

# Board Meeting Agenda

American Go Association

Meeting Date and Time: February 23, 2020, 8:00 pm EST

Meeting Length: 2 hours

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# General Information

## Interested in Listening?

AGA members interested in listening to the board meeting (on mute) may contact the Chairperson of the board at [lisa.scott@usgo.org](mailto:lisa.scott@usgo.org) for more information.

## Care to Comment?

Comments on this and other board meetings are always welcome. You can submit your comments through the following form: <https://forms.gle/NwfH4dkGwmg57zwe6>

*Note: You are asked to identify the meeting and topic to which the comment relates, so you are welcome to comment on older minutes as well.*

## Past Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes are available on the AGA website, which you can also find by following this link: <https://www.usgo.org/board-minutes>

## Expected Attendees

Lisa Scott (Chair, Central Region Rep)  
Devin Frazee (Central Region Rep)  
Chris Kirschner (Western Region Rep)  
Chris Saenz (Western Region Rep)  
Gurjeet Khalsa (Eastern Region Rep)  
Dan Ritter (Eastern Region Rep)  
Paul Celmer (At-Large Rep)  
Andy Okun (President)  
Andrew Jackson (Executive VP)  
Samantha Fede (Secretary)  
Terry Benson (AGF President)

# Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. President's Report (AO)
  - a. Update on the opening of an investment account for long term reserves
  - b. Update on New Jersey Open
  - c. Latest international development including
    - i. World Mind Sports Games
    - ii. Status of competition with Europe
    - iii. New Pair Go tournament
    - iv. Other international tournaments
    - v. Possible effects on Go activities of Coronavirus outbreak
  - d. Fair Play Commission
  - e. Tournaments Commission
4. Main Meeting Topics
  - a. Congress (AO and LS)
    - i. Report on 2019 Congress Results
    - ii. Status of 2020 US Go Congress
    - iii. Status of 2021 US Go Congress
    - iv. Status of Congress Escrows
    - v. US Open TD Policy
    - vi. US Open Masters Format Proposal
    - vii. [Tour Operator Policy](#)
    - viii. Many of the documents supporting the congress have been made available to the board for informational purposes.
      1. The RFP, a summary document, can be found in the appendix:  
[Congress RFP](#)
  - b. Staff Reappointments (AO)
  - c. Teaching (LS and TB)
    - i. Proposal for the Creation of a National Go Teacher Program: [National Go Teacher Program](#)
5. Ongoing Business (LS)
  - a. Update on Tournament Support Proposal (board approved in November pending final documents) (LS)
    - i. The Summary is available in the appendix here: [Summary](#)
    - ii. The Qualification Requirements are available in the appendix here:  
[Qualification Requirements](#)
  - b. Update on Treasurer Search (LS)
    - i. Proposals for full-service financial and bookkeeping services
  - c. Update on Executive Search (LS)

6. New Business (LS and DF)
  - a. Accessibility of Board Meetings to Members (minutes, comments, etc.) (LS)
  - a. AGA funding of World Go Map (DF)
7. Request for items for discussion during May 2020 Meeting
  - a. Preliminary discussion of any issues or questions the president should be aware of before compiling the report of the next meeting
    - i. Financials
    - ii. Investment Report
    - iii. Budget
    - iv. International Affairs
    - v. Reworking of membership categories (per 2019 General Assembly)
  - b. Other items for May 2020 meeting
8. Update on Goals and Priorities (as time allows)
9. Adjourn

## Board Meeting Schedule for 2019-2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Written Reports</u>	<u>This Year Supplemental Issues</u>
Sept. 8, 2019	Fall Meeting	Phone	Tournaments, Games, Rules, Ranks and Ratings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Tournament Calendar</li> <li>2. Report on Games and Tournaments Played</li> <li>3. Report on Pro Play</li> <li>4. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pair Go Rules</li> <li>2. Pro System Restart</li> <li>3. Proposal on Major Tournaments and Rewards</li> <li>4. Proposal regarding New Jersey Open</li> </ol>
Nov. 17, 2019	Strategy "Retreat"	Phone	Long view of the organization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategy Memo</li> <li>2. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> </ol>	
Feb. 23, 2020	Winter Meeting	Phone	Admin, Communications, Congress, Staff, Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roster of Positions and Staff</li> <li>2. Reappointments List</li> <li>3. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teacher Program</li> </ol>
May 17, 2020	Spring Meeting	Phone	Budget, Investments, International Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preliminary financials</li> <li>2. Investment report</li> <li>3. Budget</li> <li>4. Report of the VP of IR</li> <li>5. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposed reworking of membership categories, as noticed in 2019 Chapter Assembly Meeting</li> </ol>
Aug. 7, 2020	Congress Meeting	YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO	Financial Position, Membership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Financial Report</li> <li>2. Annual Report of the organization</li> <li>3. Report on Membership</li> <li>4. Minutes of Prior Meeting</li> </ol>	

Aug. 8, 2020	Chapter Assembly Meeting	YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO	Congress, Chapter Relations, General Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Annual Financial Report</li><li>2. Annual Report of the organization</li><li>3. Chapter Membership and Rewards</li><li>4. Prior Year's Chapter Assembly Minutes</li></ol>	
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# Addendum – Proposals and Documents

## Request for Proposal for the 2021 US Go Congress Organized by the American Go Association

### Overview

#### What is Go?

Go is an ancient board game that in Asia is roughly the cultural equivalent of Chess in the West. It is becoming increasingly popular in America.

More detail can be found on the American Go Association website : <https://www.usgo.org/what-go>



#### What is the US Go Congress?

The US Go Congress has been held annually since 1985 and is the premier Go event in North America. The residential event lasts 8 days, and typically includes 450-525 people aged 5-80 from throughout the United States and a dozen countries, speaking 6 or more languages. Large groups come from China, Japan, and Korea.

Our attendees not only participate in the Congress's events, but many also come to the event in order to explore a new city and experience what it has to offer. For this reason, we try to make it as easy as possible for attendees to make their way to key tourist attractions – museums, parks, and downtown areas in particular. Many attendees will stay after Congress as tourists.

#### Proposal Timeline

Final decisions regarding event location and dates will be made spring 2020, and submitted to the American Go Association Board of Directors and General Assembly for approval thereafter.

## Venue Requirements

### Dates and Availability

- Our conference runs from Saturday through the following Sunday, with necessary setup time the Friday before the start of the conference.
  - We prefer to be able to unload the Thursday before the conference and finish packing up the Monday after the conference.
- Our preferred dates are the last week of July or first week of August, but we are interested in any availability between July 10 and August 10.

### A/V Requirements

We need to have A/V equipment, primarily projectors although in limited cases sound, in multiple rooms throughout the week. We need to know the prices and A/V availability of the following:

- Wireless internet for all attendees in all event and housing spaces
- Wired (ethernet) internet connections in Rooms B, E, and F
- Projectors and projector screens, with versatile computer hookups, in Rooms B, J-R
- Projector, projector screen, microphone, and speakers in Room A

### Meeting Space Requirements

Our conference has very particular space requirements, and we need to know how each of the following requirements will be fulfilled and what the cost of each room will be:

- **Room A: Main Playing Area**
  - *Size: 4500 sq ft - 6750 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Wi-Fi, projector and large screens, PA system (or ability to set ours up)*
  - *51-76 10 ft tables (or equivalent) and 300-450 chairs*
  - *Min. Days: 1st Sat AM through 2nd Sat PM (ideally Fri before through 2nd Sun)*
- **Room B: Strong Players Room**
  - *Size: 1500 sq ft - 2750 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Wi-Fi, Wired Ethernet Ports, Multiple Power Outlets, projector and screen*
  - *16-29 tables and 64-116 chairs*
  - *Min. Days: 1st Sat AM through 2nd Sat PM (ideally Fri before through 2nd Sun)*
  - *Location Concerns: Quiet space away from Room C*



- **Room C: Youth Room**
  - *Size: 1000-1500 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Wi-Fi*
  - *10-16 tables and 51-75 chairs*
  - *Days Needed: 1st Saturday AM through 2nd Saturday PM*
  - *Location Concerns: FAR from Room B and Room F*
  
- **Room D: Public Congress Office**
  - *Size: 150 sq ft - 300 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Wi-Fi, 2-3 tables, multiple outlets, printer(s)*
  - *Min. Days: 1st Saturday PM through 2nd Saturday PM (ideally 2nd Sunday AM)*
  - *Location Concerns: Centrally located room or alcove near Room A*
  
- **Room E: EJournal Office**
  - *Size: 250 sq ft - 600 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Lockable, Wi-Fi, Wired Ethernet Ports, Multiple Outlets*
  - *Days Needed: Friday before through 2nd Saturday PM (ideally 2nd Sunday)*
  - *Location Concerns: Near Room B and/or Room F; Away from Room C*
  
- **Room F: Broadcast Room**
  - *Size: 250-400 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Lockable, Wi-Fi, Wired Ethernet Ports, Multiple Outlets*
  - *Must be in quiet space away from Youth Room and pick up games*
  - *Days Needed: Friday before through 2nd Saturday PM (ideally 2nd Sunday)*
  - *Location Concerns: Near Room B and/or Room E; Away from Room C*
  -
  
- **Room G: Vendor Room**
  - *Size: 300-500 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Lockable, 5-8 tables, 4-10 chairs*
  - *Days Needed: Thursday AM (possibly Wednesday) through 2nd Sunday AM*
  - *Location Concerns: Easily Accessible from Room A and Room H*
  
- **Room H: Banquet Space**
  - *Size: 3600 sq ft (300 people at rounds) to 4800 sq ft (400 people at rounds)*
  - *Days Needed: Saturday Evening*
  - *Location Concerns: Sufficient lighting for stage and prize areas, Near Room G*
  
- **Room I: Meeting Room**
  - *Size: 300 sq ft to 900 sq ft (to accommodate General Assembly)*
  - *Needs: Wi-Fi, Multiple Outlets, projector and screen capabilities*
  - *Days Needed: Afternoons Monday through 2nd Saturday*
  - *Location Concerns: Accessible to Public (not hidden away)*

- **Room J: Workshop Room**
  - *Size: 200-400 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Wi-Fi, projector and screen capability*
  - *Days Needed: 1st Sunday PM through Friday PM*
  
- **Room K: Large Lecture Room**
  - *Size: 300-500 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Wi-Fi, projector and screen capability*
  - *Days Needed: 1st Sunday PM through 2nd Saturday PM*
  
- **Rooms L-N: Small Lecture Rooms (x3)**
  - *Size: 150-300 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Wi-Fi, projector and screen capability*
  - *Days Needed: 1st Sunday PM through 2nd Sunday PM*
  -
  
- **Rooms O-Q: Game Review Spaces (x3)**
  - *Size: 150-300 sq ft*
  - *Needs: Wi-Fi, projector and screen capability*
  - *Days Needed: 1st Sunday PM through 2nd Sunday PM*
  
- **Room R: Skittles Space**
  - *Size: Unimportant*
  - *Days Needed: 1st Sunday PM through Saturday PM*
  - *Location Concerns: Open-air – could be a balcony, an area near registration, etc.*

## Housing and Catering Requirements

### Housing

**Rooms:** We need on-site housing for between 250 and 450 attendees, as well as off-site accommodations (hotels, hostels, etc.) available for those seeking a different type of accommodation than that provided by the event. We look for a mixture of dorm rooms and hotel rooms, with different price points.

**Parking:** Parking for staff and attendees must be available, ranging from 40 - 200 spots. We need to know the costs and logistics of distribution of parking passes, if they are required.

### Food and Catering

We provide our attendees with the option of a meal plan for all three meals each day. We usually have approximately 65% of total attendees purchase the meal plan each year, although this number can be higher when there are expected to be few nearby food options or if the meal plan is required for those staying on-site, and in locations such as midtown Manhattan, we have not provided any sort of meal plan. Our attendees expect an average meal cost of \$10-15 for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

We host a banquet and prize ceremony on the final night of the event (the second Saturday). We generally have 300-350 attendees at this banquet, and provide either a buffet or plated dinner, depending on venue options. Our attendees expect to be able to purchase wine and beer at the event, and also expect it to be very kid-friendly.

In the middle of the week, we host a dinner to honor our professional players and volunteers. This dinner is a formal affair, serving alcohol, for 50-60 people, and often takes place at a restaurant or landmark near the Congress venue.

We invite the lifetime members of our organization to attend a semi-casual lunch towards the beginning of the week. This is not a formal affair, and usually has 20-30 attendees.

Our attendees often expect to be able to consume alcohol within their rooms, and to be able to purchase alcohol on or near the Congress venue.

## Additional Needs

### Activities

The Wednesday in the middle of the event is our “day off.” Attendees take a break from our normal tournaments and events, and instead are invited to participate in special events. We hold one “Die Hard” Tournament (in which 80-120 people play) for those who would like to play go even on their day off, but most attendees use their day off to explore the location where the event is being held.

We regularly host 3-4 large excursions, and provide information and sometimes transportation for smaller, self-guided local excursions. These excursions include activities such as visiting theme parks, brewery/winery tours, museums, hikes, and more. We also help attendees find their own local entertainment.

### Load/Unload & Storage Requirements

We store our equipment during the year, and to unload it we need a sheltered dock and access to freight elevators. If we use a shipping container, the container will need to stay in place during the Congress. Elevators are only needed during setup and breakdown/repack. We expect that suitable moving equipment such as dollies and carts will be available.

# National Go Teacher Program

## Overview

### Goal

For the AGA and AGF to work together to create a National Go Teacher Program.

### Background

Since 2012, the AGA has run a teacher certification program as a workshop during the US Go Congress. During the past eight congresses, we have trained a number of teachers, but in the process we have not created a uniform or documented curriculum or methodology, recorded the names of those who have received certification, or in any other way created a structured teacher certification program.

Go players who wish to teach in schools often face scrutiny as well as background checks. This is as it should be for those working with children, but at the moment they have virtually nothing to indicate that they are indeed qualified teachers. A National Go Teacher Program would ameliorate that issue by giving schools and other institutions some confidence that the potential go teacher is qualified, and is supported by a national organization.

### Proposal

This proposal asks the following:

1. The AGA Board approve in principle the creation of a National Go Teacher Program.
2. The AGA Board instruct the president to create a committee to oversee the National Go Teacher Program.
3. The AGA Board instruct the president to document past and future teaching program and certification activities to the extent possible.

## Addendum – Launch Steps and Plan

### Preparatory Tasks

- Compile a list of all teachers who have taken part in past Teacher Certification Workshops.
- Create list of potential committee members.
  - There are tons of passionate teachers who are not overly committed to AGA and AGF activities already, and it would be great to include them in the committee.
  - The committee should probably be chaired by a more experienced AGA/AGF organizer.

### Follow-Up Tasks from Prior Years

- Contact those who have completed (past) Teacher Certification Workshops and send them full-sized and wallet-sized certificates as needed.
- Compile curricula used in prior years

### Priorities for Launching Program

- Determine standards for teacher certification
- Design curriculum for Teacher Certification Workshops.
  - This workshop should be held annually at Congress, but a good curriculum could ideally be utilized for Teacher Certification Workshops elsewhere as well.

### Launch Timeline

- February 2020: AGA Board Approval
- March 2020: Committee Chair confirmed and committee members invited
- April-May 2020: Curriculum audit of past workshops
- June 2020: Confirmation of curriculum for 2020 US Go Congress
- July 2020: Past Teacher Certification Workshop participants, professional teachers, and Teachers of the Year contacted regarding their certificates
- August 2020: New Teacher Certification Workshop piloted at 2020 US Go Congress
- September 2020: Report on first activities of the National Go Teacher Program submitted to AGA board for fall meeting

# AGA Financial Support for Tournaments System

## Summary

The purpose of this system is to promote and support major regionally oriented tournaments that will attract greater numbers of players. We expect these events to be annual, and the premier event within the region during that year. For this purpose, we have designed an algorithm that allocates financial support appropriately for regions, which we are calling catchment areas, of different size both geographically and in terms of Go playing population.

The system for organizing and applying for these funds is similar to what we use for supporting State Championships {link to State Championship webpage}. Chapters within the region must come together to select a primary organizer, who will work with the AGA to ensure that established standards are met. We hope that such selections will be unanimously approved; but there are voting rules for cases in which the selection is contested. (see State Championship election standards)

Our way of providing funds to all areas of the county is to specify catchment areas. Each catchment area will be eligible to obtain financial support for one event each year. Where States are large and population sparse, the State and catchment area will be the same. i.e. Ohio, Florida, Oregon. California and Texas may choose to be divided into two catchment areas, due to their size and population. If deemed appropriate by all concerned, adjoining States may join to have a single event. In some cases where States are small and closely grouped, this is mandated.

The multi-state catchment areas are:

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont  
Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island  
New York, New Jersey, Delaware  
Maryland, West Virginia, Washington DC

All other catchment areas are States

Note: the catchment area definition is used only to determine who the organizers will be, and the location of the event. It places no restriction on who may compete.

States running Championships may use that tournament as its annual catchment area event.

## Qualification Requirements

Tournament must be organized by current Chapter(s) of the AGA.

Chapter(s) must be chosen by agreement with all chapters in the catchment area.

An application [link to application] for recognition must be received a minimum of 45 days prior to play.

An approved budget will be required a minimum of 30 days prior to play.

AGA reimbursement will be provided only after receiving an accounting which shall permit a maximum of the lesser of \$200 or 25% of the AGA financial support to be retained by the host Chapter(S). (Large upfront expenses such as venue deposits may be provided ahead as needed.)

Tournament must be ratable under AGA requirements for rating tournaments.

We prefer a minimum of 4 rounds and 2 days of play; but the AGA coordinator will work with organizers to create a premier event in the time available in the local area.

AGA code of conduct will be in force during the tournament.

Tournament must be announced in the AGA E-Journal a minimum of 22 days prior to play.

A minimum entry fee of \$5.00 is required.

The event should be geographically distant (~ 75 miles or more) from any other supported event within six months.

Tournament entry must be available to amateur players at all levels. (But multiple sections restricting by strength, or by other qualifications, such as those required for State Championship competition is permitted.)