



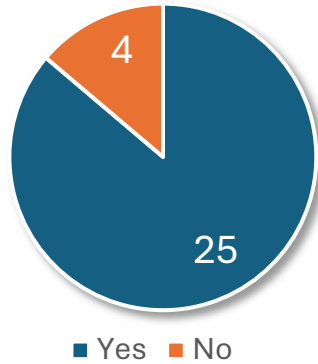
**WEST
HOCKEY**

Junior Clubs Survey 2024/25

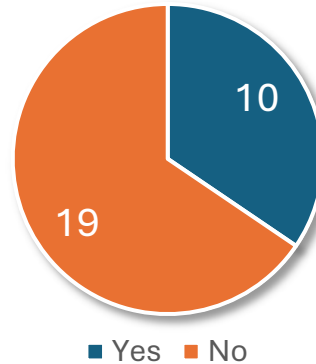
Summary (May 2025 – 29 responses)



Did your club participate in local County based Junior Club Leagues / Festivals in 2024/25 season?



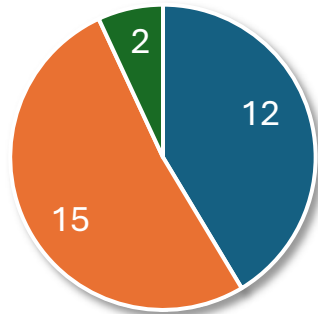
Did your club participate a West Junior Leagues in 2024/25 season?



Club factors (in order of importance)

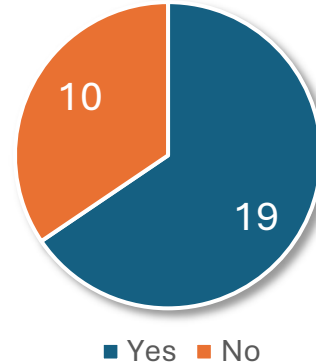


Preferred In2Hockey U12 West Club Finals format?



- Remain the same / shorter matches / one venue
- Separate dates for boys & girls / longer matches
- Longer matches / separate venue for boys & girls / same day

Is your Club aware of the West Hockey Strategy?



West Strategy focus areas to develop (in order of importance)



Survey Question - 1 (10 clubs responded to this question)



What has worked well this season with the league format?

- **Quality of Games:** The standard of games was appreciated, with positive feedback on the quality of boys' and girls' hockey matches.
- **Fixture Variety and Formats:** A good range of fixtures was noted, with triangular and festival formats being preferred over one-off matches. Centralised calendar settings helped ensure fixture commitments.
- **Team Diversity and League Structure:** Playing against different teams provided variety in matches. The mixture of teams in leagues was highlighted as a positive aspect.
- **Support and Communication:** Communication from West Hockey and support with GMS were appreciated, especially in managing fixture changes effectively.

Survey Question - 2 (10 clubs responded to this question)



What would you change about the Club Junior Leagues?

- 1. Fixture Scheduling and Structure:** More games. Suggestions include playing all teams twice (home and away), scheduling more matches in the first half of the season to avoid weather disruptions. Concerns raised about the fairness of the 8-0 walkover rule and the need for meaningful competition after Christmas for T1 teams not in the Supra League.
- 2. Umpiring and Match Management:** Feedback highlighted a lack of qualified umpires and the need for clearer direction from England Hockey on umpiring standards. Suggestions include supplying one umpire per game and addressing challenges in organising triangular tournaments due to pitch and umpire availability.
- 3. Promotion and Awareness:** Suggestions to increase awareness include better marketing of West Hockey and County competitions on social media, publicising triangular tournaments and celebrating Tier 2 league winner playoffs.
- 4. Coordination Across Age Groups and Levels:** Feedback emphasises the need for a coordinated calendar across junior and senior hockey, with a live online schedule to manage commitments across different age groups and levels. This would help clubs balance resources and participation effectively.

Survey Question - 3 (10 clubs responded to this question)



What has been the feedback from players, coaches and parents?

- 1. Positive Experiences:** Feedback highlights positive experiences, including enjoyment of the new U14 full-pitch format and overall good experiences.
- 2. Issues with Fixtures:** Concerns were raised about insufficient fixtures at Tier 2 and cancellations due to opposition teams being unable to field players. This was particularly disappointing for U14 Boys players who played all their league fixtures in the second half of the season.
- 3. Player and Umpire Availability:** Challenges include the availability of players for U16 Boys games and a general shortage of umpires across the club.
- 4. Engagement and Focus:** While new players and parents enjoyed the changes, there was a slight loss of focus as the season progressed.

Survey Question - 4 (10 clubs responded to this question)



New this season, where a game was drawn, we introduced Penalty Shoot-Outs to gain the extra point. Please feedback on how this new rule was received by players and coaches.

1. **Positive Feedback:** Several responses praised the new rule as exciting and a good addition, providing players with a unique format and opportunity to practice new skills. Some found it brilliant and a definite improvement.
2. **Negative Feedback:** Concerns were raised about the rule feeling 'Americanised' and potentially disheartening after a hard-fought draw. Some felt the rule was unnecessary for certain tiers.
3. **Neutral Observations:** Some responses indicated the rule did not impact their games or situations, with no problems reported by certain teams.
4. **Implementation Challenges:** Issues were noted regarding recording the penalty shoot-outs on GMS, leading to confusion about their usage. Miscounting by umpires in one game also highlighted potential implementation challenges.
5. **Suggestions for Improvement:** Suggestions included showing the match as a draw in league tables while adding the extra point separately and ensuring clarity in recording and usage of the rule.

Survey Question - 5 (9 clubs responded to this question)



There has been some difficulties with fulfilling fixtures as well as re-arranging postponed fixtures. If relevant, please give reasons why games have not been played.

- 1. Weather-related Challenges:** Bad weather, including storms, has led to match postponements. Some postponements were perceived as overly cautious or used to disguise availability issues.
- 2. Player and Parent Availability:** Unavailability of players and parents to manage or umpire games has impacted fixture fulfilment. Clubs have resorted to using players from younger age groups to fill gaps.
- 3. Coordination and Scheduling Issues:** Misaligned school term dates, clashes with other events, and lack of communication have made rearranging games difficult. Suggestions include a coordinated online diary for junior and senior hockey events.
- 4. Opposition-related Problems:** Opposition teams have struggled to field players, leading to cancellations. Lack of communication and disorganisation among opposition clubs have further complicated fixture arrangements.
- 5. Calendar and League Rules:** Scheduling conflicts between Championships and West League matches, as well as misaligned February half terms, caused issues. Suggestions include revising the EH calendar and reducing the walkover score from 8-0 to 5-0 to avoid distorting league results.

Survey Question - 6 (29 clubs responded to this question)



Please offer any suggestions on how the West can try to increase club entries into these leagues.

- 1. Travel and Location Challenges:** Distance to matches is a major concern for clubs, especially smaller ones. Suggestions include centralising venues, reducing travel requirements and enabling double headers to minimise travel time.
- 2. Club Size and Player Availability:** Smaller clubs face challenges due to limited player numbers. Ideas include forming 'Barbarians' teams from multiple clubs, promoting hockey to young players, and protecting smaller clubs from losing players to larger ones.
- 3. League Format and Scheduling:** Proposals include simplifying league structures, coordinating schedules to avoid clashes, offering mixed competitions and creating shorter game formats to increase participation and reduce mismatches.
- 4. Increasing Awareness and Engagement:** Suggestions to boost visibility include promoting leagues on social media, writing to clubs, and organising events with banners, refreshments and kit suppliers.
- 5. Enhancing Competition and Participation:** Ideas to improve competition include organising regional festivals, offering more regular fixtures, and ensuring teams are matched by ability to avoid one-sided games. Promoting tiered options for clubs is also recommended.

Survey Question - 7 (29 clubs responded to this question)



West Hockey value your opinion and would be interested in hearing if there is any further information that you could provide us with that may help with developing Hockey across the West.

- 1. Promoting Hockey in State Schools:** Many responses emphasise the need to develop hockey in state schools through dedicated coaching programs, community outreach and funding. Suggestions include introducing hockey DVDs for primary schools, protecting pitches from being converted to 3G, and creating competitive structures for state school teams.
- 2. Enhancing Junior Hockey Opportunities:** Creation of more junior hockey opportunities, such as friendly tournaments, regular games, and structured competitions. Ideas include Badgers and Vixens leagues and premier player outreach to smaller clubs.
- 3. Improving Competitions and Scheduling:** Feedback highlights the need for better competition structures, such as central venues and more frequent games. Suggestions include placing county matches during school holidays and avoiding mismatches in junior games.
- 4. Developing Coaching and Umpiring Resources:** More and better coaches in clubs, especially for state schools. Proposals include interactive coaching opportunities, a central umpire list and funding for regular coaching sessions in schools.
- 5. Addressing Resource and Structural Challenges:** Concerns include the lack of a central calendar, difficulty obtaining pitches and the impact of the Talent Centre on smaller clubs. Suggestions include simplifying strategies, improving the England Hockey website and appointing a social media manager for West Hockey.

West Clubs & EH Finals - 2025/26 ~ Aug-Dec 2025 v005

[illegible]

West Clubs & EH Finals - 2025/26 ~ Jan-May 2026 v005



	West In2Hockey		West Area Leagues		West Indoor		EH Champs	EAG / Talent Academy / County including West League dates						
Sunday	U12	U10	U16 T2 League	U14 T2 League	U18 Boys / Girls	U16 Boys / Girls	U14 / U16	U18	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	Sunday
04-Jan-26								EAG	TA training County 6	TA training County 6	TA training County 6	County 6	County 6	04-Jan-26
11-Jan-26							U14 Round 3	EAG TA Comp2	West League TA Comp2	TA Comp2	West League TA Comp2	West League		11-Jan-26
18-Jan-26				EH Round 7			U16 Round 3							18-Jan-26
25-Jan-26			EH Round 7	EH Round 8	National Finals	National Finals - Sat 24								25-Jan-26
01-Feb-26							U14/U16 Round 4							01-Feb-26
08-Feb-26								TA Comp3	West League TA Comp3	TA Comp3 County7	West League TA Comp2	West League County7	County7	08-Feb-26
15-Feb-26								EAG		EAG				15-Feb-26
22-Feb-26		Sub Area (EH)	EH Round 8				U14 Round 5							22-Feb-26
01-Mar-26	Sub Area (EH)			EH Round 9			U16 Round 5							01-Mar-26
08-Mar-26								EAG	West Lge(slip) County8	EAG County8	West Lge(slip) County8	West Lge(slip) County8	County8	08-Mar-26
15-Mar-26	Sub Area (EH)						U14/U16 Round 6							15-Mar-26
22-Mar-26	Sub Area (EH)		EH Round 9	EH Round 10										22-Mar-26
29-Mar-26		West Finals Clifton College	EH Round 10	EH Round 11										29-Mar-26
05-Apr-26								EAG		EAG				05-Apr-26
12-Apr-26							National Finals Sat 11 & Sun 12							12-Apr-26
19-Apr-26	West Finals Clifton College							TA Comp4	TA Comp4 County9	TA Comp4 County9	TA Comp4 County9	County9	County9	19-Apr-26
26-Apr-26	Area (EH)	Area (EH)		EH Round 12										26-Apr-26
03-May-26								EAG TA Comp5	TA Comp5 County10	EAG/TAC5 County10	TA Comp4 County10	County 10	County 10	03-May-26
10-May-26								EAG TA ID	EAG TA ID	EAG TA ID	EAG TA ID			10-May-26
17-May-26	National Finals Sat 16							Talent Hub	Talent Hub DISE	Talent Hub				17-May-26