



DIGA Membership Rules and Benefits

Purpose of Membership

Membership of the Disabled and Inclusive Golf Association (DIGA) connects golfers of all abilities to a supportive, inclusive community dedicated to making golf accessible, enjoyable, and socially rewarding across the island of Ireland. DIGA events require no medical certificates or classification, ensuring that everyone feels welcome.

Membership gives the organisation the stability, structure, and resources it needs to keep delivering inclusive golf across the island of Ireland. The money isn't about profit — it's about sustaining a community and covering the real-world costs of running events, supporting volunteers, and growing opportunities for golfers with disabilities.

Membership Rules

1. Eligibility

- Open to golfers of all abilities, including those with disabilities or long-term health conditions.
- No medical certificates or classification systems are required to participate in DIGA events.
- Members must be aged 16 or over for official competitions unless otherwise stated.

2. Conduct and Respect

- Members must follow DIGA's Dignity and Respect guidance at all events and interactions.
- Behaviour should reflect DIGA's values of inclusion, fairness, patience, and support.

3. Fees and Financial Responsibilities

- Annual membership fees must be paid in full to maintain active membership.
- Members participating in representative teams (e.g., Tri-Nations) may be required to meet additional commitments, such as bursary applications or contributions.

4. Safeguarding and Wellbeing

- DIGA is committed to creating a safe, supportive environment for all members.
- Any concerns about wellbeing, accessibility, or conduct should be raised confidentially with a DIGA committee member.

Membership Benefits

1. Community and Social Connection

- Join a growing community of golfers who share similar experiences and challenges.
- Opportunities to meet new people, build confidence, and enjoy the social side of golf.

2. Competitive Opportunities

- Access to DIGA's Order of Merit and other competitive formats.
- Opportunities to represent DIGA in national and international team events.

3. Support from Golf Ireland

- Benefit from DIGA's collaboration with Golf Ireland, which supports inclusive golf development and event delivery.
- Access to all-ability events and pathways supported by national governing structures.

4. Information, Guidance, and Resources

- Regular updates on events, opportunities, and inclusive golf initiatives.
- Guidance on modified R&A rules for players with disabilities.

5. Opportunities to shape DIGA's future

- Members can contribute ideas, volunteer, or support the running of events.
- Vote at AGM

Rationale for launching a membership fee

Even a small, volunteer-run organisation has unavoidable costs. DIGA's mission — inclusive, barrier-free golf — means keeping event fees low and ensuring no one is excluded.

Membership fees help cover:

1. Event delivery costs

- Course deposits or green-fee contributions.
- Prizes, medals, and Order of Merit materials.

2. Administration and compliance

- Website hosting, email systems, and digital tools.
- Printing, signage, and branded materials.
- Accounting, banking, and basic financial compliance.

3. Volunteer support

- Uniforms or branded clothing for visibility and professionalism.

4. Development and growth

- Expanding the event calendar across Ireland.
- Building partnerships with clubs, Golf Ireland, and disability organisations.
- Creating pathways for representative teams.