



Case Study – Inclusion at Redcliffe Golf Club

Facility:

Redcliffe Golf Club

Club Overview:

Redcliffe Golf Club is a picturesque 18 hole Championship Golf Course located on the friendly Redcliffe Peninsula in the suburb of Clontarf. The club offers a wide range of golf facilities and services, with the Championship Par 71 Course being a very popular challenge for all levels of golfers. The club is highly sought after amongst social groups, visitors and social players. The clubhouse has a sweeping view across the course from the outside and is an ideal location for functions. The Club welcomes all local community and visitors to experience one of the Redcliffe Peninsulas best kept secrets. Redcliffe Golf Club was recognised as the “2014 Golf Club of the Year”

Inclusive Golf Program:

Redcliffe runs an annual inclusive program for juniors and people of all ages with a disability. The program is conducted by Laura McCahon, Brendan Monaghan and club professional Freddy Hay, with assistance of other helpful club volunteers. Participants who undertake the program learn about all aspects of the game, including skill development and course management which ensures a positive transition into generic competition pathways.

The goal of the Inclusive Program is to develop the basic golf skills, confidence and the mental conditioning of disabled athletes to effectively participate in the defined pathway within the Sub-Junior program.

The outline of the Inclusive Program is as follows:

- Program runs between February to November
- Training occurs most Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm (varies due to competitions and other activities from time to time)
- Training Sessions run for 1-1.5 hours
- Cost \$5.00 per session
- Special Olympics Membership – Cost \$75

Sub-Junior Training Programs outline as follows:

- Based on School Terms
- Beginner and Intermediate level coaching
- Sessions begin 11.45am on Saturdays – Duration 1 Hour
- Cost \$6.00 per session
- Sub-Junior Membership Cost - \$25.00 per annum (includes Club Shirt)

Sub-Junior Golf Competitions

- Allows participants to develop through 3, 8 and 11 Hole competition levels
- Handicap system used to progress through competition levels
- Based on School Terms
- Follows above Training Sessions

- Competition Starts around 1.15pm
- Cost: \$6.00 per competition
- Sub-Junior Membership required

Challenges:

- Acceptance of athletes/participants with a disability or the age differences which may occur (stigma)
- Lack of education around integration for participants, parents, club members and management
- Managing personal identities
- Parents and their expectations for their athlete to develop, participate and compete
- Insurance (SO Membership covers the inclusive program)
- Course access to run programs

Solutions and Outcomes:

- Club has targeted or recruited key personnel to be involved with the implementation and delivery of the program
- A pathway for participants has been created and rolled out at the club
- Participants develop good social engagement skills, friendships and gain positive experiences while participating in the program. "It's not all about the winning, it's all about participation"
- Opportunity for Club Members to give their time and skills through volunteering to develop skills of participants
- Training/Skill development pathways for club volunteers i.e. Community Golf Instructor Program
- Club Members acting as mentors for participants as they transition from Sub-Junior Program to main Club Competitions
- Opportunities for members to participate in Unified Golf Competitions with athletes with disabilities
- Strong junior membership and participation in main club member competition.
- Opportunity to develop Junior Pennant Teams

Advice and Recommendations:

- Get the local PGA Golf Professional involved with the delivery of the program and provide support to them in the facilitation and the administration of the program
- Invest in the future of the club by creating a strong junior program with clear outcomes (GQ Forum Statistics?)
- Create a clear pathway which outlines integration and transition of golfers from a junior level through to senior competition level
- Promote opportunities for member to become involved and support through education programs
- Promote opportunities for members to sponsor junior programs and/or competitions
- Promote opportunities for new clients to access or even join your facility as playing or social members.