

# A Guide for Inclusion and Diversity In Darts

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**Presented by:**  
**Digidarts: Supporting Inclusion and Diversity in  
Darts Through Digital Activities Project**  
[www.digidarts.org](http://www.digidarts.org)  
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## DISCLAIMER:

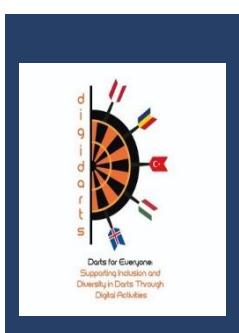
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# About the project

“Darts for Everyone: Supporting Inclusion and Diversity in Darts Through Digital Activities” (DIGIDARTS) is an innovative project that aims to eliminate barriers in darts by providing innovative digital facilities and increasing awareness on the inclusivity diversity issues in darts.

The project is based on the creation and implementation of digital or blended trainings and mutual learning activities in order to strengthen inclusivity and diversity in darts play. Therefore DIGIDARTS addresses digital dimension of Erasmus+ Call horizontal priority via the implementation of blended and/or digital sharing and learning activities in regarding the darts play in five European countries, Türkiye (Coordinator), Romania, Austria, Hungary and Iceland. DIGIDARTS addresses inclusivity and diversity dimension by supporting participants and players with fewer opportunities like women players, disabled players, economically disadvantaged (workers, migrants etc) and young ones through new digital practices and tools in darts. Being consistent with both digital dimension and inclusivity/ diversity dimension of horizontal aspects of the Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership, the DIGIDARTS Project brings together a consortium with diverse training, educational and management experiences in the darts game, with varying institutional backgrounds determined by diverse socio-cultural contexts.. Institutions in the Consortium are also varied from HEI to darts federations and darts NGOs, which will combine their training, management and educational expertise for supporting people with fewer opportunities in darts area. DIGIDARTS will increase individual participation and enhance organizational capacities in darts play through creation of the virtual darts ecosystem which will be provided by mutual learnings, shared experiences and eco friendly good practices which will sustain after the project lifetime.



# Goal of this guide

The goal of this Guide is to summarize the method of the work we have made on examining current guidelines on inclusion and diversity in darts in terms of the under-represented darts players, such as **women** players, **youth** players and **disabled** players, then to discuss and share **findings** and finally to make **suggestions** towards the national and international federations to facilitate change.



# Introduction of participants

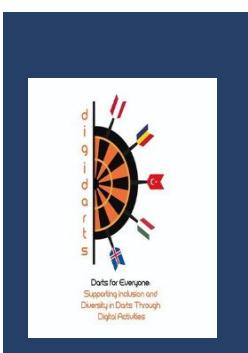
Founded in 1946, **Ankara University** is one of the biggest public university with 19 faculties including Sports Sciences Faculty, 14 Research Institutes, 113 undergraduate programs and 346 Ph.D programs, with more than 4000 academic staff, 7000 administrative staff, 67000 students. ANKU has 1096 ongoing national and international project in various disciplines and selected as Research University in 2016 by national organising body in education Higher Education Institution.

**Romanian Darts Federation, Hungarian Darts Federation and Austrian Darts Federation** have strong experiences in European Darts field through organising open tournaments, international cups and challenges in darts. These Darts Federations are hosting regular yearly tournaments and these tournaments are covered in the World Darts Federations ranking system.

**Disabled Darts Association Iceland** is a relatively new organization and less experienced in darts field established in 2019 for supporting disabled darts players in Iceland. Organization is training disabled players and young regularly since 2022 in Iceland.

Below Table shows basic background and information of the Partners:

	Romania	Austria	Hungary
<b>Establishment year</b>	2015	1988	1991
<b>Official or registered member (approx)</b>	150	1300	1000
<b>Women member (approx)</b>	30	130	100
<b>Organized national darts tournaments in a year (online/ offline total)</b>	More than 10	20	160



# Introduction of participants

## Türkiye

The history of darts in Türkiye is relatively recent and has dual structure: official and unofficial. Official body in Türkiye is a governmental body called Turkish Bocce, Bowling, and Darts Federation (TBBDF) and the unofficial body or civic body is called Professional Darts Organisation (PDO).

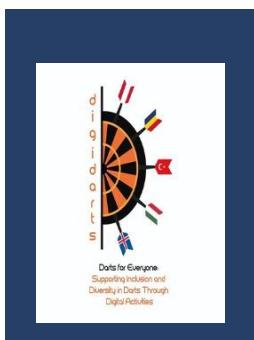
Darts started in Türkiye as a civic initiative that the first group of players started the Ankara Darts Initiative even before the federation was established and organized local leagues in 1999.

In 2000, darts was officially recognized as a sport in Türkiye when it was incorporated into the Shooting and Hunting Federation under the General Directorate of Youth and Sports. In July 2002, the Turkish National Team participated in the World Championship held in Barcelona for the first time and returned with a fifth-place finish. In 2004, the establishment of the Turkish Bocce, Bowling, and Darts Federation (TBBDF) allowed darts to have its own governing body. In early 2006, the federation gained administrative and financial semi autonomy and same year it became a full member of the World Darts Federation (WDF).

Meanwhile five dedicated darts players in Türkiye have founded Professional Darts Organisation in 2007 in Ankara. The aim of PDO is to contribute to the development of darts in Türkiye, ensuring that Turkish darts players and teams reach a competitive level internationally while also spreading the sport of dart across the country.

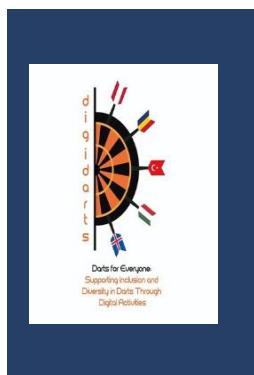
PDO's goal is to work in coordination with relevant institutions and sponsor companies to maximize the benefit for dart sports and increase numbers of the licensed darts players, teams and clubs in nationwide.

Both governmental and civic bodies for Darts in Türkiye aiming at achieving international standards in the Darts tournaments and increase the numbers of the players as well as quality in Darts.



# Introduction of participants

## Iceland - Darts for Disabled Association

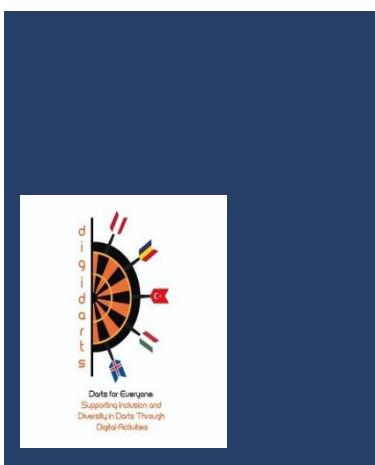


# Introduction of participants

## Turkish Bocce Bowling and Darts Federation

1. Number of players registered under TBBDF
  - a. Female players under 18: 2,227
  - b. Male players under 18: 2,826
  - c. Female players over 18: 335
  - Male players over 18: 2765
  - d. Players with disabilities: 76
2. Number of dart tournaments/competitions organized by TBBDF for female players between 2020–2025: 24
3. Approximate number of female players who participated in these tournaments: 960
4. Number of tournaments organized by TBBDF for players with disabilities between 2020–2025: 2
5. Approximate number of players with disabilities who participated in these tournaments: 43
6. Total number of registered players under TBBDF (for the year 2025, including the total number of female and male players over 18): 980
7. Number of female players under 18 who achieved a ranking in international tournaments in 2025: 7
8. Number of female players over 18 who achieved a ranking in international tournaments in 2025: 1
9. The English name of the project implemented by TBBDF for disabled dart athletes, partner countries, and good practices carried out within the scope of the project:
10. The project “Sitting Darts – Dart for Athletes with Disabilities”, carried out by the Turkish Bocce Bowling and Darts Federation (TBBDF), was implemented in partnership with Germany, Italy, Poland, and Greece.
11. The aim of the project was to promote darts among athletes with disabilities and to enhance inclusiveness through international cooperation.
12. Various good practices were implemented within the project:
  - Special national and international tournaments were organized for athletes with disabilities, providing competition experience and opportunities to interact with participants from different countries.
  - Technical and mental training sessions were delivered for athletes and coaches, focusing on dart techniques and strategies adapted for disabled players.
  - Interactive workshops were held with experts from partner countries, sharing knowledge on adapted training methods and equipment use for athletes with disabilities.
  - Social activities were organized to increase motivation and support social inclusion.
  - Each partner country contributed by sharing its own experiences and practices, helping to improve training and competition processes for disabled dart athletes.

Number of players of PDO: Over 500 hundred players, 150 players are female.



# Introduction of participants

## Austrian Darts Federation

Paradarts is a special variant of darts for people with physical or mental disabilities.

In Austria, Paradarts is organized by the Austrian Darts Association (ÖDV) as a member of the World ParaDarts Federation.

Paradarts players are divided into one of three categories by World ParaDarts:

- Wheelchair – Players who are dependent on a wheelchair.
- Standing – Players with physical limitations who can play standing up.
- Inclusio – An open category for anyone who has a disability card issued in Austria (e.g. people with physical or mental limitations such as PTSD, Down syndrome, visual or hearing impairments).

How do you become a Paradarts player?

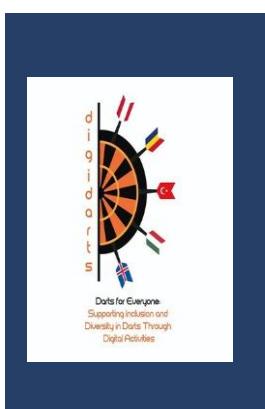
1. Club membership: Membership in a club that belongs to the relevant regional association is a basic requirement. The club registers the player with its regional association, which then registers with the ÖDV. A general ÖDV playing license can then be issued.
2. Registration with World ParaDarts: In order to be eligible to play ParaDarts, categorization is required, which is carried out by World ParaDarts on the basis of a form (to be signed by a doctor) and at the expense of the ÖDV.
3. Eligibility to play nationally and internationally: This becomes valid upon successful acquisition of the ÖDV player license in National and international eligibility to play: This becomes valid upon successful acquisition of the ÖDV playing license in combination with a positive categorization decision by World ParaDarts and entitles the player to participate in the approved category.

Tournament participation & ranking points

- Ranking tournaments: The ÖDV announces in advance which ÖDV-RL tournaments will offer Paradarts competitions.
- Wheelchair & Standing: Participation in these competitions is only open to players with a World ParaDarts categorization.
- Inclusiveness: Players in this category may also participate in ÖDV ranking tournaments without a World ParaDarts classification – however, world ranking and ÖDV ranking points are only awarded with Official categorization.

Advantages of participating in Paradarts competitions

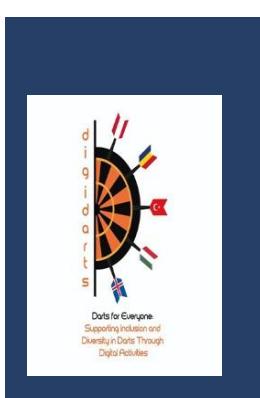
- Opportunity to compete with other players at the national and international level.
- Chance to earn ÖDV and world ranking points and become part of the national team.
- Inclusive access for many different disabilities.
- Selection for international tournaments and championships.



# Examining current regulations

## Scope

To have the biggest impact and understand all aspects we need to see what regulations and guidelines are currently in effect in **each participating country**. As this is an EU project we checked for current **EU materials** in the topic. And finally we are all members of the World Darts Federation (WDF) and we have to apply to all of their rules, we decided to examine **WDF's guides** in effect. We have decided not to consider guides of Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) as that is not a federation, but a profit oriented company specialized in darts sport events. **Paradarts** is treated in a different way all over the world. While it has strong connections with federations and organizations on national and international levels as well, due to its special nature it usually handled by separate teams than the rest of the darts players. In order to have a knowledge about this we examine guidelines of World Paradarts. Apart from examining guidelines from the sport of darts per participating nations and international associations, we also reviewed guidance of International **Olympic Committee** and United Nations Entity for **Gender Equality** and the **Empowerment of Women** (UN Women).



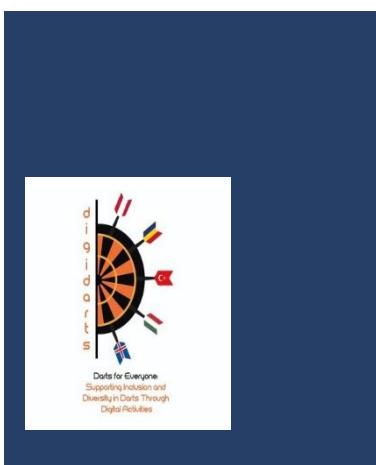
# Examining current regulations

## National regulations - AUSTRIA

The document "Richtlinien für die Jugendarbeit des Österreichischen Darts Verbandes (ODV)" establishes a comprehensive framework for **youth** development in Austrian darts. Its main points include:

- The primary goal is to support, motivate, and retain young players in darts nationwide, starting from approximately age 9, focusing on both sporting and social growth.
- It outlines clear responsibilities for youth coordinators at various organizational levels and emphasizes a team-oriented, trust-based, supportive environment.
- Distinct age categories (U14, U18, U23) define eligibility and participation, with special regulations for tournament play, entry fees, and prize distribution.
- All youth tournaments and activities must be alcohol-free, and a code of conduct with emphasis on fair play, respect, and team spirit is required.
- The guidelines detail national and international competition procedures, talent identification, training opportunities, and pathways to the national team.
- Funding mechanisms, school programs, collaboration with national sports bodies, and clear procedures for travel and event participation are described.
- The document prioritizes girls' involvement and provides for continuous evaluation and adaptation of youth work.

In short, the ODV's guidelines aim to create an inclusive, motivating, and professionally organized youth system in darts, ensuring sustained personal and athletic development for young players.

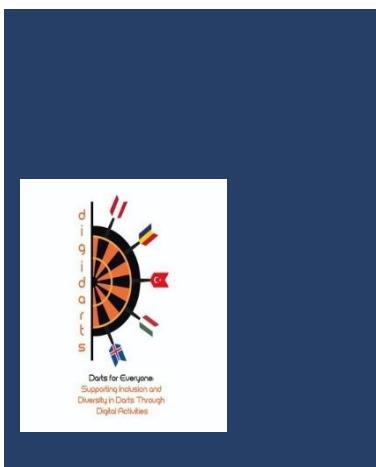


# Examining current regulations

## National regulations - AUSTRIA

The document "Infoblatt ParaDarts" provides an overview of **ParaDarts** in Austria, organized by the Austrian Darts Federation. The key points are:

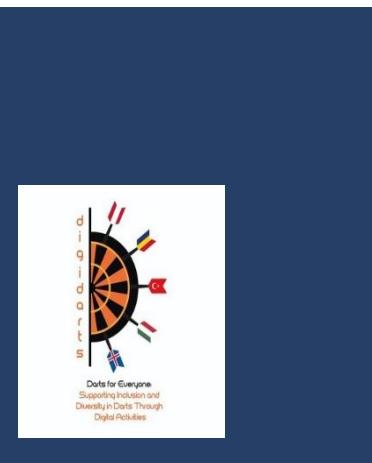
- ParaDarts is a special variant of darts for people with physical or intellectual disabilities, organized nationally and connected to World ParaDarts.
- There are three competition categories: Wheelchair (players who must use a wheelchair), Standing (players with physical disabilities who can stand), and "Inclusion" (an open category for all with a recognized Austrian disability card, including various mental or sensory impairments).
- To participate, athletes must be members of an affiliated club, receive a club and national federation nomination, and undergo medical categorization as required by World ParaDarts.
- Players with official categorization can earn national and world ranking points; "Inclusion" players may participate without official categorization but won't be eligible for international ranking points unless categorized.
- ParaDarts tournaments offer the opportunity for athletes to compete nationally and internationally, gain ranking points, and potentially join the national squad.
- The program is designed for inclusivity and provides opportunities for diverse disabilities, with further info available from the federation's official contact.



# Examining current regulations

## National regulations - TÜRKİYE

There are **no specific regulations or written guidelines** within TBBDF dedicated exclusively to disabled or female athletes. Support and empowerment practices are generally provided through projects and events rather than formal legislation.

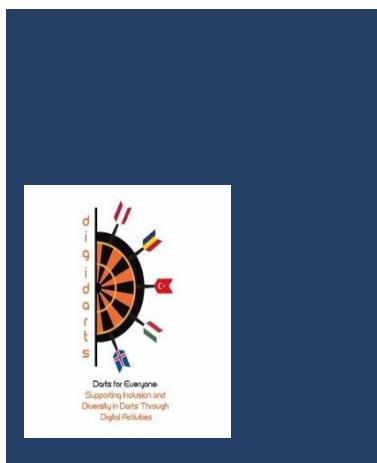


# Examining current regulations

## National regulations - HUNGARY

The Hungarian Darts Federation's rules and guidelines emphasize that participation and membership are **open to all** who meet the sport's and federation's general requirements, **without discrimination** based on personal characteristics **such as gender, age, or disability**.

They also highlight **fair play, ethical conduct, child protection, and safe event organization**, which together aim to create an inclusive and respectful environment for youth and adult players, including cooperation with the Hungarian Paralympic Committee to support athletes with disabilities.



# Examining current regulations

## WDF's guidelines

The World Darts Federation (WDF) Code of Ethics sets out **principles for ethical conduct** within the darts community. It emphasizes **equality, dignity, and non-discrimination** for all participants and strictly adheres to anti-doping regulations. The code prohibits all forms of harassment, unsporting conduct, and involvement in betting or attempts to influence competitions unethically. WDF officials and staff must **avoid conflicts of interest, act with integrity, and follow strict rules** regarding gifts and hospitality. Good governance, transparency, and environmental protection are also highlighted. Breaches are investigated by an **Ethics Commission**, with procedures for disciplinary action in accordance with the WDF Disciplinary Code of Practice. The code may be amended by the WDF Executive as needed and applies to all WDF events and members.

- An Integrity Officer is appointed by the WDF Executive, who serves as a resource on integrity standards and receives reports about breaches of the code.
- Any breaches must be reported to the Integrity Officer, who can initiate an investigation.
- The WDF Ethics Commission, composed of independent members, is responsible for investigating reported breaches and recommending disciplinary action.
- Disciplinary procedures follow the WDF Disciplinary Code of Practice.
- The Code also mentions independent auditors for financial governance and strict adherence to the World Anti-Doping Code, which implies possible doping controls at any time during events.

These mechanisms ensure that the ethical standards outlined in the code are actively monitored and enforced.



# Examining current regulations

## Guidelines of World ParaDarts

World ParaDarts Playing Rules and World ParaDarts Code of Ethics—establish the framework for promoting an inclusive and ethical environment in para-darts competitions.

The Playing Rules specifically address **inclusion** by adapting the sport for players with disabilities. They **provide options** for wheelchair players, such as choosing between the standard and a lower board height (137cm) , and outline specific rules for positioning wheelchairs and crutches at the oche. The rules also allow players to use retrievers and helpers to facilitate their participation.

The Code of Ethics emphasizes **diversity and dignity**, stating that there shall be no discrimination based on factors like race, gender, ethnic origin, religion, or sexual orientation. It promotes safeguarding the dignity of the individual and prohibits all forms of harassment. Furthermore, it commits the World ParaDarts (WP) to the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter , promoting fair play and ensuring player safety and well-being.

The World ParaDarts Code of Ethics sets out strict rules to maintain integrity among its officers and staff (including consultants, agents, and anyone acting on behalf of the WP):

- Prohibition on Remuneration/Benefits: WP officers and staff must not, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept, or offer any form of remuneration, commission, concealed benefit, or service connected with the organization of sanctioned events. An exception requires pre-approval by the WP Executive upon recommendation from the Ethics Commission.
- Gifts and Hospitality:
  - Only gifts of nominal value are allowed, given as a mark of respect or friendship, in accordance with local customs. Any other gift must be passed on to the beneficiary's organization.
  - Hospitality offered to WP officers and staff must not exceed the standards prevailing in the host country.
- Conflict of Interest: Officers and staff must respect the rules concerning conflicts of interests, as outlined in the WP Conflict of Interest Policy.
- Reputation and Association:
  - They must use due care and diligence and must not act in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of the WP, the darts family, or the Olympic Movement.
  - They must not be involved with firms or persons whose activity or reputation is inconsistent with the principles of the Olympic Charter and the Code of Ethics



# Examining current regulations

## Guidelines of International Olympic Committee

The guide presents **concrete examples** of how National Olympic Committees are advancing gender equality, diversity and inclusion (GEDI) across key areas of sport, offering a practical menu of initiatives others can adapt.

It promotes inclusive practices across Olympic activities to advance gender equality and diversity.

### Target Audience

- National Olympic Committees (primary focus)
- Sports administrators and policy makers
- Coaches and high-performance staff

### Purpose and structure

- The document is a first edition of “Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion NOC Good Practices,” created under the IOC Gender Equality and Inclusion Strategic Framework.
- It showcases NOC-led case studies grouped into focus areas: Participation, Leadership, Portrayal, Resource Allocation, Diversity and Inclusion, Cross-cutting, and Safe Sport, plus information on Olympic Solidarity’s Olympic Values programmes.

### Main focus areas

- Participation examples promote access and opportunities for girls and women through community events, school-based programmes and health-focused projects (e.g. Women in Stride, EmpowerHER, Pink Volleyball Day, Women’s running for empowerment, Women and Girls With Sports, Get Set, Go!).
- Leadership initiatives include statute changes to guarantee minimum female representation on executive boards, awards and leadership academies, mentorship schemes for women coaches, and young-leader and retired-athlete leadership programmes.

### Portrayal and media

- Portrayal-focused practices train athletes and media professionals to promote gender-equal, respectful coverage, adapt IOC portrayal guidelines, and run university roundtables and visibility programmes on gender equality in sport.
- These actions seek to reduce stereotypes, increase women’s visibility as experts, and build future media professionals’ understanding of inclusive portrayal.

### Resources, diversity and inclusion

- Resource-allocation examples include dedicated women’s sport development funds and gender-responsive budgeting strategies that tie funding to women’s programmes and female technical staff development.
- Diversity and inclusion practices feature community resource groups, child-friendly workplace policies, non-discrimination certification, diversity scorecards, and culturally grounded initiatives (e.g. respecting Te Ao Māori).

### Cross-cutting and safe sport

- Cross-cutting programmes combine research, policy, education, media work and outreach to embed GEDI across whole organisations and national systems (e.g. strategic plans, comprehensive GEDI programmes, research-driven social media initiatives).
- The Safe Sport section outlines definitions of harassment and abuse, recommends safeguarding officers and focal points in every NOC, and provides guidance on prevention, reporting, policy development and use of IOC safeguarding tools.



# Examining current regulations

## Guidelines of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The document provides guidelines for making sports organizations **gender-responsive**, outlining how they can **promote gender equality, prevent discrimination, and empower women and girls in and through sport**.

It introduces a **principle-based framework** (Sports for Generation Equality) with concrete actions and indicators on issues such as leadership and decision-making, equal opportunities and resources, safe and violence-free environments, gender-sensitive media representation, partnerships, and accountability mechanisms. The Guidelines group concrete actions under six main principles, each with specific issues to work on.

### **Women's leadership and governance** key issues:

- Underrepresentation of women in decision-making, executive boards, and committees.
- Lack of gender-sensitive governance structures and policies.

#### Typical actions:

- Set time-bound targets/quotas for women in leadership and committees.
- Revise statutes, election rules, and recruitment to ensure transparent, non-discriminatory selection and promotion.
- Provide leadership training, mentoring, and networking for women and girls.

### **Violence-free, safe sport** key issues:

- Gender-based violence (harassment, abuse, bullying, cyber violence) against women and girls in sport.
- Absence or weak implementation of safeguarding systems.

#### Typical actions:

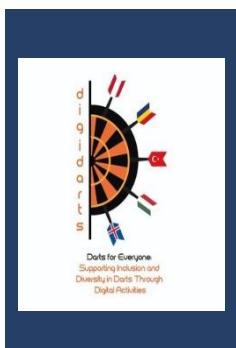
- Adopt and enforce safeguarding and anti-harassment policies and codes of conduct for all members.
- Set up confidential reporting, complaint, and referral mechanisms, with survivor-centred procedures.
- Train coaches, staff, athletes, and volunteers on recognizing, preventing, and responding to violence.

### **Investment and economic opportunities** key issues:

- Funding and pay gaps between women's and men's sport.
- Unequal access to sponsorship, facilities, equipment, and professional contracts.

#### Typical actions:

- Allocate budgets fairly between women's and men's teams and programmes.
- Ensure equal or equitable pay, bonuses, per diems, and prize money structures.
- Actively seek sponsors and commercial deals for women's sport and women athletes.



# Examining current regulations

## Guidelines of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (cont.)

### Media, communications, and stereotypes key issues:

- Low and stereotyped media coverage of women's sport and athletes.
- Sexualized or biased imagery and language in communications.

### Typical actions:

- Adopt media guidelines to ensure fair, respectful, non-stereotypical portrayal of women and men.
- Increase volume and quality of coverage of women's competitions and role models.
- Train media and communications teams on gender-sensitive reporting and imagery.

### Girls' equal opportunities in sport and PE key issues:

- Barriers for girls to access sport, physical activity, and physical education.
- Gender stereotypes in schools, clubs, and community programmes.

### Typical actions:

- Design school and community programmes that proactively recruit and retain girls, including from marginalized groups.
- Provide safe facilities, appropriate equipment, and flexible scheduling for girls.
- Train PE teachers and youth coaches to use gender-responsive, inclusive methods.

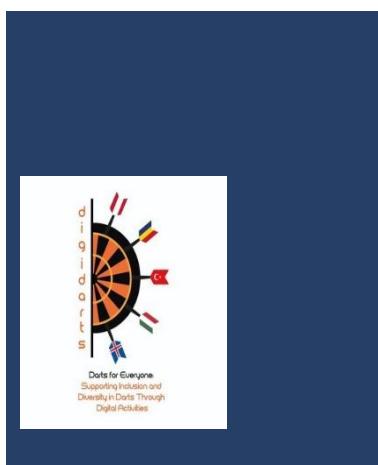
### Monitoring, data, and accountability key issues:

- Lack of sex-disaggregated data and weak monitoring of progress.
- Limited accountability for gender-equality commitments.

### Typical actions:

- Collect and analyse sex-disaggregated data on leadership, participation, resources, media exposure, and violence cases.
- Use indicators to set baselines, targets, and annual progress reports made public.
- Establish internal mechanisms or external experts to monitor and evaluate implementation of the principles.

The material also explains **key concepts** (like gender-based violence and safe sport), highlights international policy references, and offers practical measures for organizations to create inclusive, safe, and equitable sports structures.



# Challenges and suggestions

## Women players

Hungary: As we see the biggest **challenge** women darts players face is to balance between their family life and their darts life. They usually have to take care of their family and household and they have the same amount of time. Another issue is when they got pregnant their body change and they have to adapt to this. In general we can say that women players usually have less self-confidence. Also they often have to wait more time to play when on a tournament they are playing together with the men and there are 2-4 times more men players. And lastly women players are less likely think about darts as a professional sport activity, more like just a leisure activity and so they dedicate less time for it.

**Possible solutions** could be to have an educated animator and a safe place with toys and books for children for free of charge, so mothers could bring their children to the venue and could participate at tournaments without having to worry about their children. Also we truly believe that giving access to sport mental trainers could be a significant help to help women players. Perhaps raising the money prizes, changing the playing format or the starting time for women could also be helpful.

Romania: **Success in Women's Inclusion (Numeric Indicator)**: A significant initial barrier was the low number of women players.

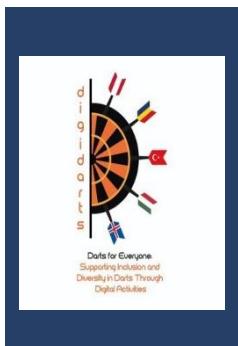
In the year before the DIGIDARTS project started, the **average number of women players per tournament was 14**.

- Currently, there is a notable improvement, with an **average of 22 women players** out of 33 registered players per tournament. This indicates a positive shift in female engagement.

**Gender Gap**: Increasing women players' engagement and visibility in darts. The positive result in Romania suggests this is a common challenge being tackled across the partnership.

Türkiye: To enhance women's participation and visibility in darts, an encouraging and inclusive **environment** should be established. Women-only tournaments and leagues may be organized, and **educational programs** and seminars supporting women's participation can be introduced. Training coaches and federation officials on gender equality and the specific needs of female athletes can improve **motivation** and **participation**.

**Promoting** the achievements of female dart players through media and social platforms can help create role models. Additionally, **collaboration projects** with federations, schools, and NGOs can provide education, mentorship, and competition opportunities for women, increasing both accessibility and social awareness.



# Challenges and suggestions

## Youth players

Hungary: Challenges: Youth darts players usually quit their sport career at their teenage years as that is the time when they focus more on their educational goals, love life and their adult life in general. It can also be challenging when their body change. Support they do or do not receive from their family, friends and school can have a huge impact on their decisions. Also their role models are very influential (let it be another darts player or just another person). Social media and the image they see of other successful sportsmen can be very attractive, however often they don't see the amount of work behind an achievement. Their free time is also very valuable to them, so often they have to choose between darts and another sport or darts and a music class.

**Possible solutions:** We believe it is equally important for the youth to participate tournaments where only players from their age group are playing and the ones where they can see adult players (icons) in action. Communication (with them, their teachers, their parents) can be a huge help in dealing with their changes in life circumstances (love, school).

Romania:

- **Challenge in Youth and Paradarts (Numeric Indicator):** A substantial challenge remains in extending inclusion to other groups.

Currently, there are **no registered youth or paradarts players** in the championship

**Future Goal:** The biggest challenge in the future is to **extend the current championship structure** to successfully include and sustain participation from both **youth and paradarts players**.

To support youth development, the Romanian Darts Federation has already recruited young players from various cities through the national Darts in Schools program. Due to financial limitations, many of these young players are not yet able to participate regularly in the official national championship. To address this, RDF will introduce an online youth championship, enabling participation regardless of financial constraints, as part of the 2026 development program. Additionally, during the Eastern European Challenge tournaments, RDF organized the first youth tournament, giving these young players their first opportunity to compete officially.

**Youth Engagement:** Increasing **young players' engagement** through digital materials and *Darts in Schools* workshops, a challenge tackled the Romanian Darts Federation which was the first to organize a workshop at a university.



# Challenges and suggestions

## Disabled players

Romania:

**Challenge in Youth and Paradarts (Numeric Indicator):** A substantial challenge remains in extending inclusion to other groups.

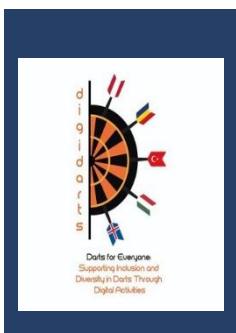
Currently, there are **no registered youth or paradarts players** in the championship

**Inclusion of Disabled Players:** Introducing the issues of and supporting the participation of disabled players in darts (Paradarts). This is a critical challenge, highlighted by the lack of players in Romania, which the project addresses through activities like the DIGIDARTS Hybrid Paradarts Tournament.

Türkiye:

To increase the participation of athletes with disabilities in darts and to support the development of paradart/wheelchair darts, an inclusive sports environment should be created. Dart venues and equipment should be adapted for wheelchair users, and coaches and referees should be trained to work with disabled athletes. Regular national and international tournaments and leagues should be organized to provide competition experience. Promoting these events through media and social platforms will help raise awareness.

Additionally, cooperation projects involving federations, NGOs, and international sports organizations should be developed to provide education, motivation, and social inclusion support. These steps will not only improve accessibility but also strengthen public awareness.



# Challenges and suggestions

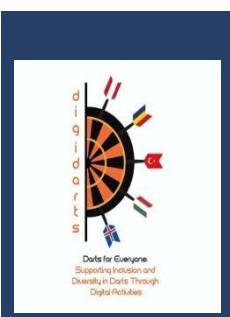
## General

**Digital Capabilities:** Strengthening darts players' **digital skills** and extending the **virtual facilities** and digital capacities of partner institutions to create a sustainable virtual ecosystem for the sport.

One of the key solutions to strengthen the digital skills of the darts players could be to increase the number of digital equipments that help to give the possibility to connect and play against each other more frequently and less costly. This would also result that the players feel more confident in using all the available technical gadgets and promote it amongst their smaller circles.

**Digital Divide:** Overcoming general challenges related to digital transformation, such as ensuring accessibility for disadvantaged people and addressing issues like a **shortage of basic digital skills** in the general population, which can limit the uptake of digital tools created by the project.

The younger generation usually had more digital skills, while the older one has more experience in the darts sport itself. Combining these two and creating a safe place to both to be able to share their experiences and help each other not just could lead to better results but a better community as well. And good communities naturally grow over the time.



# Further steps

## National level

National federations should focus more on the following areas:

- to ensure equity and safety to all of their players
- to create clear rules and guidelines
- to create local and national playing areas, where players can meet in person
- to create a good darting community
- to provide digital tools for players and clubs
- to create and provide more learning materials, guides and education in general about digital materials and equipments (share the Darts to Go app)
- to create the possibility for the players to exchange ideas and experiences (to hold online and offline webinars, talks, presentations)
- to listen to the players and clubs more
- to collaborate more with other nations to ensure the possibility for players to meet and play with other nation's players
- to increase number of players in general, but especially with regards to the underrepresented groups (women, youth, disabled players)
- to work together with the national educational system when it is about youth players (keep continue doing the Darts in School program)
- to make sure that all bodies who organize darts tournaments are in line with the actual guidelines

# Further steps

## International level

On the international level these are the main areas to focus on:

- to prepare a guideline about inclusion of all the players and achieve that all national federation will create their own one that is in line with the international version
- to monitor regularly that the guidelines are up-to-date and kept
- to create a digital platform that helps the different nations to regularly share their opinions and ideas and issues
- to monitor the ratio of the number of players and check the reasons behind the change and give help if needed
- to explore and examine the different issues and solutions each nation has and share the know-how amongst the members

