

What is an association?

An association is, essentially, a group of people with a common interest. These interests can be anything from sports to stamps, social work to dogs, gardening to cooking, etc. Despite that fact that associations are made up of people with a common interest, the association is not allowed to set guidelines regarding who can participate. It is required in Denmark that associations be open to anyone. However, associations do not need to have activities for everyone. There is a board in each association that decides what activities it will have, when they will be, and for whom these activities are for.

The Board

The association's board is chosen at a general assembly. A general assembly needs to be held at least once a year, and it is the only time members can vote for the board members. The board holds continuous meetings where they decide what the association will do. They decide which activities there will be throughout the season, plan the use of the facilities, daily operations, and they need to ensure the decisions they have made are being upheld.

Members

Members pay a membership fee, which is used to pay for facilities, lights and heat, materials, courses, tournament





fees, etc. To ensure the membership fees do not become too expensive, members are expected to help by volunteering. This can include helping with the events and rallies the association is responsible for. e.g. parents typically help by driving the children to matches and washing the team jerseys.

In return, the association ensures there are trainers/coaches and facilities for the various activities; thus, members have the ability to participate in their sport(s).

Difference between associations and commercial organizations

There is a difference between commercial sports-organizations and associations. In an association, you are a member of a community and you pay a fee to the association. If there is an excess of money, it is spent on the association and its members, rather than being given

to shareholders or the like. Moreover, associations are built upon the principle of volunteer work. Thus, there is an expectation from the association that members contribute their time as best they can. Conversely, fitness centers, for example, earn money for the owners. It is because of this difference that grants from the municipality and foundations are usually just given to associations.

Associations and the municipality

When a group of people wish to create an association, they must decide what the goal of the association is. To be an approved association, its goal must be beneficial to the people in the community, which is where the municipality comes in. It is the municipality that decides if the association is approved, and, thus, it is the municipality that supervises all approved associations in the city.

My Contacts:



Municipality: _____

DGI Inklusion: _____

Board Chairman: _____

Trainer/Coach: _____

Others: _____

The Danish association culture

Associations are a big part of the Danish culture. In Denmark, there are over 1 million associations. Therefore, you can be certain there are numerous associations in your municipality. The majority of Danes have, in the span of their lives, been a part of one or more associations.

Which is why we are so proud of the culture of our association. In the association:

- We form a social network and find new friends
- Dialogue, mutual respect, and commitment are basic requirements
- We learn the basic democratic procedures
- We respect each other and learn about society's values and norms
- Through the association's structure, members get the opportunity to influence and participate in the local community
- We have the opportunity to participate in our sports/interests along with our peers — and have fun