, except where the course is of a WMF-approved, standardised type as outlined in paragraph 23. If a player equals his/her own course record, he/she does not score additional bonus points.
21. 50 bonus points will be awarded to the holder (or joint holders) for each of the following WMF-approved, standardised course types, provided that a *recognised competition* has been held on a course of that type during either the current or previous season: Betong; Eternit; Swedish Felt Run A-type; Dutch Felt Run.
22. Bonus ranking points will also be awarded to the members of the British Club Championship winning team. Where the British Club Championship is decided as a one day match, 200 points will be awarded to those players who played for the winning team, 100 points will be awarded to the second placed team, and 50 points to the third placed team.

23. The ranking list will be updated after the second *recognised competition* held in each season; and after every subsequent *recognised competition* that is held during that year.
24. Updated ranking lists will be sent to any BMGA member on request. The top fifteen of the ranking list will also, where practicable, be published on the BMGA web-site.

SECTION TWELVE: PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS HELD ABROAD

- 1 All British players wishing to compete in an international minigolf tournament held outside the UK must be in possession of a valid International Playing Licence (IPL).
- 2 The top five male players and the top three female players in the BMGA rankings on the 30 November in any year will be selected to play in the following summer's World or European Championships provided that:
 - 2.1 They are in good standing with the BMGA;
 - 2.2 They undertake in writing to take part in official team training for the five days preceding the Championships;
 - 2.3 They undertake in writing to fund their participation expenses in full, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the BMGA.
- 3 The deadline for players to provide the aforementioned undertakings shall be 31 March in the year in which the Championships are to be held.
- 4 If any player(s) in the automatic selection positions does not wish to participate, or does not meet the selection criteria laid down in 12.2, their place(s) will be offered to other players in the order in which they appear on the BMGA rank list. The rank list used to decide selection shall be the one current on 30 November in the year before the Championships are held.
- 5 Up to two additional male players and one additional female player will be chosen as wild card selections no later than 7 days after the end of the Nations Cup in the same year.
- 6 The winners of the British Club Championship in any given year shall be entitled to participate – subject to being able to field the required number of players – in the following year's Europa Cup. The deadline for acceptance of invitation to European Cup is 30 April of that year. If the club declines, then the place shall be offered to the next placed team in last year's British Club Championship, then the third placed team, and so on until one club accepts or all decline their invitation. With each invitation, clubs will have a maximum of 14 days within which they must confirm acceptance of their invitation before it being passed to the next club in line.
- 7 In all cases, players (including wild card selections) must cover all costs associated with their participation in the World or European Championships or other overseas event. Such costs shall include but shall not be limited to: entrance fees; travel and accommodation costs; subsistence; cost of equipment; and cost of BMGA team kit (which must be worn during the tournament and opening ceremony).

SECTION THIRTEEN: BMGA RULES ON WAGERS AND BETTING.

1. Two or more players may bet on their respective finishing positions in a tournament relative to each other. However, a player may only stake money on finishing ahead of the other player(s) involved in the wager. It is not permitted to put money on yourself to be beaten by (or tie with) any other player.
2. Staking money on your overall finishing position in a tournament is also forbidden (unless you are putting money on yourself to win).
3. It is not permitted to stake money or run a book on the overall outcome of a BMGA event, or on the performance in a tournament of an individual player or players.
4. It is not permitted to bet on your total score (or that of another player), your score at any one particular hole, or the total number of aces scored by any player during a tournament.
5. In all cases, the standard BMGA rules concerning the separation of players tied together on the same score will apply.
6. Any players wagering money on their performance in a BMGA competition should be aware that such arrangements are reliant on the honesty and integrity of all the individual players involved. The BMGA will accept no liability for the loss of any money wagered; nor will it become involved in any disputes that may arise.

ADDITIONAL RULES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RULEBOOK IN THE RELEVANT PLACES:

Part A:

Where members of the Committee are themselves the subject of a Committee decision, only the non-affected members of the Committee may vote.

A rule to be introduced stating that the Chair will have the power to take important decisions on his/her own (e.g, to postpone a tournament where security is at risk or access to the course is impossible due to bad weather) where he/she is unable to consult other Committee members.

A "Declaration Of Interests" section will be introduced into the rules, stating that members of the Committee must declare any material interests in matters likely to be considered by the BMGA.

BMGA members who are directly involved in securing sponsorship deals for the BMGA shall be entitled to claim a commission payment for the work they have done.

Part B:

Where a member of the Sports Committee applies for a wild card, his/her vote will be surrendered to the British Team Captain (as long as he too is not a member of the Sports Committee).