



STATEMENT OF AGA POLICY

SELECTING NON-PLAYERS TO REPRESENT THE AGA IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

From time to time the AGA receives invitations from foreign Go organizations to send a non-playing AGA representative to an event outside the United States, with travel and accommodations paid for by the hosting organization. The AGA has determined that a consistent and transparent policy is required for making selections in these circumstances. This policy addresses invitations for **non-player attendees**, i.e., people invited represent the AGA as an organization and not to play in a competitive tournament. The goals of this policy are to manage fairly the opportunities for AGA members to represent the AGA in such events and effectively maximize the opportunity for the AGA to enhance and improve its relationships with other Go organizations.

Selection Process:

There will be an annual public solicitation for AGA members interested in attending such events. The President will assemble and review the submissions of all nominees. A list of nominees will be created based on the guidelines below. When invitations are received, the President will make a selection, with the consent of the Board. When the selection is made, the President is responsible for contacting the person selected and confirming the person will be available to attend. If that person does not accept the invitation for any reason, the invitation will be offered to another person on the list, and so on. Once a person accepts, normally that person may not represent the AGA in this capacity for the next three years. The three-year rule will be subject to waiver, however, in the event specific qualifications are required by the sponsoring organization for a special meeting (i.e. intl. rules meetings, etc.).

Announcements will be made each year to invite new people to update the list. The list may be made available upon request. Eligibility must be maintained every year to qualify for the list and selection.

In the absence of the President, the Chairman of the Board of Directors shall make the selection and contact, with the consent of the Board. The President or Chairman will announce on the AGA Website the event, the person chosen, date, location and any qualifications stated by the inviting organization. Passports are the responsibility of the member and should be current for international travel.

Guidelines:

1. For the purpose of this policy, and in addition to any qualifications imposed by the sponsoring organization, to be eligible to represent the American Go Association in an international event, as of the date of the invitation a person must:
 - be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and

- have been a full, paid-up AGA member for the last three or more consecutive years prior to that date, and
- be at least 21 years of age.

2. Any AGA member may nominate any other AGA member that meets the above criteria, including him or herself, for consideration. Nominations must be in writing, include the necessary information and be sent to the President of the AGA within 30 days of the annual solicitation announcement.

3. Among the nominees that meet the criteria above, selection will be determined based on the nature of the event, the experience of the nominees in international or representational events, and the quality and length of service to the AGA. Quality and length of service to the AGA relate to, but are not limited by:

- Continuous and meaningful support for the AGA as an organization through active and regular participation in AGA administration, promotion, events and business;
- Continuous and meaningful support for AGA chapters through activities that increase the number of AGA chapters, expand local chapter activities, or expand chapter services;
- Continuous and meaningful support for AGA members through activities that increase AGA membership, and provide or expand membership benefits and services;
- Continuous and meaningful promotion of GO in the United States through regular participation in events that effectively publicize the game to non-members, or bring greater attention and visibility to the AGA and its goals.

4. On occasion, the sponsoring organization will require the representatives to have certain qualifications. In such cases, if these qualifications are mandatory, only the nominees who meet the AGA criteria AND the additional qualifications will be considered eligible to attend. Sometimes the sponsoring organization specifically requests that the representative be the AGA President. In that case, the President shall be the primary choice, but may decline if it is in the best interests of the AGA, and choose another person using the above guidelines.

5. On occasion, the sponsoring organization will request specific individuals by name, other than the President. Every effort will be made to accommodate such requests. However, if the individual has had such a trip within the prior three years, or does not meet the eligibility criteria of the AGA or the sponsoring organization, then the AGA will request permission to send an alternative person and the above guidelines will be used.

Duties of Person Selected

1. The person chosen shall –
 - a. represent the AGA appropriately and perform all official and ceremonial duties required while attending the event;
 - b. abide by any rules or instructions of the AGA or the hosting organization;
 - c. advance the interests of the AGA at the event and act for and on behalf of any AGA players attending the event;
 - d. not engage in personal business while representing the AGA; and
 - e. send to the AGA President for publication, within two weeks of return, a report on the experience describing what occurred, the role the person played, significant business that took place during the event and how such events benefit the AGA.

2. The traveler will make contact with the hosting organization as advised and make necessary travel arrangements. If advance payments are stipulated with reimbursement of expenses afterwards, then the person chosen is responsible for such arrangements and not the AGA. Travel, accommodations and expenses before or after the dates of the event or beyond the city of the event are at the expense of the traveler.