



Junior Golf Ireland
National Junior Golf Survey
2008 Results



The National Junior Golf Survey was distributed in Spring 2008 to all GUI and ILGU affiliated clubs in Ireland.

The Survey was commissioned by Junior Golf Ireland in order to assess the current state of junior golf in Ireland and to obtain meaningful data on membership, coaching, playing and the policies and practices in operation in Irish golf clubs.

This booklet is a summary of the Survey results.



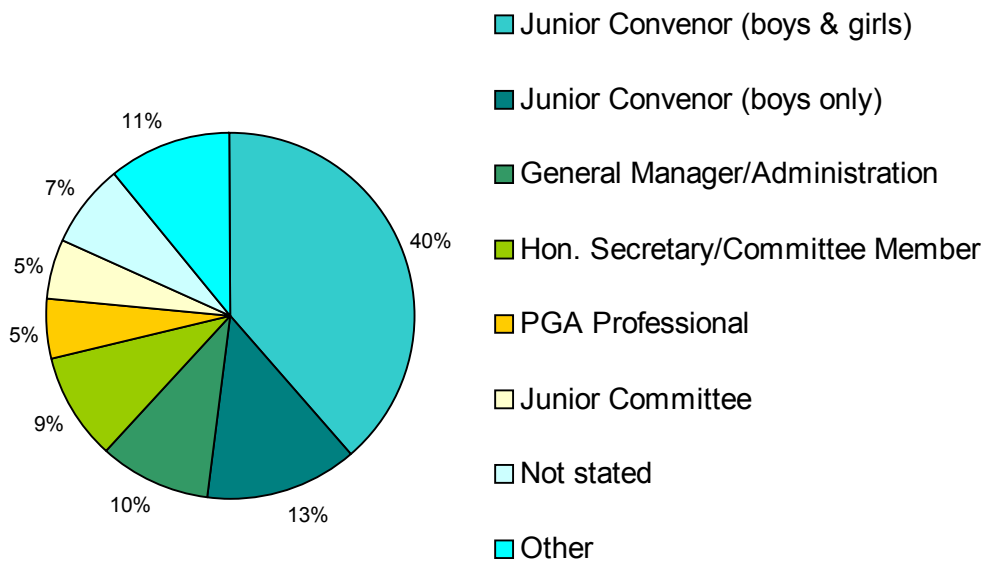
The response rate to the Survey was **46%**

7% of clubs that responded had **no junior members***
 *These clubs were not included in the overall survey statistics

Counties with highest response rates:

Monaghan = 100% (5 clubs)
Antrim = 70% (23 clubs)
Waterford = 70% (10 clubs)
Mayo = 70% (10 clubs)
Cork = 64% (30 clubs)
Dublin = 34% (55 clubs)

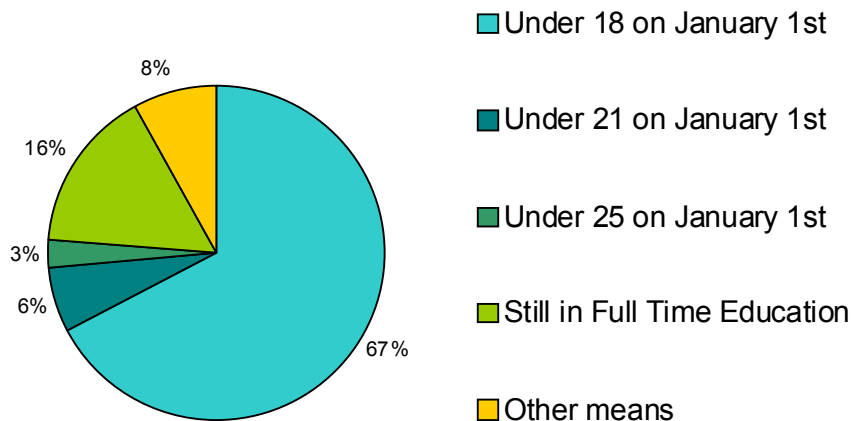
Position of club official filling out survey





Membership

How does the golf club identify a junior member?



Most common Junior membership categories:
 Juvenile (up to age 15)
 Junior (ages 16-18 approx)
 Intermediate (ages 19-24 approx)

How many members in the golf club?

Average Total: **799**
 Average Junior Total: **107**
 Average number of Junior Boys: **85**
 Average number of Junior Girls: **21**

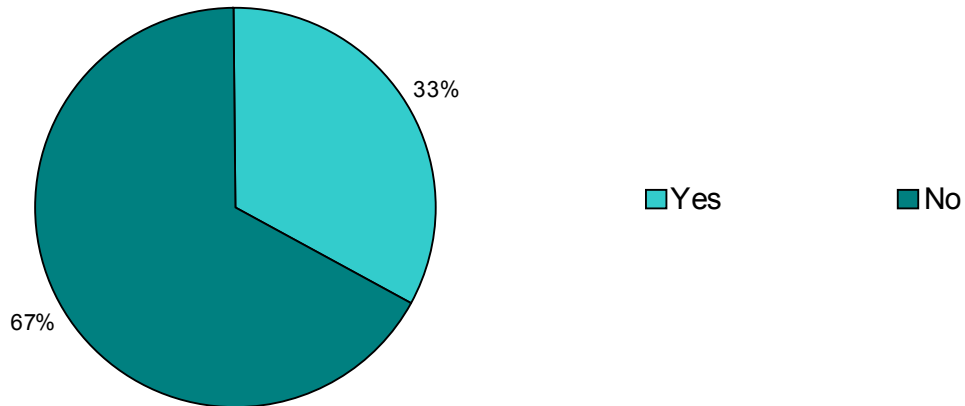
How many of these junior golfers are active members (i.e. attend coaching/play in competition(s) /play on the course)?

Average of active Junior Boys: **46**
 Average of active Junior Girls: **10**

On average, juniors represent **one eighth** of overall membership. Junior girls represent just over **one fifth** of the total number of junior members.

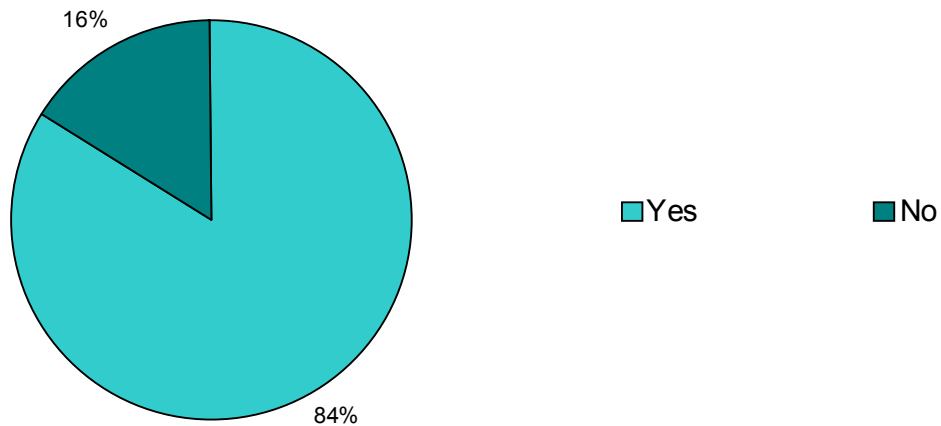


Is there a limit on the total number of junior memberships in the golf club?



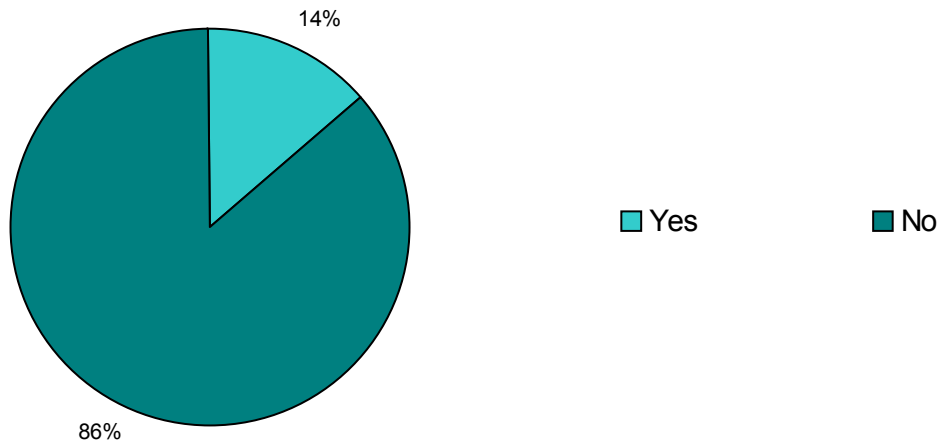
One club deemed the **limit** on intake of junior membership to be 10% of total membership.

Does the golf club *currently* have membership vacancies for juniors?

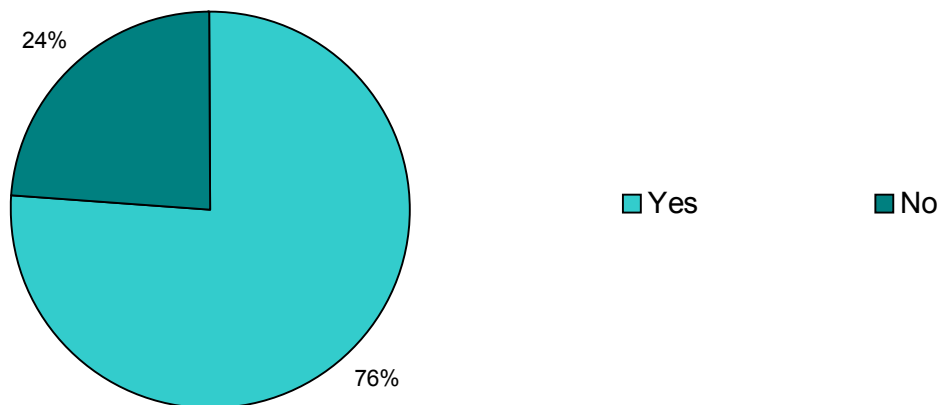




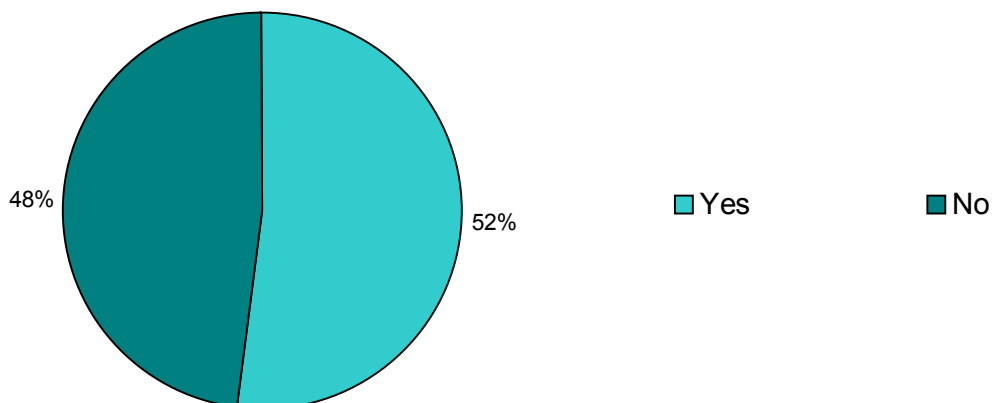
Question 8. Is there an entrance fee for junior membership?



Question 9. Does a junior member get automatic promotion to the next category of membership?

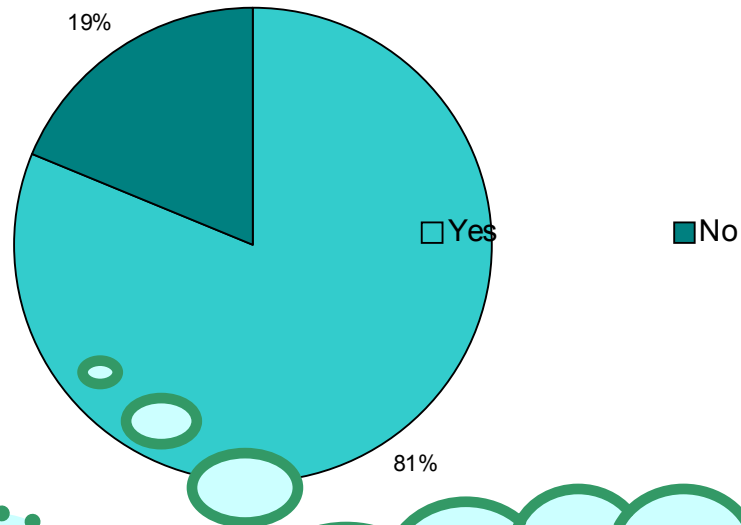


Question 10. Is there any financial concession given to junior members transferring to the next category of membership?





Does the club hold induction evenings/courses for junior golfers? (e.g. etiquette, code of ethics, rules of golf)



Some clubs offer **coaching opportunities** for younger players or those on the membership waiting list, even though they are not yet eligible for membership

Some clubs have a **full induction programme** for new members lasting several weeks including coaching, parent & child evenings, rules and etiquette, etc.

Other comments on clubs' junior membership policies:

- In clubs in densely populated areas, particularly along the east coast, the membership applications far exceed the number of places available
- Particularly where the demand for membership is high, some clubs don't accept junior membership applications after a certain date
- Where the demand for membership is high, clubs put in place junior membership criteria, e.g. junior members must sign a code of conduct, participate in coaching and play a minimum of 6 competitions to retain membership. In these clubs juniors get voted in on an annual basis following a membership review



Junior Convenor & Committee

Does the club have a junior convenor(s)?

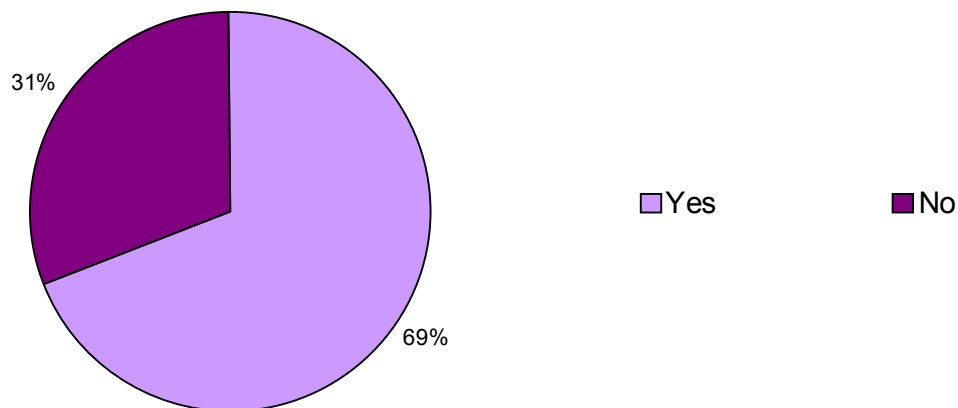
No Junior convenor: **4%**
 Junior Convenor (boys & girls): **67%**
 Junior Convenor (boys only): **30%**
 Junior Convenor (girls only): **25%**

What is the common duration a junior convenor is in the post?

No set term: **58%**
 1 year: **7%**
 1-4 years: **24%**
 5+ years: **11%**

The junior convenor is most almost **twice as likely** to be a male member as a female member

Does the golf club have a junior committee?

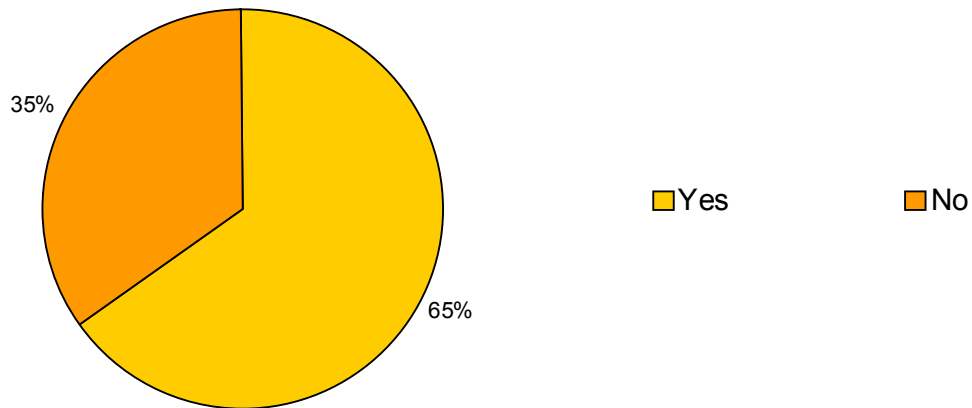


Junior committees were most likely to have **2 male members**, along with **1** each of the PGA professional, female member, and junior representative.
 On average **7 general volunteers** contribute to the junior golf section in a club

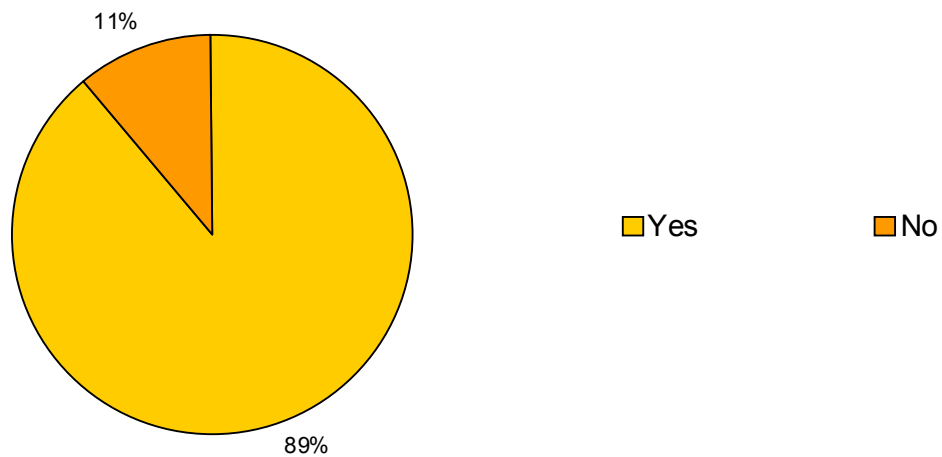


Coaching

Does the golf club have a resident PGA professional?

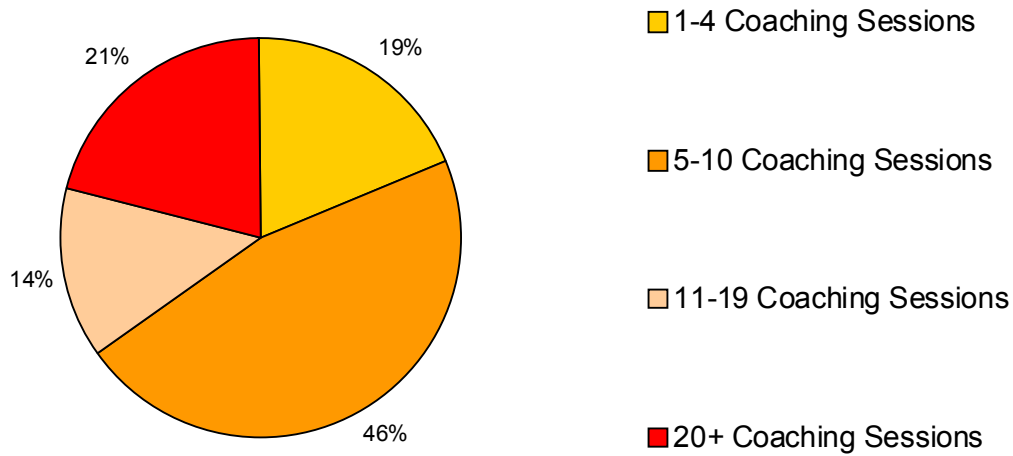


Does the club have a junior coaching programme?



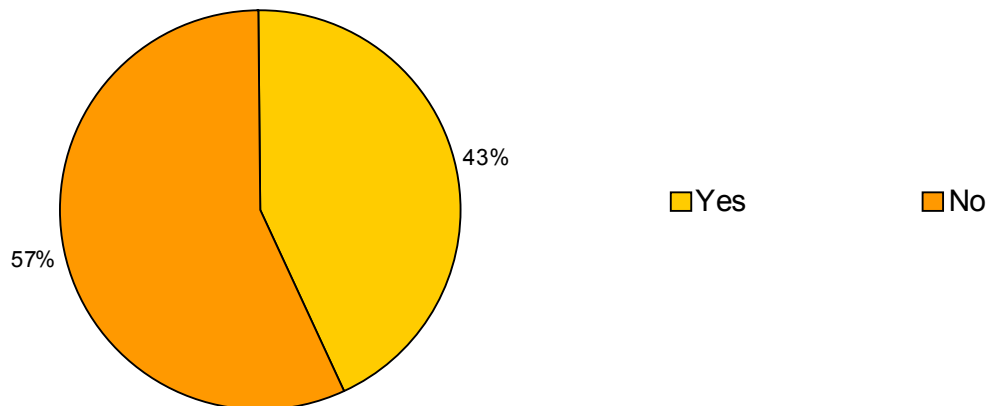


How often annually does the club offer coaching to junior members?



The PGA professional (**86%**) is almost 4 times as likely to **coach the junior section** as the PGA Assistant Professional (**23%**). The junior convenor (**18%**) is next likely, followed by the PGA Level 1 Coach (**7%**) and the Junior Golf Ireland leader (**4%**).

Does the club offer junior coaching to non-members?





Playing, Handicaps & Competition

89% of clubs say that juniors need to meet a certain playing standard before they can play on the course
82% of clubs say that there are general restrictions on juniors regarding times they cannot play on the course

How are junior handicaps recorded in the club?

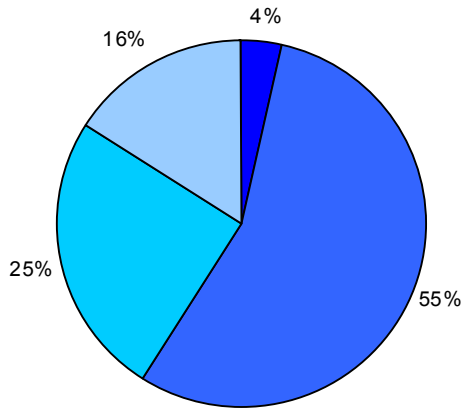
CONGU Recommended System: **75%**
 Separate System for Juniors: **38%**
 Other: **8%**

Many clubs use the CONGU system for those juniors competing in club competitions and a Separate junior system for smaller juniors/beginners

Most Popular Junior Competition Formats:

- 1.** 18 holes
- 2.** 9holes
- 3.** Matchplay
- 4.** Other, e.g. scramble, adult & child, play from 150/200 distance markers, team events and short game competitions

Which of the following competitions does the club host for juniors?



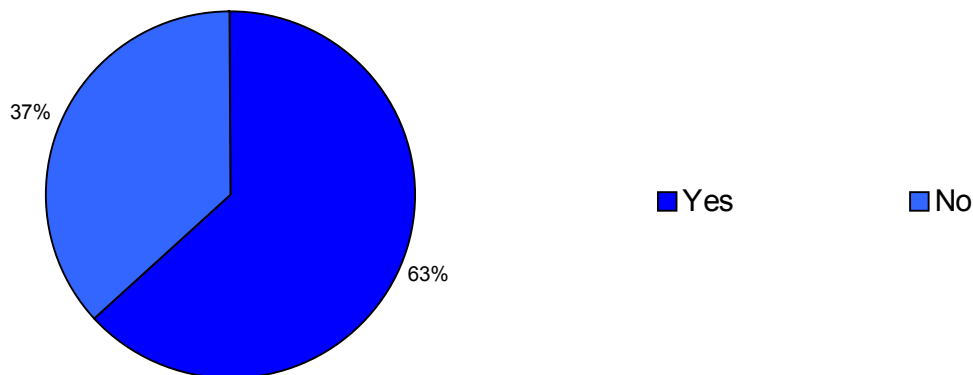
- No Competitions
- Junior Girls and Boys
- Junior Boys only
- Junior Girls only



What competition level do junior members compete at?

Competition Level	Boys	Girls
Club	97%	69%
Regional	74%	36%
National	37%	21%
International	9%	8%

Can juniors enter all adult/main club competitions?



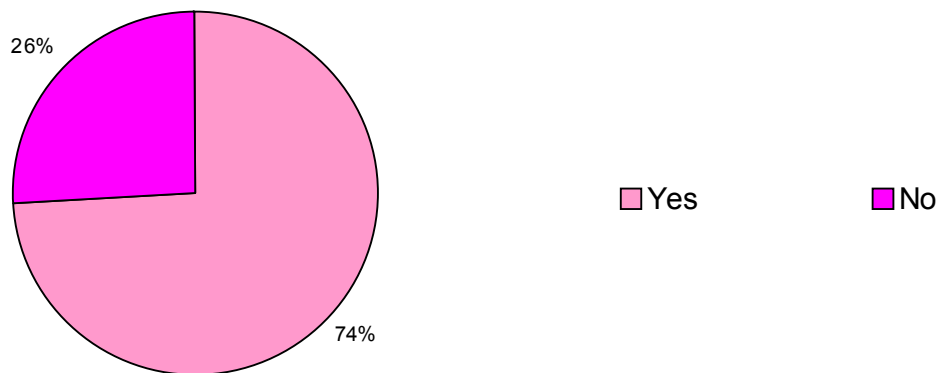
78% of clubs who responded **Yes** to the above question stated that there **are restrictions** on juniors in winning these competitions. For example:

- In most cases there are age and handicap restrictions on entering adult competitions; this varies in every club and restrictions are less severe for girls than boys
- In most clubs, junior boys and girls cannot win 1st prize in major competitions such as Captain's and President's prizes. Some clubs do not permit juniors to enter in these competitions. In other cases the club provides a **junior trophy** for these events.
- Some clubs require junior members to play with at least one adult in adult competitions
- Some clubs in Northern Ireland state that juniors cannot enter any competition which is sponsored by an alcoholic drink's/tobacco/gambling company

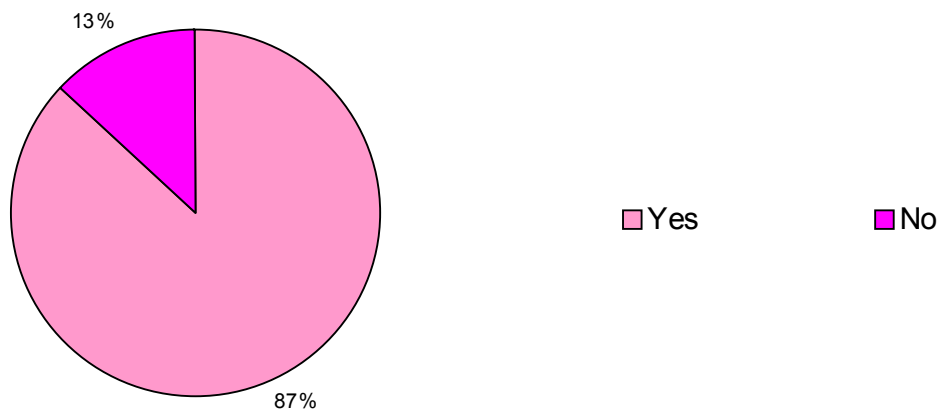


Child Welfare & Protection

Does the club have a child protection policy in place?



Does the club implement a code of conduct for all those involved in junior golf (juniors, parents, club officials, etc.)?



79% of clubs stated that Garda vetting was carried out on members of staff/volunteers*

67% of clubs said **yes** when asked if a representative from the club had attended the Code of Ethics and Good Practice course for children in sport/golf

*JGI is the recognised authorised signatory for Garda vetting applications and this figure does not tally with JGI records

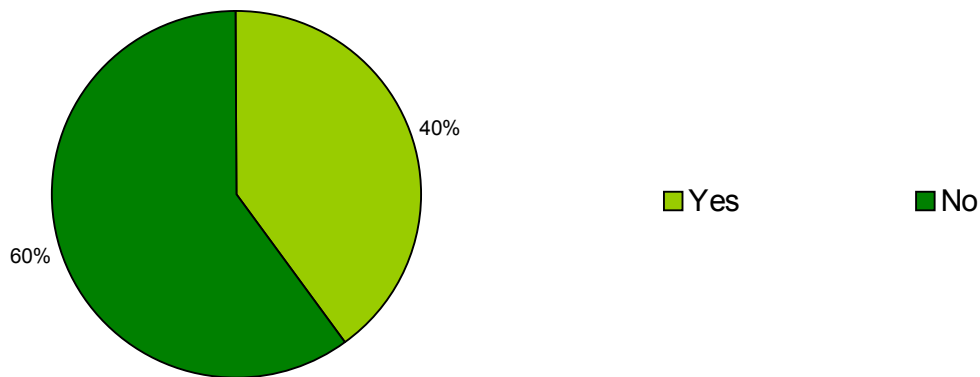


Junior Golf Ireland

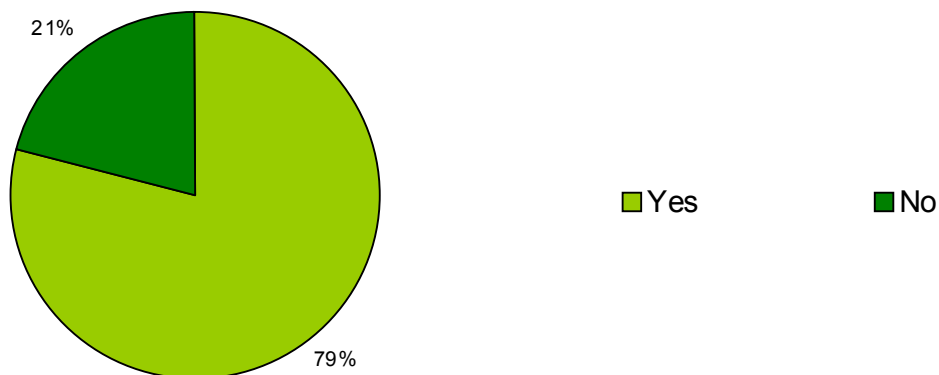
Prior to completing the questionnaire, **95%** of clubs had heard of Junior Golf Ireland, most likely through:

1. Regional Development Officer (**43%**)
2. Posters & merchandising (**40%**)
3. Junior Golf Ireland website (**25%**)

Does the club run the Junior Golf Ireland programme?



If you answered No to question 2, would your club be interested in getting involved?



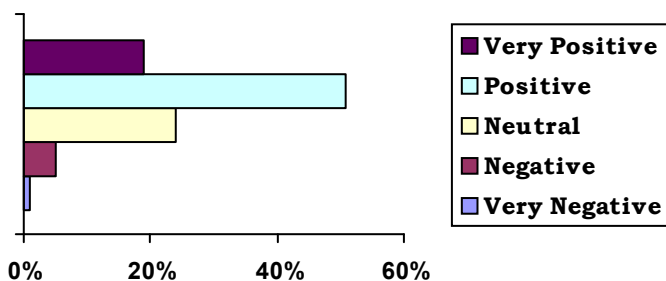


Other

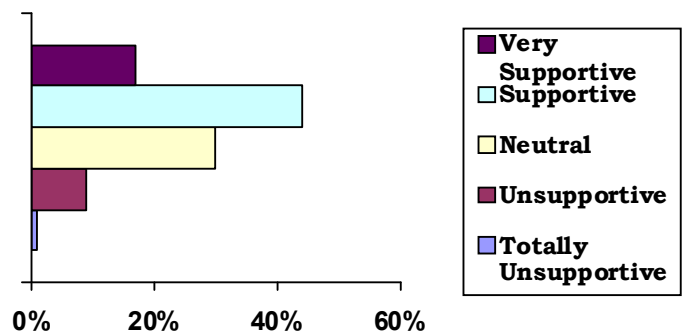
On average, golf clubs have links with **1 primary school and 1 secondary school**
86% of clubs have a dress code for juniors.
69% of clubs have specific funds allocated to the junior section.
39% of clubs partake in fundraising for the junior section.

Opinion:

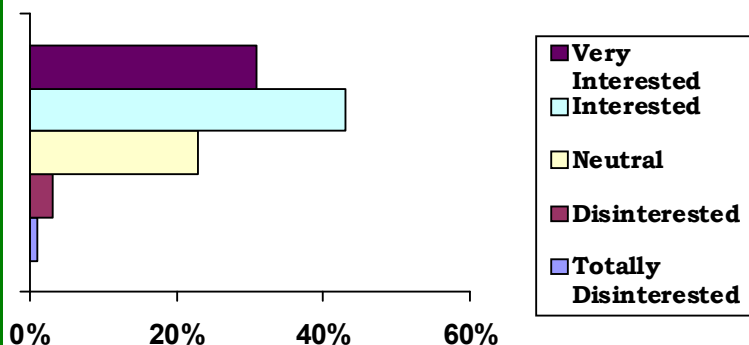
General Attitude of members towards junior members



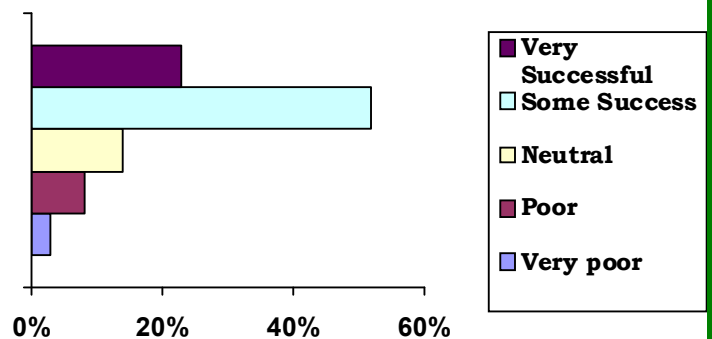
Support of parents to junior section



Interest of main club/parent committee in junior section



Success of club's junior section to date





The National Junior Golf Survey is Phase 1 of a research masters conducted by Junior Golf Ireland employee Niamh Kitching through the University of Limerick.

Phase 2 of the project is currently underway. Regular visits will be made to 10 golf clubs nationwide to liaise with junior convenors and observe junior golf policies and practices at club level.

The project concludes with Phase 3, where one golf club will be selected for longer term observation.

September 2008

If you have any questions or queries on the National Junior Golf Survey please contact researcher Niamh Kitching at +353 (0)45 844041 or nkitching@juniorgolfireland.com