



Setting Up A New FootGolf Club



FootGolf Association of Scotland is a registered Charity in Scotland, number SC050749.

FootGolf Association of Scotland is recognised by Federation for International FootGolf (FIFG) as the governing body for the sport in Scotland

Setting Up A New FootGolf Club

FootGolf is a growing sport and there are a number of new courses which have opened, bringing with it a greater interest in the formation of new clubs across the country.

When setting up a new FootGolf club in Scotland, there are a number of things to consider, and FootGolf Association of Scotland are here to provide any support that you feel you may need and make sure you have access to the association resources and activities.

Home Course

When setting up a club, this will generally be attached to a course, although there may be clubs who are not and play between a number of different courses.

Before attaching your new club to a course, make sure you have first had a conversation with the course management and ensure they are happy with their course name being attached to the club.

For the most part, courses are supportive of having clubs at their venues, bringing in a regular use of the course and helping to support their business.

As part of the conversation, make sure that you make them aware of how often the club will have events use any other facilities the course have, and understand any limits that the course may have (such as timing and facilities which can be used by the new club).

Membership

Club membership must be open to any individual to take part (with exception of any exceptional circumstances), and you want to make sure that you have a sufficient number of potential members before setting a club up.

To have a quality club, it is suggested that you aim for 10 members to start, although if you do not have this initially you can still start and work to build up the numbers.

It is up to the club how much they want to charge for membership, if they wish to charge at all. However, also note that if players wish to take part in the National Club League, there is a small fee for this, which some clubs include as part of a membership fee.

Also remember that the course may charge a separate membership fee for the use of the course. If your club choose to charge a membership fee, it is advisable to keep this minimal.

Start by determining how many new members there will be for starting the club, and make sure that all are committed to the launch of the club and its activities.

When new clubs are starting up, generally speaking, you will find that existing members of the association often join the club and with this brings a vast experience which your new club can make use of.

Committee

Every club needs a dedicated committee to take care of the planning and organising of the club activities.

Being part of the committee is something that each individual needs to consider, there is more to it than simply showing up and telling players when to tee off. They will be involved in the decision making for the club and organising the activities which take place.

There is no limit to the size of a committee, but it is recommended that you keep it to a size that is manageable, usually no more than 10.

There are a number of roles that ideally will be filled on the committee. These are roles which have key duties to ensure the smooth running of the club:

- Captain
- Vice-Captain
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Competition Coordinator
- Junior Development Coordinator

Captain

The captain is the main point of contact and coordinator for the club, making sure that they keep track of the club activities and act as a means of communication with the other clubs and the association.

Vice-Captain

The vice-captain's role is primarily to support the captain and stand in for them when they are unavailable. But this role could also include coordination and support for the other roles on the committee.

Treasurer

This role isn't essential for the club, but if the club is going to hold funds, then it is advisable to have one. This way the accounts are managed and they can track what money is being spent on and how much is held, and also arrange the annual audit of accounts.

Secretary

The primary role of the secretary is to record any decisions made by the committee and club, and also to manage the membership records for all club members and ensure this remains up-to-date.

Competition Coordinator

This is perhaps the busiest role on the committee, taking care of the planning and organising of the club's competitions. As well as advertising and dealing with the sign-up

for events, this role also includes liaising with the course to book tee times and share information about the events.

Junior Development Coordinator

The junior category is one that needs coordinating separate to adult events in many cases, providing opportunity for young people to access events. The person in this role should be someone that has a certain level of experience in working with children, and also able to organise activities and help with their development.

When putting your clubs committee together, attempt to determine the correct role for each person. Make use of the skills that the individuals have and try to match these up with the roles that need to be fulfilled.

It is also advisable to have a mixture of younger, older, male and female members of the committee. This way your club can make use of a range of ideas and suggestions to benefit the club and all its members.

Legal Structure

When it comes to forming your club, you need to consider the structure that it will take. There are a variety of different options to choose from depending on the needs of the clubs.

For most clubs, they are unincorporated, which is suitable when the club does not have any assets, employ staff or enter into any legal contracts involving risk. This would take the form of simply having a written constitution which details how the club would run and how this would be managed.

However, for unincorporated clubs, the club would not have any legal entity of its own, instead the committee would take on personal responsibility for the clubs actions and agreements.

In other words, if the club were to be found at fault or liable for any repayments or legal concerns, then it would be the committee who would be held personally liable for this.

If your club is going to enter into contracts which come with risk, is going to purchase any significant asset (such as a course) or enter a lease agreement, then it would be advisable to be incorporated.

The benefit of this is that the club then becomes its own legal entity, liable for its actions, with the committee members having a minimal personal liability (normally only £1).

There are 2 principle options for becoming incorporated, both which have their own legal structure and documentation that is required. These are Company Limited by Guarantee, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), or Community Interest Company (CIC).

Dependant on the needs of the club, this will determine the best legal structure to suit the needs.

Club Marketing

It is important to promote your new club, advertising its activities and recruiting for new members.

FootGolf Association of Scotland have a number of different materials available to help in advertising the sport, and your club can also be added to the association marketing which takes place, observed nationally and internationally.

Focus on the clientele the club wishes to attract, individuals who are looking to play a regular game, but also make use of the course and any non-club members who may play regularly at the course.

For this, there are a number of ways to promote the club, particularly through social media (Facebook, Instagram, X etc) and posters in the local areas.

FootGolf Association of Scotland Activities

FootGolf Association of Scotland host a number of different activities across the country at all different levels, including social play, regional tours, the National Tour, and National Club League.

The National Club League is a great opportunity to promote your club, at the same time as meeting other players from around the country and join in with the FootGolf community across the nation.

There are also incentives from the association to clubs when club players join the National Tour, if they choose to do so, and the club can generate income from this.

More Information

FootGolf Association of Scotland have a large team available to support setting up your new club, including dedicated people who will work with you to set up all aspects of the club and support the development of your course.

The association can help as much or as little as you wish.

For more information, contact enquires@scotlandfootgolf.com