



Blind Golf Canada (BGC) “We Can Still Play” East Kootenays, British Columbia

Blind Golf Canada (BGC), the Western Canadian Blind Golf Association (WCBGA) and BC Blind Golf (BCBG) are excited to be hosting the 2024 ISPS Handa Canadian Open Blind Golf Championship and the 2024 Mutual Fire Insurance Western Canadian Blind Golf Championship this coming July in the East Kootenays. Our biggest international tournaments and championships to ever.

Blind golf has been around for a long time, yet when most people are told someone plays blind golf, they are often surprised, and the first question asked is how do “blind people” play golf? In advance of our two premier events in beautiful British Columbia, BGC is planning a small tour of local golf clubs to introduce ourselves to some members, bring awareness to the sport, and the 2024 events including a Charity Scramble. Having some local golfers join us as volunteers? Bonus. Please help us, help blind and visually impaired youth, female and male golfers.

BGC, the WCBGA, and BGCBC hope that all East Kootenay golf clubs, and golfers will embrace blind golf and help play a pivotal role in bringing awareness of blind golf to our communities. Help BGC in our second decade of excellence take the game, and the sport to the next level.

BGC would like to find suitable days at your club, between April 1 - June 1, to have a representative blind golfer and his/her Coach attend your Men’s and Ladies days for a few holes of golf, some tall tales, and some spirited laughter. BGC will work with and accommodate the dates and times which work for your club. Most importantly, please be assured we will not be actively soliciting any funds or donations from your members, or guests during these awareness days. These blind golf visits are for fun, social interaction, and absolutely about awareness and community building.

For more information, and documents, including registration, volunteering and support please visit us at blindgolfcanada.ca, or you can reach out to Darren Douma, Tournament Chairperson, and VP Administration of BGC at thedoumas71@gmail.com or (250) 428-1807.

Some ways you club can play a pivotal role:

- Do get the information sent out to all your members, not only to help with the events, but for the most important reason noted above. To let your members know we exist, and if they, or their families and friends have blind or visually impaired persons that want to return to the sport, or try it out, we have competitive, recreational and social divisions and we welcome all to our organization.
- Share the [BGC Charity Scramble](#) information, being held on Sunday, July 7 at Bootleg Gap Golf, with your Men's and Ladies organizers. Better yet, consider sending our event poster to your members and mailing list as a way of highlighting the sport and showing your support for local, and Canadian blind golfers.
- Put together a club team to play with a blind or vision-impaired golfer in either of the two days available during the 2024 ISPS Handa Canadian Open Blind Golf Championship and the 2024 Mutual Fire Insurance Western Canadian Blind Golf Championship.
- If your Club does not have Men's or Ladies days, consider another day that could act as an awareness day that would be suitable for a BGC blind golfer to attend.
- Send out an email with a volunteer focus, asking members if they would care to volunteer. There are roles for everyone. One day, multiple days, all week. Whatever might work. We need 20-30 volunteers to make this happen. This game is about blind golfers, but nothing would be possible without coaches, or volunteers.
- Allow us to setup a "Beat the Blind Guy" challenge on a Par 3 of your choosing. Players will have the opportunity to swing their club blind-folded to see what a totally blind golfer (B1, no sight) would experience. It would be a one-shot challenge, if the golfer gets the ball closer to the pin than the blind golfer we will enter their name into a draw for one dozen Taylor Made BGC golf balls, one box per club visit, or the main prize, with a draw from all those that beat the blind guy at all the courses visited, a round of golf with two blind golfers during our Charity Scramble held on the practice day of the 2024 ISPS Handa Canadian Open Blind Golf Championship.
- If this email also prompts an internal discussion with ownership and management, perhaps there is an opportunity to share our sponsorship info, which is both on our website, and has been provided.