



# The Buffalo Golf Club



## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF

## THE BUFFALO GOLF CLUB

Organized in 1912

The oldest municipal golf club in Western New York

### ARTICLE I – NAME:

The name of this organization shall be **THE BUFFALO GOLF CLUB**

### ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES:

To promote the interest of the amateur municipal golfers who comprise its membership, by making the following features available at a minimum of expense:

- (a) The opportunity to join a fraternity of golfers who play this ancient and honorable game for the sheer enjoyment of it and the exercise which it provides.
- (b) The opportunity to make friendly contacts, to stimulate good fellowship and fair play, thereby making your round of golf that much more enjoyable.
- (c) The opportunity to play the game of golf according to officially accepted rules. Through the Club's efforts, the rules for local play are officially standardized thereby eliminating confusing interpretation and controversy that otherwise might exist. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)
- (d) The opportunity to compete in weekly tournaments, thereby developing your golfing ability to its fullest extent, besides offering each individual an equal incentive by providing suitable prizes for winners of such competitions.
- (e) The opportunity to compete in events of the District and Municipal Golfing Associations with which we are affiliated. In most cases, competition in such events is permitted only to the membership of such affiliated clubs.
- (f) The opportunity of lending individual support to an organized group. In numbers there is power and by constant cooperative efforts of the entire membership, we can achieve greater effectiveness in acquiring better playing conditions at our home course, as well as furthering the cause of all municipal golfers in Western New York. . (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)
- (g) The opportunity of joining a municipal golfing organization whose members repeatedly demonstrate their competitive abilities in district and national events, winning many coveted laurels, as well as establishing themselves as true sportsmen and gentlemen in every sense of the word.
- (h) The opportunity for members to attend a variety of special events (parties) where members can have plenty of fun and enjoy a variety of activities at a minimum of expense. We believe that a

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membership in The Buffalo Golf Club enables each member to secure the greatest possible good and enjoyment from the game of golf. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

- (i) The opportunity to earn a USGA handicap index that can be used in competition in any tournament in the United States to which the golfer is invited. (Revised: 4/09/07, Ratified: 5/14/07)

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP:

**SECTION 1:** Active membership in this club shall be open to any amateur golfer who is currently of the male gender and is desirous of joining the club. We particularly encourage the municipal or public links golfer to join our club. (Revised: 1/18/09, Ratified: 5/11/09)

**SECTION 2:** All applicants for membership must currently be twenty-one (21) years of age or older, be of good reputation, and be properly vouched for by two current members (see section 3). (Revised: 1/18/09, Ratified: 5/11/09)

**SECTION 3:** Individuals will be considered for membership only when proposed by a current member and seconded by another current member. These sponsors must sign the application for membership form. The form must be submitted to the Membership Committee at a club event or by mailing the application to the address shown on the form. Membership will only be granted after the Membership Committee has validated the information on the application. An applicant may not participate in any club tournament until notified of their application's acceptance by a representative of the Membership Committee. (Revised: 1/18/09, Ratified: 5/11/09)

**SECTION 4:** A club membership is not transferable. (Revised: 1/18/09, Ratified: 5/11/09)

**SECTION 5:** A member shall be expelled and dues forfeited only when that member has caused disrepute to fall upon the Club, or when by un-sportsmen-like or offensive conduct, has made his membership undesirable. A two-thirds vote made by the entire Board Of Directors in favor of the expulsion shall make such an expulsion immediately effective. The vote will be held by a secret ballot, but only after all of the facts of the case have been properly presented to the entire Board Of Directors. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

**SECTION 6:** It is intended that the total membership shall be limited to 200 paid members (exclusive of life members). Applications for [desirable] membership received thereafter may be accepted or rejected by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board Of Directors present. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

**SECTION 7:** A Lifetime Membership is a non-hereditary honor bestowed upon a current or past club member in recognition of his distinctive and meritorious support and service to this Club. A majority vote by the *entire* Board of Directors is required to bestow this honor upon the member. Additionally, a Life Membership can only be bestowed upon a member if he is sixty-five (65) years old or more and has been a member in good standing for a total of twenty-five (25) years or more (does not have to be consecutive years). There are two constitutional benefits to being a lifetime member. One is that dues are substantially reduced to a mere honorarium amount that is set by the Board of Directors. The second benefit is that a lifetime member can take time off from the club and return with their title intact and without having to pay an initiation fee. The Board may also assign any other one-time or

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temporary award, privilege, or perk to the lifetime members as a group with a majority vote by a quorum of the Board of Directors. (Revised: 1/18/09, Ratified: 5/11/09)

**SECTION 8:** Members in good standing from the previous year may change their membership type to a social membership during the normal dues payment period. Past members in good standing may also request to have the membership committee renew their membership as a social member. A social membership is intended to allow members to maintain ties to the club when they are unable to participate in tournaments due to personal reasons. A social membership shall permit the member to attend all club social events, including the Invitational Tournament and Club Championship Picnic. If full members are required to pay an additional fee to participate in any of the social events, a social member shall be required to pay the same fee to participate. Social members shall not be permitted to participate in club tournaments (except the Invitational), shall not participate in the election for the Board of Directors nor hold a Board office, and shall not have a handicap maintained by the club. The Board of Directors shall set the membership dues for social members as described in **ARTICLE IV** (including initiation fee for reinstatement due to lapsed membership), but social membership dues shall be no less than lifetime member dues (less the per member handicap service fee paid by the Club to issue USGA handicaps). Social members in good standing may change their status back to full members by paying the full membership dues at the start of the season, or the difference between the full membership dues and social membership dues if they had already paid the social membership dues; no additional initiation fee is required. (Revised: 3/24/25, Ratified: 5/19/25)

## **ARTICLE IV – FEES AND DUES:**

**SECTION 1:** All members (except life members) shall pay annual dues at the current rate set by a two-thirds majority vote of the entire Board Of Directors. Each newly accepted member must pay an additional initiation fee of \$25.00 along with their first dues payment. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

**SECTION 2:** The Board of Directors is empowered to cancel, raise, or reduce dues, when conditions warrant it.

**SECTION 3:** A special assessment may be levied for emergency purposes by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board Of Directors.

**SECTION 4:** A member submitting a resignation shall forfeit all dues and fees paid that year. The resignation shall become effective immediately upon receipt of a written resignation from the member by an officer of the Board Of Directors of this Club. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

**SECTION 5:** Any member, who has not paid his dues by the final date set by the Board Of Directors each year, will be automatically dropped from the membership after that final date. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

## **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND DUTIES:**

**SECTION 1:** The Officers of this Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be eligible for such office only after election to the

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Board Of Directors by the membership. Officers of the Board Of Directors serve for a term of one (1) year. (Revised: 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 2:** The duties of the Officers shall be those usually pertaining to such offices.

**SECTION 3:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and the Board Of Directors, and shall appoint Chairmen of all committees unless otherwise provided for elsewhere in these by-laws. The President shall be an Ex-officio member of all standing and special committees. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

**SECTION 4:** The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President at Club functions or Board meetings. (Revised: 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 5:** The Recording and Corresponding Secretary shall: keep a readable record of each meeting in chronological order, maintain a correct list of all members, send out notices of meetings, attend to the correspondence of the club, and perform such duties as are provided for herein and as may be prescribed by the Club. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

**SECTION 6:** The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due to the club, and shall disburse the same upon approval of the Board Of Directors. The Treasurer shall forward regular membership cards to members upon payment of dues and initiation fees in full, as well as bills to those who are in arrears. The Treasurer shall keep a correct record and report receipts and disbursements at each Board meeting for the periods between regular Board meetings, and shall perform such other duties as are provided for herein and as may be prescribed by the Club. The Treasurer shall have an audit made of his records by the President or a Committee designated by the President as soon as possible following the annual fall meeting for the election of the officers of the Board. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

**SECTION 7:** The Board Of Directors shall be comprised of twelve (12) members, which group automatically includes the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Recording and Corresponding Secretary, and which group shall be subject to the call of the President. It shall be the duty of the Board Of Directors to work under the direction of the club through its President, and to conduct the affairs of the Club during the periods between regular meetings for which purpose the Board Members shall have authority to act on behalf of the membership to the extent of the powers granted to them through the President and this document. (Revised: 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 8:** Four (4) members of the Board Of Directors are elected each year by the membership at the Club's annual election. The Board Of Directors sets the time and the date of the election. In the event that there are less than four (4) candidates on the election ballot, the President of the Board Of Directors has the authority to fill just these unfilled seats of the Board Of Directors by appointing Club Members who are in good standing. Each appointment must be ratified by a majority vote of a quorum of the incumbent and newly elected Board Members at the next Board meeting. (Revised: 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 9:** The term of office of each elected (not appointed) Board Member shall be for a period of three (3) years before having to run for office again or step down. The terms of office of the Board Members are arranged so that each year there will be four (4) Directors whose terms will expire. There

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is no limit to the number of times a Club Member may run for or serve on the Board of Directors.  
(Revised: 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 10:** In the event that a seat on the Board Of Directors becomes vacant before that Director's term of office is completed, and that vacancy is not due to an expired term of office (see Section 9), then the President of the Board Of Directors shall appoint a Club Member who is in good standing to serve on the Board for the remaining term of the exiting Director. The appointment must be ratified by a majority vote at the next scheduled Board meeting where a quorum of the incumbent and most recently elected Board Members are attending. (Added 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

## ARTICLE VI – MEETING AND QUORUMS:

**SECTION 1:** Annual meetings of the club will be held in the spring and fall of each year: Date and place to be designated by the Board Of Directors.

**SECTION 2:** Meetings of the Board Of Directors can be called for by the President of the Board Of Directors or by eight (8) members of the Board Of Directors upon written notice to the entire Executive Committee two days (2) prior to the meeting being held. Meetings of the entire Club can be called by the President of the Board Of Directors or by any ten (10) members in good standing with the Club upon the delivery of a written notice to the entire membership at least ten (10) days in advance of the planned meeting. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

**SECTION 3:** One-third of the Club's membership shall constitute a quorum at all open meetings. At a meeting of the Board Of Directors, one-half of the serving members shall constitute a quorum. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06; Revised 3/12/2020, Ratified 7/14/2020)

## ARTICLE VII – VOTING:

**SECTION 1:** No absentee ballots or voting by proxy shall be allowed in open Club meetings. Written, signed, and dated absentee ballots are allowed only in the annual Board Of Directors elections and in Board Of Directors meetings. (Revised: 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 2:** Members in good standing may be placed on the Board Of Directors election ballot by signing their name to a ballot sign-up sheet that shall be posted on the Club's bulletin board starting one (1) month prior to the election date. (Added: 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 3:** The annual election of four (4) Directors by the membership will be by secret ballot unless that member's ballot is cast in advance of the election. These absentee ballots must be signed and dated by the voting member and submitted on the date of or prior to the day of voting. (Revised: 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 4:** Each of the four (4) candidates securing the highest number of votes shall be elected. In the event that there is a tied vote for fourth place, the winner shall be decided by the incumbent Board Of Directors (this excludes the outgoing Board Members and any candidates on the election ballot).

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The balloting will be by any means of communication that is available in order to expedite the voting. The tiebreaker must be decided no later than at the next scheduled meeting of the Board Of Directors that must be held within 60 days after the date of the election. (Added 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 5:** The nomination of the Officers of the Club shall be held among only the incumbent Board members and the recently elected Board Members (this excludes outgoing Board Members after the current year's elections have been held but includes any Board Member returning for a consecutive term of office). Each nomination made by a participating Board Member must be seconded by another one of the participating Board Members. Any of the participating Board Members may be nominated. (Added: 6/27/07, Ratified: 08/25/08)

**SECTION 6:** A majority of the votes made by a quorum of the Board consisting of any combination of the most recently elected Board Members and the incumbent Board Members (this excludes outgoing Board Members after the current year's elections have been held) shall be necessary for election to any Officer's position on the Board Of Directors. At the latest, this vote must be had at the first Board meeting after the end of the regular season of Club events for the calendar year. (Revised: 6/27/07, Ratified: 8/25/08)

**SECTION 7:** A majority of the votes made by a quorum consisting of any combination of the most recently elected Board Members and the incumbent members of the Board (this excludes outgoing Board Members after the current year's elections have been held) shall be necessary for the removal of any serving member of the Board Of Directors. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

**SECTION 8:** In order to pass a motion at Board meetings, it must be proposed by a Board member during a meeting which has a quorum participating, seconded by another board member, and receive favorable votes from a majority of the Board members participating. However, if there are less than nine board members participating in the meeting, the motion must receive a minimum of five favorable votes to pass. (Added: 3/12/2020, Ratified: 7/14/2020)

## **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS:**

**SECTION 1:** This constitution and by-laws may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors. A two-thirds majority vote by the entire serving Board of Directors is required to ratify any proposed amendment. All proposed amendments must be presented in writing to the Entire Board of Directors at least ten (10) days prior to the next scheduled Board meeting where such a vote will be held or else the vote must be tabled for the next scheduled Board meeting. Any member that is in good standing with the Club who wishes to amend this document must do so through the representation and sponsorship of a serving Board Member. (Revised: 6/20/06, Ratified: 8/23/06)

### **Revision History Of This Document:**

First Ratified on September 23, 1937

Revised: March 10, 1939

Revised: March 4, 1948

Revised: November 10, 1950

Revised: January 1, 1972

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Revised January 1, 1975

Revised: March 14, 1983

Revised: March 21, 1994

Revised: January 17, 2004

Revised: June 20, 2006; Ratified: August 23, 2006

Revised: April 9, 2007; Ratified: May 14, 2007

Revised: May 12, 2008; Ratified: August 25, 2008

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Revised: May 23, 2015; Ratified June 25, 2015

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