



CONSTITUTION

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1.0 – Name & Title

- i. The name of The Club is St. Margaret's Men's Golf Club (*hereinafter called 'The Club'*)
- ii. The official address of The Club is St. Margaret's, County Dublin, K67 K339, Ireland
- iii. The Club accepts that the name and logo are the property of St. Margaret's Country Club and use of the same by The Club is permitted under license.

2.0 - Objects

- i. The objects of The Club will be the use of the facilities for the playing of the game of golf and to promote other sporting and recreational activities amongst its members within the facilities provided under licence by St. Margaret's Country Club.
- ii. The Club will promote golf according to the Rules of Golf and the Rules of Amateur Status, as prescribed by R&A Rules Ltd, and the CONGU Unified Handicapping System.
- iii. The Club for the purpose of affiliation to the Golfing Union of Ireland undertakes, in writing, to accept and abide by the Constitution and Bye-Laws of such Union and the Bye-Laws of the Branch in whose province the course is situate.
- iv. The Club hereby agrees to retain Handicap Records in respect of all present and past Members for not less than the current year and previous two calendar years and retain all score cards until the end of the current handicap year. Handicap Records for all Playing Members must be returned to the Union or Area Authority (Provincial Branch) should the club cease to be affiliated.
- v. The Club hereby acknowledges the grant of a licence to use such lands and buildings as are deemed necessary for its activities from St. Margaret's Country Club. This license will be eligible for renewal on an annual basis.

3.0 - Members

- i. Membership of The Club shall consist of male amateur golfers duly elected and who pay such fees and subscriptions as may be determined from time to time.
- ii. The membership of The Club shall be drawn exclusively from amongst the members of St. Margaret's Country Club.
- iii. The completion of an application and/or the payment of fees does not infer an offer of membership and the granting of membership will be at the sole discretion of the St. Margaret's Country Club and or The Club. There is no automatic right to renewal.

- iv. The membership shall be made up of the following categories and such added categories as The Club, in consultation with St. Margaret's Country Club, shall decide to create from time to time.

Ordinary Members, Category A – who shall be male members over the age of 18, who shall be voting members duly elected and pay the membership subscription.

Ordinary Members, Category B – who shall be male members over the age of 18, who shall be non-voting members duly elected and pay the membership subscription.

Honorary Members, Category H - who shall be male members over the age of 18 and in the opinion of the General Committee, have rendered exceptional services to The Club, the game of golf and/or leaders from various arenas of civic and political life as deemed appropriate.

Junior Members, Category J - who shall be male members under the age of 18, who shall be non-voting members duly elected and pay the membership subscription.

- v. The Honorary Secretary of The Club shall keep a register of members and shall enter in it the names and addresses of all persons who become members. This register will be made available for inspection by the General Committee and the representatives of St. Margaret's Country Club at any reasonable time and in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

4.0 - Organisation

- i. The voting members only shall have control of the affairs of The Club.
- ii. The business of The Club shall be under the management of a General Committee which consists of voting and non-voting delegates. The voting delegates are the President, Captain, Vice-Captain, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and four ordinary committee members. The non-voting delegates are the Competition Secretary, Handicap Secretary, Greens Convenor, Junior Convenor and Ex. Officio. All will be elected at an annual general meeting.
- iii. The General Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies which may arise on this committee during the year.
- iv. The quorum for all General Committee meetings shall be 5. The Chairman will have a casting vote where necessary.
- v. The General Committee has the power to appoint Sub-Committees to deal with the proper management and promotion of The Club's affairs, including disciplinary matters, and to it may co-opt suitable persons from the current register of members to serve on such Sub-Committees.
- vi. In compliance with CONGU UHS, the General Committee will appoint a handicapping committee consisting of a minimum of three persons annually. The Handicap Sub-Committee are responsible for maintaining handicap records respect of all present and

past members for not less than the current year and the two previous calendar years and retain all scorecards until the end of the current handicapping year.

- vii. Two appointees of St. Margaret's Country Club are entitled to attend all Sub-Committee and General Committee meetings as non-voting observers.
- viii. The distribution of playing times devoted to members' competitions, interclub and social activities will be agreed annually with St. Margaret's Country Club as part of the license agreement.
- ix. The General Committee is empowered to make and alter Bye-Laws for the regulation of The Club, either to meet emergencies or as they may consider necessary in the interests of The Club. Such Bye-Laws will have effect until withdrawn or set aside by the General Committee or by general meeting.
- x. The General Committee is empowered to decide on all questions arising from the construction of the constitution and rules of The Club and its decisions will be final and binding between the members and it will be the sole authority for interpreting the constitution and rules of The Club.
- xi. St. Margaret's Country Club and or the General Committee will be the recognised authorities for the settling of all disputes relating to the affairs of The Club and/or the conduct of its members, including disciplinary matters arising out of any alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.
- xii. Subject to all internal avenues of appeal having been exhausted, any dispute or difference shall be referred to Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland ("SDSI") for final and binding arbitration by a single arbitrator in accordance with the SDSI Arbitration Rules and in accordance with the Arbitration Act 2010 as amended. This shall apply to any dispute or difference arising out of, in connection with or under the Constitution or any rules, bye-laws, codes, policies or equivalent of the Club, and shall include without limitation any dispute arising out of, under or in connection with the legality of any decision made or procedure used by the Club or any part of it. The effect of this rule is to prohibit any party to such dispute or difference from commencing legal proceedings before the Courts.
- xiii. A minimum of 6 General Committee meetings will take place each year.
- xiv. The Club will decide from time to time, under the terms of the licence from St. Margaret's Country Club and in consultation with them, the number of members to be allowed in each category of membership and the fees/subscriptions that apply to each. Such numbers shall be arrived at keeping in mind the need to avoid undue congestion on the golf course.

5.0 – Elections

- i. The election of officers and General Committee will take place at the annual general meeting which will take place in December each year and only members entitled to vote, and non-voting observers specified under rule, may attend.
- ii. Only members in categories A and B have the right to hold office.
- iii. The voting members of The Club, only, have the right to propose and second persons for office or General Committee and such nominations shall be lodged with the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days prior to an annual general meeting.
- iv. The President, Captain, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall retire after one years' service, always provided that the members at annual general meeting may vote that the outgoing bearers of these offices should serve in those capacities for a longer period.
- v. The other officers and members of General Committee shall retire annually and shall be eligible for re-election.
- vi. Three Trustee's, who must be voting members of The Club, shall be elected at annual general meeting. Each trustee shall hold office until resignation or removal from office by resolution of members of the same club and shall be replaced by another appointee at the next or same annual general meeting.
- vii. In the event of a contest for any position, voting shall be by secret ballot and the person securing the greatest number of votes shall be deemed elected.
- viii. The Honorary Secretary shall chair all meetings. In the absence of the Honorary Secretary, the chair shall be assumed by any other officer or member of General Committee by agreement amongst those attending and entitled to vote. The chairman shall have, and exercise when necessary, a casting vote at all General Committee and Sub-Committee meetings.
- ix. The election of members will be the responsibility of the Officers and General Committee voting will be by ballot. A simple majority of those present and voting will be required for election.
- x. A membership Sub-Committee may be established to examine applications and make recommendations thereon for consideration by the General Committee.
 - a) *All candidates for membership must gain membership of St. Margaret's Country Club and undertake to retain membership thereof.*
 - b) *All candidates for membership must be duly proposed and seconded by voting members of The Club and their names and addresses and other required details be furnished on the prescribed form to the Honorary Secretary who may from time*

to time require the General Committee to consider and decide upon such applications.

- c) St. Margaret's Country Club, the officers and/or the General Committee will be the sole judge as to whether any candidate for membership will be elected or not and their decision will be final and binding.*
- d) In the case of non-election of a candidate St. Margaret's Country Club, the officers and or The General Committee will not state nor be asked to state any reason for such non-election.*
- e) A candidate for membership who is or has been a member of an affiliated golf club, pitch and putt club or similar must on request submit details of handicap and good standing in conjunction with the prescribed application form for membership.*

6.0 – Finance

- i. The General Committee is empowered to open a bank account in the name of The Club and all transactions in this account shall be authorised by the Honorary Treasurer and one other appointed officer, or such person or persons as may be authorised by the General Committee in writing.
- ii. The General Committee shall appoint auditors who report annually. The Honorary Treasurer shall maintain a proper set of accounts to permit this work to be conducted in a fitting manner.
- iii. The rates of annual subscriptions, entrance fees, daily fees and other charges as determined by St. Margaret's Country Club and submitted to an annual general meeting of The Club are payable on notification following such meeting and the details of such rates or subscriptions and other charges as entered in the minutes of the annual meeting will be deemed to be sufficient evidence to charge every class as defined therein.
- i. Contributions and levies to the G.U.I and similar bodies will be in addition to The Club fees, subscriptions and charges.
- ii. V.A.T. will be added to all charges according to the rates and rules applying in the jurisdiction at the time.
- iii. Any member whose fees remain outstanding after 31st January in any year, together with any charges and levies properly raised, will have his or her membership suspended temporarily. If fees, levies, and charges remain unpaid by 1st March the membership in question will be deemed to have lapsed and the member in question will be deemed to have lapsed and the member will have to re-apply for membership, if he so desires, as if he had never been a member.
- iv. A list of all paid-up members will be maintained by St. Margaret's Country Club in conjunction with the General Committee.

- v. In respect of any member elected after 1st July the General Committee in consultation with St. Margaret's Country Club shall have the power to either:
 - a) *Remit payment of such portion of the annual subscription for that year as they may decide, or*
 - b) *Require the incoming member to pay fees pro rata to cover the remainder of the current year and all off the following year. G.U.I. and other external levies will apply in full in all cases*

- vi. No expenditure of the funds of The Club will be made unless previously authorised by the General Committee.

7.0 - Member Conduct

- i. Members must adhere to the Code of Conduct as set by St. Margaret's Country Club and/or The Club.

- ii. An extraordinary general meeting of The Club may be called at any time by direction of the General Committee or on a requisition to the Honorary Secretary, signed by at least 25 voting members, stating the business to be brought forward. Members entitled to attend such a meeting must be given at least 14-days written notice of the meeting and agenda.

- iii. The General Committee, in agreement with St. Margaret's Country Club, may direct members not to play on the course or enter the clubhouse on any day or days upon which it is decided that the facilities should be so withdrawn temporarily for reasons such as maintenance, health and safety, special events or tributes to the deceased.

8.0 - Personal Property

- i. Any personal belongings of members, visitors and others, brought to or kept at, or left on the premises of The Club and/or St. Margaret's Country Club shall be at the sole risk of the person bringing such belongings onto the property. The Club, any committee, the trustees or the owners shall not be responsible for any loss or damage thereto however arising; but this rule shall not prejudice any claims by The Club or the owners against insurance companies or others.

9.0 - Course & Clubhouse

- i. The golf course, clubhouse and ancillary hereditaments and premises are not the property of The Club and The Club holds no proprietary interest therein. The Club by agreement with the owners has a licence (renewed annually) granted for the playing of golf and enjoyment of certain clubhouse and ancillary facilities and this licence is revocable by either party under defined and agreed terms.

10.0 - Club Property

- i. Any property of The Club shall be vested in the trustees who shall be responsible to the members therefore but who shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of club property and by the membership at all times and in all circumstances.

11.0 – Child Welfare & Protection

- i. St. Margaret's Golf Club are fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of our members. Every individual in golf should at all times, show respect and understanding for members' rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport & Code of Ethics for Golf for Young People.
- ii. In working with young people in golf our first priority is the welfare of the young people and we are committed to providing an environment that will allow participants to perform to the best of their ability, free from bullying and intimidation.

12.0 - Rules Changes and Bye-Laws

- i. Any alterations proposed to this Constitution must be submitted to St. Margaret's Country Club and agreed between St. Margaret's Country Club and the General Committee before being submitted to a meeting of the voting members before becoming part of the constitution.
- ii. Any alterations proposed to this constitution which affect Rule 10 of the constitution of the G.U.I. must be submitted to the G.U.I. for approval prior to adoption.
- iii. The General Committee has the power to from time to time and in agreement with St. Margaret's Country Club to make such bye-laws as it considers necessary and to alter and repeal same: except that no such changes shall affect the playing of golf according to the undertakings commonly given to the G.U.I. and similar bodies of golfing authority.
- iv. In the event of a difference of opinion as to the application or construction of any bye-law or local rule, or constitutional clause of The Club, the matter shall be referred to the General Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on members.