



Scottish Golf

# JUNIOR GOLF

## SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

Dear Clubs and Junior Convenors,

2023 has been another fantastic season for junior golf in Scotland. Below you will find a summary of progress within our junior golf programmes and key milestones from the 2023 season. We hope you find these insightful and inspiring.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support and for playing your part in helping to grow the game and in driving junior participation.

Many thanks,  
The Participation Team

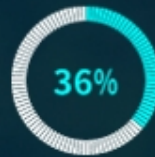
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Scottish Golf



MORE CLUBS  
ENGAGING



INCREASE IN  
PARTICIPATION

## JUNIOR PARTICIPATION END OF SEASON SUMMARY

The 2023 season has been hugely positive for our junior golf programmes, with continued growth in year 3 of the National Junior Framework.

A record **158 clubs** are now engaging in **1 or more** initiatives marking a **+6% increase** from 2022.

In 2023 the reach of our programmes has continued to grow, whilst overall participation has seen a **36.7% increase**, with unique participants showing a **25% increase**.

# LEARN TO GOLF



Our national coaching programme, Learn To Golf, provides a progressive pathway for beginner junior golfers.

With 5 levels that support development and progression to regular play on-course, we were delighted to see over two and a half thousand pre-handicap juniors benefitting from the programme across Scotland this year.

In collaboration with the PGA, this year we introduced 12 weeks' worth of template session plans for Learn to Golf levels 1-3 to support volunteer coaches with ready-made sessions.

We are now developing plans for the 2024 season to make Learn to Golf even more engaging and accessible for clubs.

[Find out more about Learn to Golf](#)

# FLAG CHAMPIONSHIPS



**90** TEAMS

**+39.5%**

INCREASE IN CLUBS FROM 2022

**822** JUNIORS

In partnership with Junior Golf Scotland, the Paul Lawrie Foundation and Stephen Gallacher Foundation, we delivered **13 Regional Qualifiers** across Scotland.

**90 teams** from **67 clubs** took part, with winners from each Regional Qualifier progressing to the National Final.

The 2023 National Final at Gleneagles saw Royal Dornoch Golf Club win for the second consecutive year. Congratulations again to the team who displayed very impressive golf!

Thank you to all of our Regional Qualifiers for your support and for providing opportunities for junior golfers to get out on the course in fun team events across the country.

[Find out more about our Junior Flag Championship](#)

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# SKILLS CHALLENGE



With **over 1,000** junior golfers taking part, 2023 has been our busiest Skills Challenge season to date!

We had over **850** male and female junior golfers active on our National Leaderboards this year, with Crieff Golf Club hosting our National Final. A huge thank you to all Crieff volunteers & staff for their support with the event.

In 2023 we introduced 3 online competitions, encouraging the benchmarking of juniors' progress and enhancing regular coaching delivery at key stages within the calendar year.

We look forward to welcoming clubs back to the programme next season, and would love to support more clubs to get involved, since Skills Challenge is a helpful tool in measuring junior golfer progression throughout the season.

[Want to get involved? Contact us here](#)

# GOLFSIXES LEAGUE



From Orkney to Dumfries & Galloway, more leagues and clubs took part in our GolfSixes League programme in the 2023 season as the much-loved team initiative continues to grow from strength to strength (+**11.8%** increase from 2022).

After Regional Finals at Paul Lawrie Golf Centre, Dundas Parks Golf Club and Douglas Park Golf Club, the National Final took place at Dunning Golf Club, with Swanston Golf Club lifting the trophy following an impressive team effort out on the course.

2023 also marked our first virtual league, proving that geography is not a barrier within our programmes.

Thank you to all clubs involved in this year's programme, and to our Regional and National Final hosts.

Look out for registrations for the 2024 season early next year.

[Find out more about GolfSixes](#)

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# GIRLS' GOLF HUBS



## *growing the girls' game*

With **24.1%** of all participants in our junior golf programmes being female, girls' golf continues to be a key focus for us.

In 2023 our team worked with key partners to help drive Girls' Golf Hubs, with **28 clubs** delivering a 6-week coaching programme over the course of the year.

One of the highlights of the Girls' Golf Hubs programme was our collaboration with Active Fife & Dunnikier Park Golf Club. Read the case study below and get inspired!

With some exciting new girls' golf initiatives planned for 2024, we will again be consulting with clubs and role models to attract and retain more girls within the sport.

[Be inspired - read the case study](#)

# FUNDING



In 2023 we have granted **74 clubs** funding to help further junior development.

Some of the successful applicants received our Club Hire Fund, which seeks to remove cost as a barrier to participation by giving clubs funding to purchase new sets of junior clubs, which can then be hired out to new players in junior programmes at a fraction of the cost of purchasing themselves.

Other clubs were recipients of our Roving Pro fund, which aims to drive coaching forward by giving recipient clubs access to a PGA Professional to coach junior members.

Details of future funding will be announced ahead of the 2024 season.

[Find out more about funding for Junior Golf](#)

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# COACH EDUCATION



During 2023 Scottish Golf has worked in collaboration with the other Home Nations to develop a new Community Golf Instructor (CGI) award. This pioneering programme is being rolled out across all four Home Nations collaboratively, and in partnership with the R&A and PGA.

The goal is to create a more diverse workforce in golf and attract new people through community and club engagement.

After extensive research and thorough piloting of the programme over the past year, we are excited and ready to launch this award for the 2024 season.

We are also reviewing and updating our volunteer pathway into coaching, including refreshing the Activator programme.

[Find out more](#)



[Register your interest here](#)

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# 2023 PILOT PROJECTS



We ran **2 regional stableford events** to cater to junior players (with a handicap of 24-36) aged 15 years and younger. These events offered players the change to progress beyond our junior framework programmes through fun, team golf events.

We also hosted a GolfNines pilot at Breahead (Alloa) Golf Club, with **6 clubs** attending. Also catering for juniors with a handicap between 24-36, the pilot used the GolfSixes playing format and was a resounding success.

Clubs in Angus have also hosted GolfNines fixtures throughout the season as we explore opportunities for the next steps for juniors within our programmes in 2024 and beyond.

Thank you to everyone involved for your support and feedback.

## WORKSHOP & GENERAL MEETING REMINDER



10.30 - 14.30, Sunday 3 December (registration from 10.00)  
Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA

Please click the button below. We look forward to seeing you there.

[Find out more](#)

[Register here](#)

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# 2024 WHS UPDATE



Ahead of the next playing season, we wanted to make you aware of forthcoming changes to the World Handicap System for 2024. Discover our overview of the 2024 changes and guidance on how education will be rolled out across Scotland in the coming months by clicking the button below.

[View the guidance here](#)

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# ENQUIRIES & SUPPORT



Need any support or assistance with your junior golf provision?  
Contact our Participation team by clicking the button below.  
Many thanks,  
Scottish Golf

[Contact us](#)

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