

Membership Policy

By becoming a member of the Geelong Disc Golf Club Inc (GDGC), you are agreeing to uphold a standard of respect for the game of disc golf, the community that plays it, the environment in which it is played, and the broader community that interacts with it.

1. Respect for the Game of Disc Golf

As a member, you commit to respecting the game by adhering to the [Professional Disc Golf Association \(PDGA\) rules](#).

This includes complying with local bylaws and regulations applicable to the public or private property where disc golf is played. Such regulations may include restrictions on alcohol consumption and smoking. Conduct during PDGA-sanctioned events is governed by the PDGA rules and the PDGA Code of Conduct. Repeated violations during events may result in disqualification at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Ongoing violations that adversely impact other members or the club's reputation will be reviewed by the GDGC Committee and may involve the PDGA disciplinary process.

2. Respect for Other GDGC Members

Members are required to treat all other GDGC members, including players, officials, volunteers, and committee members, with respect both on and off the course, including in social settings and online. This includes all verbal, written, and social media communications.

While disagreements are natural, disrespectful or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated. Such behaviour will be reviewed by the GDGC Committee if it harms the interests of disc golf. Examples of disrespectful behaviour include:

- Hostile, abusive, or denigrating language.
- Public criticism of another member in forums or online.
- Cyberbullying or online abuse.

GDGC aligns with legal protections against online abuse, including Section 474.17 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Commonwealth), which criminalizes harassment

or serious offense using the internet or phones. Reports of such behaviour will be reviewed.

3. Respect for the Environment

Disc golfers are seen as custodians of the parks and environments where they play. Members are expected to enhance social amenities and leave environments better than they were found. Examples include:

- Avoiding littering, graffiti, and damage to public facilities, flora, or fauna.
- Reporting and addressing credible reports of such behaviour that may harm GDGC's reputation.

4. Respect for the Community

Members must show respect to the broader community, particularly in public parks where disc golf is played. The public always has the right of way. Members should:

- Never throw towards or near members of the public or other players; always wait until the area is clear.
- Politely explain the game to bystanders if needed.
- Refrain from using offensive language near adjoining private residences.
- Pick up litter and use bins appropriately.
- Comply with local laws regarding alcohol, smoking, and illicit substances.

5. Disciplinary Procedures

In cases of violations of this policy, the GDGC Committee may instigate disciplinary procedures, ensuring natural justice. These may include:

- A review by the Committee.
- Opportunity for all parties to provide input.
- Actions such as written warnings, temporary suspension, or permanent termination of GDGC membership.



6. Agreement

By becoming a member, you acknowledge and agree to abide by this Membership Policy, demonstrating respect for the game, its players, the environment, and the community.