

What Do Our Affiliation Fees To England Golf And County Organisations Pay For?

The above question is a frequent one from golf club members new to golf. In simple terms the answer is the administration of golf at a national and regional level where club representatives *drive* the agenda and a County committee delivers it. At national level it is the county representatives that *drive* the agenda and England Golf delivers.

The following is a summary of the principal benefits provided by England Golf (EG) and County organisations.

- **Club Support.** Support affiliated golf clubs with County Support Officers assisting and advising on golf and business related matters.
- **Development.** Assist clubs with development of membership and marketing via the Club Support Officer and County Development Group.
- **Website.** Provide details of services, information and points of contact for EG, SHUGC & SLCGA.
- **Handicaps.** Implement the Council of National Golf Unions handicapping system and provide advice and guidance on all handicap related matters.
- **Golfmark & Junior Golf.** Provide an environment where young people can take up golf and develop within the sport at the club, county and national level.
- **Safeguarding.** Deliver Child Protection and Vulnerable People protection through training certification and a system of welfare officers.
- **Development Structure.** Provide coaching facilities for Junior Boy and Girl Golfers, including sessions for PeeWees and a 'Playing Day' for all Pathway Juniors, feeding in to county and national development schemes.
- **County Card.** Provide club members with a facility to play at participating clubs throughout the country at a discounted green fee, also benefiting clubs through additional green fee, bar and catering incomes.
- **Golf Rules.** Provide advice and guidance on the Rules of Golf and Local Rules, including the training and development of referees to support competitions.
- **Course Rating.** Undertake ratings for Standard Scratch and Slope for Men and Women on a rolling basis to ensure that all clubs have a relevant and up to date rating for handicap purposes. Advise on any Course Rating matters.
- **Championships.** Administer Championships for Men, Women, Seniors and Juniors, both scratch and handicap. At the County level, there are 11 Men's and Seniors Championships and 13 for Junior Boys, plus 5 Pee Wee events for the younger junior boys and girls. There are 8 Ladies' and Seniors Championships and 8 Junior Girls' Championships. This is in addition to the many championships organised at the national level.
Please note that many competitions have a maximum handicap limit for entry, or qualification may be by way of an initial club competition, or by selection at club level.
- **Teams.** Administer Team competitions on an inter-county basis and inter-club basis for scratch and handicap leagues and knock-outs for Men, Women, Seniors and Juniors.
There are 11 Men's Inter-County matches and 24 Boys Juniors matches of which 8 are inter-county league matches. There are 12 Ladies and Seniors inter-county matches and 12 Junior Girls inter-county matches.
Please note that team competitions for county events are usually by selection at club level.

Further detail can be found on the Shropshire and Herefordshire Union of Golf Clubs website or via this [link](#).