

West Junior Clubs Survey 2024-25

Generally, clubs were satisfied with the Club leagues.

Here is the main feedback and comments on the questions raised:

1. Centralised Calendar

- West Junior competitions follow the England Hockey Centralised Calendar
- The West Junior Competitions Committee create a West specific calendar each season
- The calendar is very congested!
- Every attempt is made to ensure that West Club League fixtures are set to avoid clashes with other England Hockey / West Junior age group related activity, half-terms, etc.

2. Competition structure and appropriate quality of games

- Not enough clubs for us to organise any meaningful Tier 3 competition
- Ideally Tier 3 would be organised within each county to minimise travel
- Avon run Under 14 & Under 16 11-a-side Leagues for Tier 2/Tier 3 teams, within which teams from Gloucestershire and Wiltshire also take part
- Cornwall and Devon run Under 14 7-a-side and 11-a-side Leagues respectively, which would count at Tier 3 level
- Triangular matches were welcomed as a good compromise to travelling longer distances
- Concern was raised regarding Under 14 Tier 1 teams, who do not qualify for Supra League, not getting extra games after Christmas. This is set to change for season 2026-27, with England Hockey intending to take over the running of these Leagues utilising the current Under 16 Tier 1 format

3. Umpiring

- It is recognised that umpires are very difficult to find across all areas of the game
- Home teams must provide two umpires unless:
 - i) the home team notifies the away team advising that they are only able to provide one
 - ii) an away team insists on bringing onein either case at least 5 days' notice must be given before the match
- It's not currently possible to provide contact details for umpires in the West due to GDPR
- Further information regarding umpiring contacts in the West can be found here:
<https://west.englishockey.co.uk/officiating/officiating-contacts>

4. 8-0 walkovers

- This is a standardised England Hockey Junior Regulation
- However, at the request of West Clubs, this will be amended to 5-0 for 2025-26 Tier 2 Under 14 & Under 16 West Leagues
- The 8-0 walkover result won't be changed for the Tier 1 Under 14 West Leagues, as these are feeder leagues to the England Hockey led Supra Leagues

5. Penalty Shoot-out

- Introduced into the West Tier 2 Leagues as it negates the possibility of ties in single league competitions. It is also the way draws are settled in other England Hockey competitions (except Adult league games)
- Most clubs agreed that its introduction was positive

6. Promotion and Marketing

- This was highlighted as desirable, but we need a volunteer to do this
- In the meantime, fixtures will be placed on the West Website

7. Cancellation and commitment

- Frustrations expressed regarding cancellations
- Weather caused some issues this past season and focus was lost
- Increasingly, parents can be quite difficult about commitment and travelling distances which is frustrating
- Smaller clubs do struggle but we welcome club combinations if they can combine to produce an age group team

8. Umpiring and Coaching courses and information

- These are free for clubs as a perk of the new England Hockey membership scheme from July
- Log into <https://hockeyhub.englandhockey.co.uk/> create a log in password for free and search 'find a course'
- There are also free courses for teachers

9. State School Hockey

- Five West Counties held State School only competitions in 2024-25
- In 2025-26 the West are supporting Counties to organise State School competitions leading to West Finals

10. Entries and fixtures for season 2025-26

- Two separate entry forms will be requested for West Leagues by Microsoft forms:
 - i) Tier 1 Under 14 entries – deadline Sunday 31st August 2025
 - ii) Tier 2 Under 14 & Under 16 – deadline Sunday 14th September 2025
- Fixtures will be available as soon as possible after the deadline dates
- Rules and regulations for West events will be sent out as soon as possible after 2025-26 Junior Regulations are published by England Hockey

We hope this is helpful.

West Junior Competitions Committee

If you have any comments and wish to offer solutions to issues, please contact:

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