

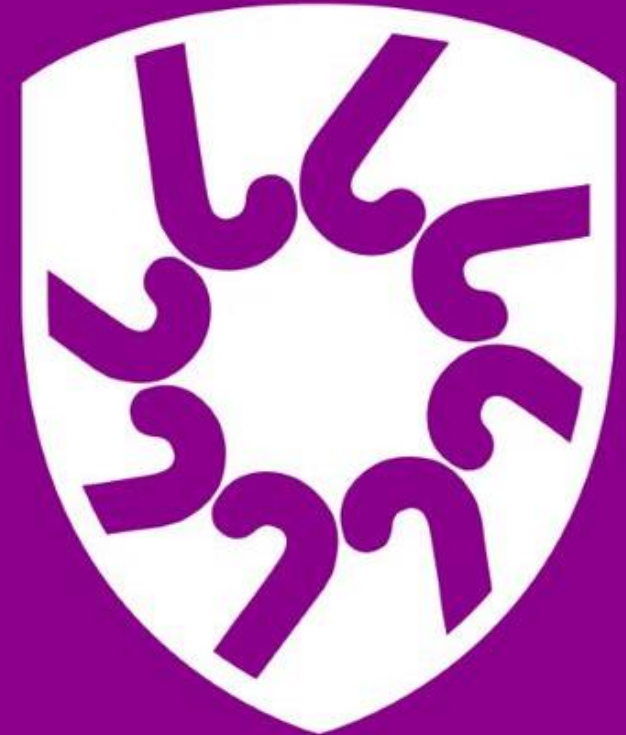
**MIDLANDS
HOCKEY**

Clubs Junior Competitions Information Session

22/07/24

Welcome

- Housekeeping.
- Intro to Midlands Junior Comps and Central Calendar
- Feedback Survey
- Plans for 2024-25



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Midlands Hockey Junior Competitions



Clubs Outdoor

- U18s
- U16s
- U14s
- U12s

Clubs Indoor

- U18s
- U16s

Clubs In2h

- U12s
- U10s

County Hockey

- U17s
- U16s
- U15s
- U14s
- U13s

Schools Outdoor

- U18s
- U16s
- U14s
- State School

Schools Indoor

- U18s
- U16s

Schools In2H

- U13s
- U12s
- U11s

State School Hockey

We need more help...



- Midlands Hockey run a number of events throughout the year, and rely on a very small group of volunteers to help with this.
- If you have anyone in your club that could support any Midlands events (even it is just one afternoon throughout the season) then please let me know. Midlands Hockey will pay petrol expenses and subsistence.
- Also: we are trying to build up a database of hockey playing state schools, if you are working with any state schools then please pass their details on.

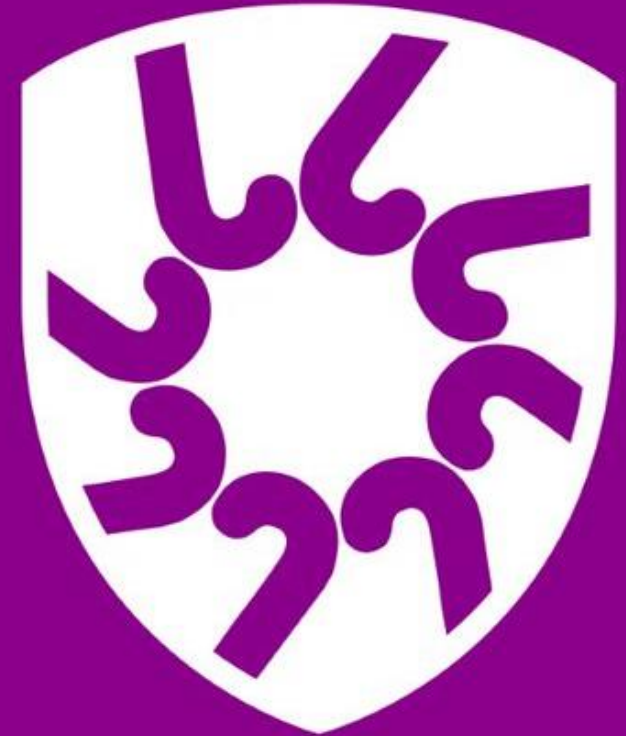
EH Central Calendar



- Gives details of what activity has priority on dates throughout the year.
- Can be found at:
<https://www.englishhockey.co.uk/competitions-and-events/centralised-calendar>

Feedback Survey 2023

- Sent out to all Midlands Clubs.
- 46 responses from 38 clubs.
- Mixture of clubs that do currently enter Midlands Competitions and those that don't.
- Working group from Midlands Junior Comps Committee to review the feedback.



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Clubs that don't enter Midlands Comps

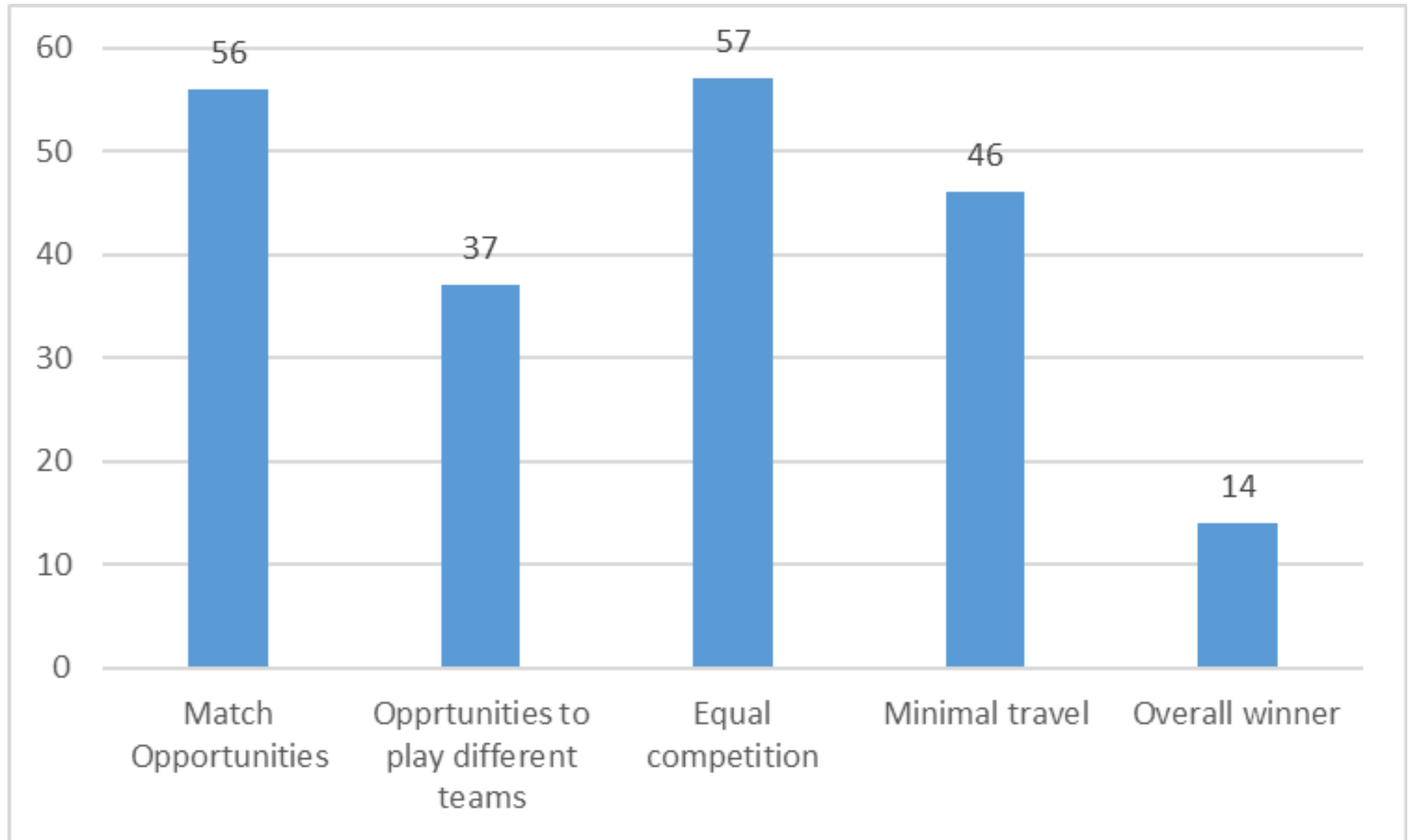


- Why didn't you enter Midlands Competitions?
 - Lack of numbers.
 - Limited number for required age groups.
 - Travel.
- Is there anything Midlands can do to support you entering Midlands Clubs Competitions?
 - 7 a side.
 - Make mixed gender.

Clubs that don't enter Midlands Comps



Priorities



Clubs that do enter Midlands Comps

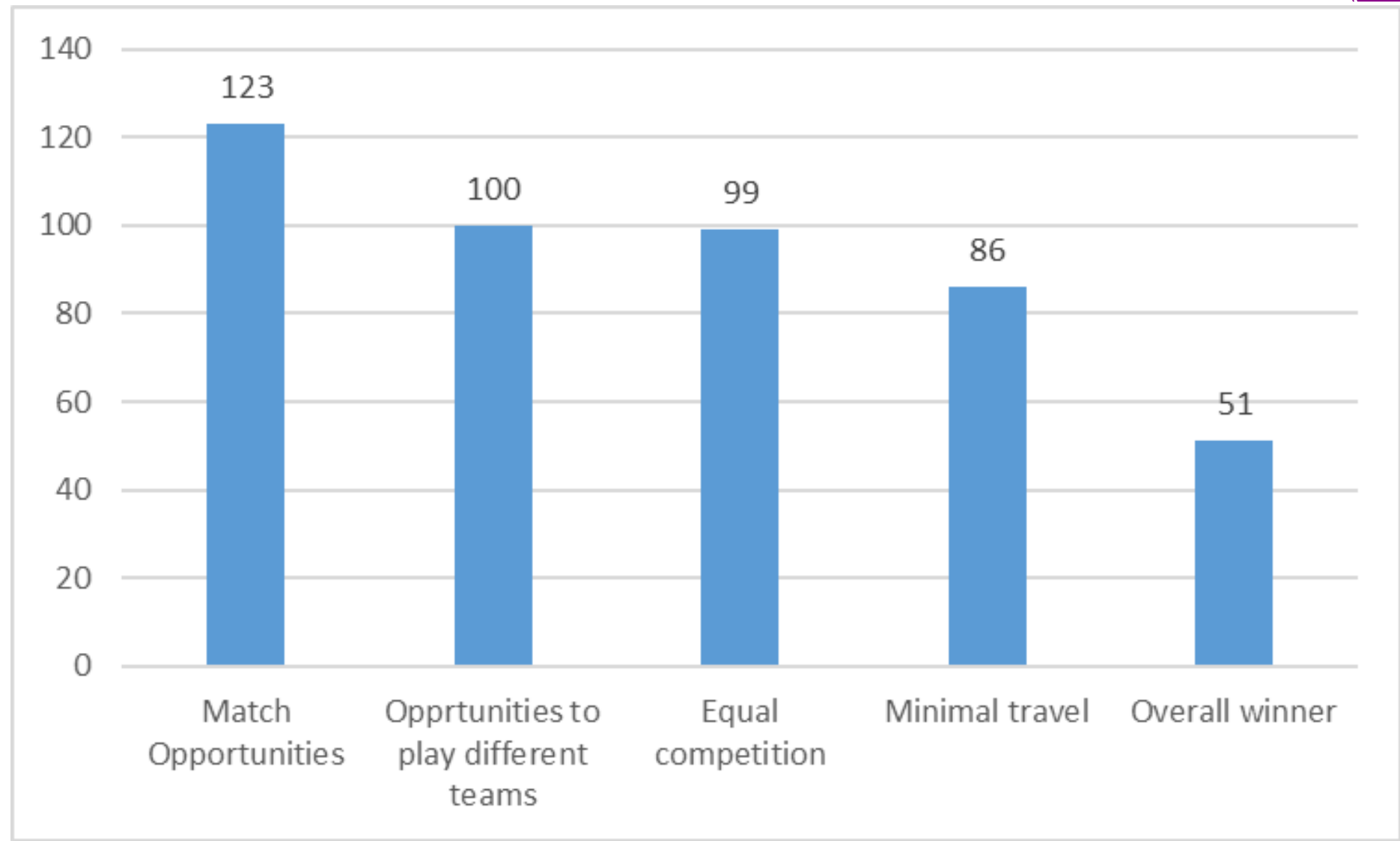


- Feedback on Midlands Competitions:
 - I think clubs struggled to make teams due to clashes but also having to enter the competition before they knew proper player numbers for the season. If you could delay entry to being as close to the start of the season, it might help with teams not pulling out.
 - Not enough notice for early season fixtures - details could be given earlier in the season and first matches in September. May prevent too many matches being lost to weather.
 - When competing with other sports for children's time it would be really helpful if we could give the parents a fixture list with times at the start of the season. I appreciate that clubs have got to find slots but if they were given a couple of weeks to notify times following the issue of all the fixtures at the start of the season then that would help parents with planning and lead to more availability and ultimately more hockey players.
 - Keep fixtures away from half terms - remembering that different counties have different term times.
 - Let us decide the exact fixture - so the fixture has to be played plus or minus one week either side of the date.
 - **Travel was the biggest issue that people have had with the Midlands Competitions.**

Clubs that do enter Midlands Comps



Priorities



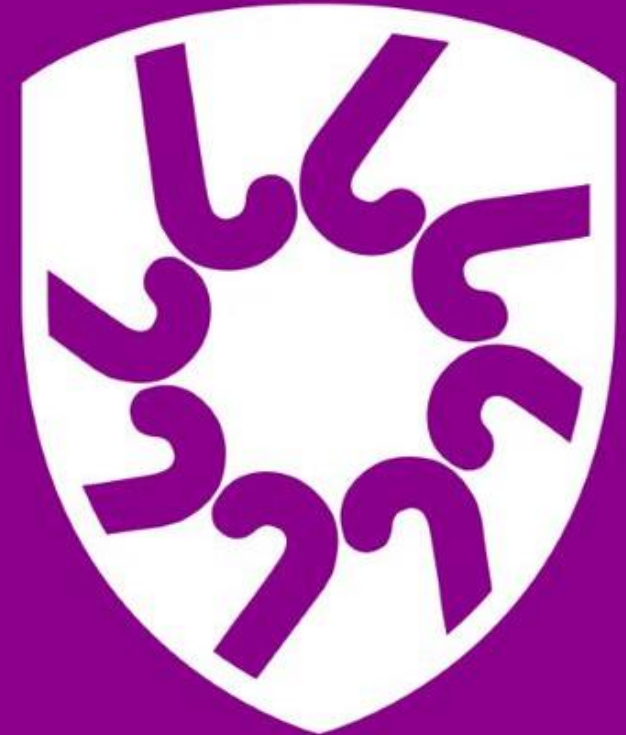
Things to remember



- We are constrained by the priority dates on the Central Calendar.
- Particularly at the lower tiers we will try to make sure that travel is as minimised as possible.
 - This does depend on the teams that enter.
 - If you know that teams locally to you haven't entered in the past please make sure they know that the Midlands Competitions exist.
 - We will be trying to push this as much as possible over the summer, but word of mouth is also really helpful!
- Clubs can join together to make teams at T2/ T3.

2024-2025 Plans

- Tier 3
- Tier 2
- Tier 1



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Formats



- Minimal changes from 2023-2024 format to give clubs consistency.

Tier Guidance- from England Hockey



Tier	Guidelines
Tier 1	A good team with talent players (NAGS/PC/AC) this should be where any club that is showing interest in becoming a talent centre should be competing (both genders and multiple age groups), Travel potentially across the Midlands Area and beyond.
Tier 2	A competitive side who are looking for good opposition for competitive games.
Tier 3	A newly formed junior side or section looking for their first games competitively (this could be a clubs 2s, 3s, 4s depending on the size of the club). Local travel only with limited travel even at play-off stages.

Tier 3: U14s, U16s, U18s



- 7 a side (but scope to change based on club availability- we want to promote participation).
- Option to have mixed teams this year if the demand is there.
 - Minimum of 2 boys and 2 girls on the pitch.
- As local as possible for the fixtures, we would like this to be broadly sub area, but dependent on entries.

Tier 2: U12s, U14s, U16s, U18s



Tier 2A

- Midlands wide, competitive.
- Must be prepared to travel throughout the Midlands.
- More entries- could split East/ West.

Tier 2B

- 2 clubs can join together.
- More localised competitions.
- Might play same teams multiple times.

Tier 1: U14s, U18s



U14s

- Play in Area leagues pre-Christmas.
- Post-Christmas- top 3 teams go through to Supra League.
- Remaining T1 teams form T1B after Christmas- we will look at options for these teams.

U18s

- Play within league- remain at Area level.
- No Supra League at this age group.
- Travel across the whole Midlands Area.

Tier 1: U16s

- This will be run by EH following consultation with clubs. Entry through EH.
 - Reduces pressure on calendar.
 - Provides competition for T1 Area teams who miss out on Supra League in current structure and often struggle to find competitive matches.
- Any further details: junior.competitions@englandhockey.co.uk

Tier 1 – See annotated columns A-E with further details of the relevant phases of competition

Stage 1	Teams play in Zonal leagues, geographic but not rigidly Area based. EH run. Max 8 Divisions with 8 teams in each. Can play each other once or H/A depending on numbers	A
Stage 2	4 Supra Leagues of 4 teams. Top 16 teams, ie top 2 in each of 8 Zonal leagues (or more qualifiers if fewer leagues are run)	A
	Top 2 in each Supra League qualify for Finals weekend. Two pools of 4	A
	Teams finishing 3 & 4 in each Supra League play in Shield QF,SF, Final	B
	Teams who do not qualify for Supra League play in a KO Plate	C
	1 st round losers in Plate play in a KO Vase	D

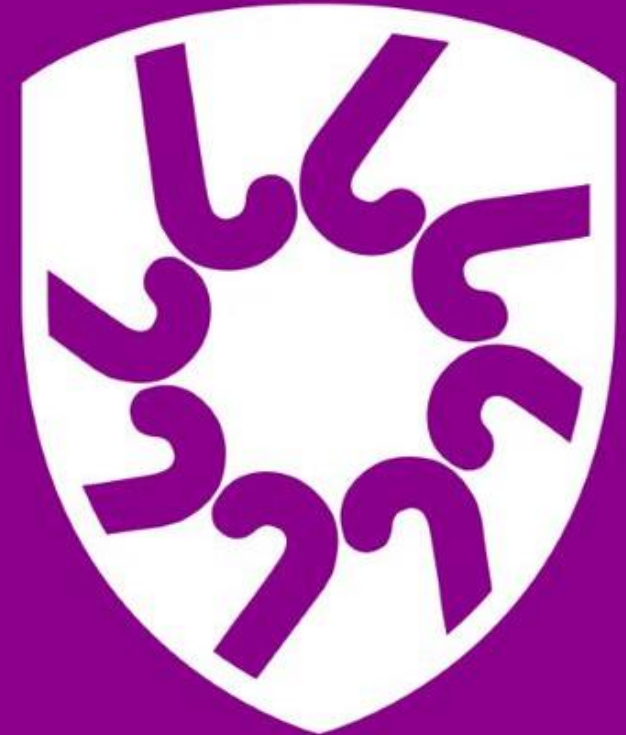
Playing Formats



Age Group	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
U18s	11 a side Single Gender Organised by Midlands	11 a side Single Gender Organised by Midlands	7 a side Single Gender Option: Mixed if demand from Clubs Organised by Midlands
U16s	11 a side Single Gender Organised by England Hockey	11 a side Single Gender Organised by Midlands	7 a side Single Gender Option: Mixed if demand from Clubs Organised by Midlands
U14s	11 a side Single Gender Organised by Midlands	11 a side Single Gender Organised by Midlands	7 a side Single Gender Option: Mixed if demand from Clubs Organised by Midlands
U12s	7 a side Single Gender Organised by Midlands	7 a side Single Gender Organised by Midlands	No Tier 3 U12s activity, however your sub area may offer something.

Key Information

- Deadlines for entries.
- Admin.
- Contacts.



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Midlands Hockey Entries



- Tier 1
 - Entries Deadline: **31st August**
- Tier 2 & Tier 3
 - Entries Deadline: **21st September**
- Entries: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/2vbSqMXLhK>
- Any amendments- please do these on the form (text box at the bottom of the form).

Age Group Guidance



- Age group qualification is based on age at 1st September.
 - For U12s born on or after 01/09/2012.
 - For U14s born on or after 01/09/2010.
 - For U16s born on or after 01/09/2008.
 - For U18s born on or after 01/09/2006.

England Hockey Knockouts



- <https://www.Englandhockey.co.uk/competitions-and-events/championships/england-hockey-junior-club-championships/junior-club-championships>
- If you are entering a Midlands competition and an England Hockey competition these need to be at the same Tier- for example if you enter Midlands at Tier 1, if you entered England Hockey this would need to be at Tier 1 as well.

Admin



- Fixtures will be on GMS, please ensure that results etc are submitted.
- 8-0 guidance available from EH:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsZuJaz3N5Q>

Contact Details



- Mary Lilliman, Junior Leagues and Competitions
Chair: juniorchair@midlands.hockey
- Jane Jelley, Junior Clubs Competitions Administrator:
tbc