

JUNIOR REGULATIONS 2020/21 SEASON



BRITISH
DODGEBALL

Introduction

This document provides the regulations for British Dodgeball sanctioned community junior events.

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1. Club and Team Membership

1.1 To compete in a British Dodgeball Junior Championship or Junior League in the 2020/21 season a team must belong to a club that holds a valid [British Dodgeball Club Membership](#) for the 2020/21 season.

1.2 A member club is defined as per the club membership page of the British Dodgeball website. Club membership is open to all clubs that have a designated contact and training venue.

1.3 All teams competing in British Dodgeball leagues must belong to a member club. A British Dodgeball Club Membership is not required to enter British Dodgeball Junior Opens or Junior DodgeSmash events.

1.4 All clubs that are British Dodgeball members must have a unique club name.

1.5 Clubs may have as many teams as they like registered to their club for British Dodgeball events. Only teams listed as 2020/21 British Dodgeball league teams will be able to compete in league and ranking competitions, and teams may only be registered to one club.

1.6 Every team name within a club must be unique. A team may only change their name once they have received permission to do so in writing from British Dodgeball.

2. Player Affiliation, Registration and Club Eligibility

2.1 To participate in any British Dodgeball Opens, Championships or Leagues in 2020/21, all junior players must have completed [playing registration](#) with British Dodgeball and agree to abide by the [British Dodgeball Code of Conduct](#), confirm understanding of how their [data is handled](#), and confirm their fitness to play. Participation includes being a named substitute at an event. As junior players are under 18, a parent/guardian, or a club lead with permission from the parent/guardian, will be required to complete [playing registration](#) for them.

2.2 Teams may register their players in bulk by downloading, completing, and submitting the excel file on the [playing registration page](#). As this will not update on the system automatically, this must be sent to membership@britishdodgeball.org a minimum of three working days before the event is due to begin in order to allow for administration time. When using the bulk form for the first time, it must be used to register 6 or more players at once.

2.2.1 Each bulk form can be submitted more than once throughout the season, to add extra or new players.

2.2.2 For each player listed on a bulk form the following information must be included: an email address, first name, last name, date of birth, primary club, confirmed adherence to code of conduct, confirmed player fitness to participate in dodgeball, consent or no consent for British Dodgeball to use their image/video in online/promotional material, and an understanding of how their data will be used and stored.

2.3 Anyone found to be playing at any event who has not completed playing registration may face sanctions of being ineligible for further play until registration is complete. Additionally, their team may forfeit all matches played on that day so far.

2.3.1 If a player is found to not be registered for the club they are playing for or they have not completed a playing registration at all, they will automatically be deemed as registered for the club that team belongs to, this will become their primary or secondary club, which will be updated on/added to their registration form.

2.4 British Dodgeball will hold a database of all players with British Dodgeball membership and all registered players who have competed in British Dodgeball Opens, Championships and Leagues, in accordance with the [British Dodgeball Privacy Policy](#).

2.5 If a club has more than one team entered in the same age group in a league they will be asked to submit a “league squad list” of their top 6 players (indicated by a * on the submitted team sheet) who can only play for the team they are listed in. Players cannot move down teams unless the club request it in writing by emailing membership@britishdodgeball.org

2.5.1 If a club has two teams in the same age group, the A/first team top 6 (indicated by an * on the team sheet) will not be able to move down a team. B/second team players can move up to support the A/first team if needed.

2.5.2 If a club has three teams in the same age group, the A/first team top 6 (indicated by an * on the team sheet) will not be able to move down to the B/second team. B/second team players can move up to support the A/first team if needed. The B/second team top 6 (indicated by an * on the team sheet) will not be able to move down to the C/third team. C/third team players can move up to support the A/first team or the B/second team if needed.

2.6 When we are operating separate Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter leagues, clubs will be asked to submit team sheets for the Autumn/Winter League and a new set of team sheets for the Spring/Summer League. The top 6 players listed in a team can change from the Autumn/Winter League to the Spring/Summer League.

2.7 All players are encouraged to take up additional [British Dodgeball Membership](#) where all income is used to support grass roots dodgeball development as well as supporting the national teams.

3. Player Eligibility

3.1 British Dodgeball Junior Opens, Championships, and Leagues in the 2020/21 season will be focused on four age groups: Under 11's, Under 13's, Under 15's and Under 17's.

3.2 British Dodgeball are entitled to and may ask the parent/guardian or club lead to provide proof of age for any players.

3.2.1 If a player is found to be competing in an age group they are not eligible for sanctions for the club and player may be incurred.

3.3 Teams will be required to submit players date of birth on their team sheet before the event to allow the event coordinator to check eligibility for each age category. Players found to be playing in an age category which they are not eligible for will not be allowed to play for that team, but will be allowed to play for the team in another age group should the club have a team entered and there is space in that team.

- Children are permitted to compete in the Under 11's age category if they are aged 10 or younger on 31st August 2020. In England and Wales this is children in school years 6 and below, in Scotland this is children in school year Primary 6 and below, and in Northern Ireland this is children in school year P7 and below.
- Children are permitted to compete in the Under 13's age category if they are aged 12 or younger on the 31st August 2020. In England and Wales this is children in school years 8 and below, in Scotland this is children in school year S1 and below and in Northern Ireland this is children in school year 9 and below.

- Children are permitted to compete in the Under 15's age category if they were aged 14 or younger on the 31st August 2020. In England and Wales this is children in school years 10 and below, in Scotland this is children in school year S3 and below and in Northern Ireland this is children in school year 11 and below.
- Children are permitted to compete in the Under 17's age category if they were aged 16 or younger on the 31st August 2020. In England and Wales this is children in school years 12 (Lower Sixth Form) and below, in Scotland this is children in school year S5 and below and in Northern Ireland this is children in school year 13 and below.

3.4 Players will only be permitted to play in their own category and the immediate age group above.

- Players are permitted to compete in the Under 11's age category if they were aged 10 or younger on the 31st August at the start of the season in which they are playing. These players will also be permitted to play in the Under 13's age category, but not the Under 15's or Under 17's Categories.
- Players are permitted to compete in the Under 13's age category if they were aged 12 or younger on the 31st August at the start of the season in which they are playing. These players will also be permitted to play in the Under 15's age category, but not the Under 17's age category.
- Players are permitted to compete in the Under 15's age category if they were aged 14 or younger on the 31st August at the start of the season in which they are playing. These players will also be permitted to play in the Under 17's age category.
- Players are permitted to compete in the Under 17's age category if they were aged 16 or younger on the 31st August at the start of the season in which they are playing.

3.5 Junior players under the age of **14** are not permitted to play in British Dodgeball Adult events and leagues. All British Dodgeball Adult events and leagues are for ages 16+. Junior players aged 14+ are permitted to compete in adult events and Leagues as part of a team featuring players aged 16+, but [parental consent](#) must be provided.

3.5.1 The parental consent form must be completed and returned to alice@britishdodgeball.com before the player participates in the adult event. This consent form will be held for the season once submitted.

3.6 At the beginning of every British Dodgeball event, the completion of a team sheet will be required for each participating team. If a team has not completed their team sheet prior to their first scheduled match, or if any players listed on the team sheet have not submitted [playing registration](#), they may not be allowed to participate in that match, alongside any subsequent matches until a team sheet is completed.

3.7 There is no limit to the number of players who may be registered to one team. However, for leagues and championship events, any awards, medals or prizes will be limited to 10 per qualifying team.

3.8 Matches at British Dodgeball events will be 6 a side. A team requires a minimum of 4 registered players present in order to be permitted to play. If a team is unable to field 4 players, the match will be forfeited.

4. Transfers and Transfer Requests

4.1 A player's registered club for a particular type of league (for instance, for the North West Junior league– Under 11's) will remain their registered club (and the only club they can play for in that league type and its associated ranking events) until the end of that league season (e.g. the end of the Autumn/Winter Leagues).

4.2 Transfer requests to change the club a player is registered to for a particular competition will be considered on a case-by-case basis and should be sent in writing to alice@britishdodgeball.com, for the consideration of the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee.

4.2.1 Please note, no player is permitted to transfer between clubs competing in the same league during the current league season. For example, if a player has competed for Club A in round 1 of the league they are not permitted to compete for Club B until that particular league season is over.

4.3 British Dodgeball will hold a list of all players registered to play for a club in a particular type of league (the club's 'squad list'). Eligible players may be added throughout the season. Where clarification of eligibility is sought, this should be sent to the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee via alice@britishdodgeball.com no later than 48 hours before the first competition that the added player will participate in.

4.4 Transferring between teams at the same club is permitted during the course of a league season as long as the registration requirements are followed.

4.5 At any one time, there must be a minimum of 6 players listed on the squad list of each of a club's teams.

4.5.1 Prior to entering an event British Dodgeball suggest that clubs ensure they have enough players available to participate in all the fixtures. We suggest that teams have a minimum of 10 players in the squad when entering 1 team, 18 players when entering 2 teams and 24 players for entering 3 teams.

4.6 For all Leagues, players on a club's squad list for that league system may transfer between teams at the same club without requiring permission from British Dodgeball where they are transferring to a higher-ranked team. In this case a team's team sheet at the start of each ranking competition or league fixture will be considered notification of any within-club transfers.

4.7 Where a player is transferring to a lower-ranked team, an email must be sent to the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee via alice@britishdodgeball.com requesting approval for the proposed transfer, no later than 48 hours before the start time of the event they wish these transfers to be in place from. Players and clubs should be aware that there is no guarantee that a transfer will be approved, and a transfer has not been confirmed until written confirmation from the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee.

4.8 Junior players may participate for a maximum of two junior clubs in British Dodgeball Leagues in the 2020/21 season (for instance, one in Under 11's and one in Under 13's). The first club will be their 'primary club' that they represent. They can also represent a 'secondary' club if their 'primary club' does not have a team in the appropriate age category.

4.8.1 This can only be done with the permission of the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee. To apply for a secondary club, a player's parent/guardian or club lead need to complete the Secondary Club registration form, to outline which club they would like adding and the reasoning for this. This will be reviewed by the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee, and all parties will be notified of the decision. Players and clubs should be aware that there is no guarantee that a secondary club application will be approved.

4.8.2 Players cannot play in both the North West League and the Midlands League at the same age.

4.9 A junior player can play for an adult team, in line with the age restrictions listed above. This can be the adult section of their community club or another club if their junior club does not have an adult section. This can only be done through naming their adult club on their playing registration, and by returning a completed [parental consent form](#) to alice@britishdodgeball.com.

4.10 Transfer requests between clubs will not be approved where there is evidence that a player owes money to the club that they are looking to leave. A player will not be permitted to compete in further British Dodgeball events until any outstanding debt has been settled.

4.11 Transfer requests will need to be approved by three sources before they can officially be confirmed: a representative from the club the player intends to transfer from, a representative from the club they intend to transfer to, and the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee.

4.12 Participating in league or ranking events for clubs other than their primary club or secondary club during the 2020/21 season (September 2020 until June 2021) without having had a transfer request approved by British Dodgeball will result in disciplinary action for the player and clubs involved as decided by the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee.

4.13 Teams cannot name 'guest players' from other clubs as members of their team at a league event or other ranking event. Only players who are listed on the team's team sheet at the beginning of the event will be able to participate.

5. Gender

5.1 All Junior British Dodgeball Opens, Championships and Leagues are designated as "mixed". But there are not set requirements to have a specific amount of each gender on court at any one time.

6. Leagues and Ranking Events

6.1 British Dodgeball Junior Leagues and ranking events will run between September 2020 and the end of July 2021.

6.2 For the 2020/21 season, at least the following British Dodgeball Junior Community Leagues are proposed:

- North West Junior League
- Midlands Junior League
- Scottish League

6.3 British Dodgeball community leagues above will be open to community teams and any school teams wishing to enter.

6.4 Multiple teams from the same club are permitted to participate in any British Dodgeball Junior League. Entries will initially be limited to two teams into a league, clubs can request additional teams that will be placed on a waiting list. Once the entry deadline has arrived, these clubs will be notified about if their additional teams can participate in the league. Where multiple teams are in the same league, within-club transfers across the season will be monitored closely, in line with the regulations listed above.

7. Non-Ranking Events

7.1 Non-ranking or “open” events are any competitions where there are no eligibility requirements. Players do not have to play for their primary or secondary club.

7.2 The majority of non-ranking British Dodgeball junior events will be played to British Dodgeball Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 or Under 17 junior rules. Where an event instead is played to a different ruleset this will be clearly specified on the event entry page on the British Dodgeball website.

7.3 Where possible non-ranking events will follow a standard structure, beginning with pre-announced, unseeded groups. When group play has finished, the teams finishing at the top of these groups will progress to the knockout stages (which will be quarter finals or positional games). This may be adapted due to team numbers; information will be emailed out regarding structure and a schedule of play in advance of the competition.

8. Junior Championships 2021

8.1 Qualification for the 2020/2021 Junior Championships will be through the Spring/Summer Midlands and North West Junior Leagues and the Scottish Junior League.

8.2 The teams who finish in the top two in the U11s, U13s, U15s and U17s age categories in Spring/Summer Midlands Junior League will qualify.

The teams who finish in the top two in the U11s, U13s, U15s and U17s age categories in Spring/Summer North West Junior League will qualify.

The Scottish teams who finish in the top two in the U11s, U13s, U15s and U17s age categories in Scottish Junior League will qualify.

8.3 English teams are very welcome to compete in the Scottish League, however only Scottish teams can qualify from the Scottish Leagues for the British Junior Championships 2020/2021.

9. Equipment and Clothing

9.1 Full guidance on club and team kit can be found in the [Kit Guidance](#) document.

9.2 Where possible, all players competing in the same team in Junior Leagues, or the English Junior Championships, should wear coordinating uniforms. This should include tops of similar colour and design.

9.3 All players competing in the same team in non-ranking events should wear tops of a similar colour.

9.4 Any questions on kit, including clarification of where tops are considered the same style, should be sent to the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee via alice@britishdodgeball.com. Where adherence to any rules and regulations around equipment or clothing is not considered possible on medical or religious grounds, this should be raised with the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee 48 hours in advance of the first relevant event or fixture.

10. Safety and Safeguarding

10.1 All players compete in British Dodgeball events at their own risk.

10.2 First aid provisions are the responsibility of the club and player. Where possible British Dodgeball will also have a first aider on site. Clubs should always have a first aid kit and ice packs available at events and leagues, especially at junior events which are often held in school halls where the venue may not have any on-site receptionist or first-aider.

10.3 All teams competing in junior events and Leagues should have one coach/manager over the age of 18 to accompany the team.

10.3.1 At the end of any event or league meet this coach or manager should not leave the venue until all players have been collected by a parent or guardian. As this is a safeguarding concern, should this coach or manager leave the event before all of their players have been collected and left the premises, they could face disciplinary action.

10.4 Players who have medical conditions or are pregnant should not participate in dodgeball as a player or as a coach. Participating in dodgeball carries a risk of injury and even death. Anyone with a medical condition or pregnancy that insists on playing or acting as a coach must understand that this is performed at their own risk. To act as a coach or player whilst possessing a known medical condition or whilst pregnant, an individual must submit a written health and safety waiver to the Director of Rules Jess Goshawk acknowledging their acceptance that British Dodgeball will not be held accountable and absolving British Dodgeball of all responsibility for any unfortunate events which occur at a British Dodgeball competition.

10.5 At junior events, adults should not use the same changing facilities as children under the age of 18 unless there are separate cubicles unless they are parents helping their child.

10.6 At community events where there are a range of ages, British Dodgeball will attempt to secure over 18's and under 18's changing rooms or one changing room with separate cubicles, but this may not always be possible. If there are no separate cubicles, over 18's should change in the specified changing room at adult events whilst under 18's should arrive changed and ready to play or change in a toilet cubicle. Conversely, under 18's should change in the specified changing room at junior events whilst adults should not enter unless they are parents helping their child or there is an urgent safety issue

10.7 Chewing gum and/or eating food whilst on court playing is forbidden. Coaches and parents should monitor junior players and ensure that they abide by this.

11. Competition Formats & Entry

11.1 Where possible the schedule for events will be available via the British Dodgeball website and sent via email to competing teams prior to the event. This will include match timings and line refereeing duties, though will be limited to group stages only where relevant.

11.2 Where an event has group stages, groups will be drawn by British Dodgeball prior to the event. For non- ranking events no seeding will be used. For ranking events, seeding will be based on league ranking at the date of the draw.

11.3 At Under 11 events the appropriate junior rules will be used. For Under 11's this consists of using three size 1 foam balls, with matches being comprised of 6 sets, each lasting a maximum of 2 minutes. A 1-minute half time will be allocated and 20 minutes will be allowed per match in the schedule. There will be no on-court warm-up time before a game.

11.4 At Under 13, Under 15, and Under 17 events the appropriate junior rules will be used. For Under 13's and Under 15's this consists of using five size 2 (6.5 inch) cloth balls, and Under 17's will use five size 3 (7 inch) cloth balls. Matches will consist of two 7-minute halves. A 1-minute half time will be used and 20 minutes will be allowed per match in the schedule. There will be no on-court warm-up time before a game.

11.5 Open event entry is available through the British Dodgeball website only, and payment must be made in order to confirm entry. Event entry will close at midnight two Mondays (12 days) before the weekend of the event, or when all competition spaces are filled, whichever is sooner.

11.6 League entries will be taken through completion and submission of the appropriate league entry form. The completed form should be submitted to Alice via alice@britishdodgeball.com as soon as possible.

11.6.1 On submission of the form, clubs will be invoiced for their entries. This invoice should be paid within 30 days.

11.6.2 Leagues will have a set deadline for entries, clearly advertised on the league information page.

11.7 Where a team withdraws from an event prior to the event entry deadline, a refund or entry credit will be issued. Following the event deadline, the full entry fee will be forfeited by any team who withdraws from or does not attend the event.

11.8 Any overseas teams looking to enter British Dodgeball junior events will be required to pay an additional charge of 5% of the entry fee to cover international transaction fees.

11.9 Clubs will only be permitted to enter or compete in British Dodgeball events where they have no outstanding debt to British Dodgeball.

12. Assistant Officials

12.1 Under 11's and Under 13's are required to provide 1 assistant official during any match in which they are not playing and are allocated as the neutral team. Any instances of teams failing to do so will be reviewed by the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee and may result in points deductions or other sanctions.

12.1.1 This individual should be a coach or confident adult, who is confident in aiding the main referee during the game, though a referee qualification is not required.

12.1.2 Junior players aged 14+ who have completed a referee qualification are able to complete this role.

12.1.3 They will support the head referee and take up position on the opposite side of the court to the head referee. Assistant centre referees are in charge of the side of the court to their left and will call "play ball" and lead on calling "hits", "catches", and other "outs" for this side of the court. They are able to make calls directly, not just through the head referee.

12.2 It is a requirement for all Under 17's teams competing in British Dodgeball events to be able to provide a minimum of 5 assistant officials (aged 15+) during any match in which they are not playing. Any instances of teams failing to do so will be reviewed by the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee and may result in points deductions or other sanctions.

12.3 It is a requirement for all Under 15's teams competing in British Dodgeball events to be able to provide a minimum of 5 assistant officials (aged 13+) during any match in which they are not playing. Any instances of teams failing to do so will be reviewed by the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee and may result in points deductions or other sanctions.

12.4 British Dodgeball referees or other officials may be asked to rate the performance of a team's assistant officials following each match. Where this rating is not satisfactory, the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee, may decide that sanctions apply.

12.5 Where 5 assistant officials are required, this will usually involve:

1 x assistant centre referee

They will support the head referee and take up position on the opposite side of the court to the head referee. Teams should put forward their most experienced players/ referees as assistant centre referees, though referees qualifications are not required. Assistant centre referees are in charge of the side of the court to their left and will call "play ball" and lead on calling "hits", "catches", and other "outs" for this side of the court. They are able to make calls directly, not just through the head referee.

2 x back line officials

Assistant officials acting as "back line officials" should be positioned on the right side of each team's half of the court, by the back line. Their main role is to check for back line faults - a player is "out" if they touch on or over the back line with any part of their body or clothing. They should call players "out" for any such offences and may also call players "out" for hits, catches, and other offences. They are able to make calls directly, not just through the head referee. They should watch for when a ball is live or not live. They are also looking for "false starts" - so where a player moves in any way or direction following the call to be "ready" but before the whistle, or where a player is positioned over the back line following the call to be "ready" but before the whistle.

2 x return line officials

Assistant officials acting as “return line officials” should be positioned on the left side of each team’s half of the court, next to the ball return line. Their main role is to check for ball return line faults – for instance, false start offences (a false start only becomes a false start offence if the individual moves in any way/enters court before the whistle AND advances past the ball return line), and balls not being made live when returning to court via a retriever or spectator. Following the opening rush (in these cases the ball must be received by a player with both feet in contact with the ground and fully behind the ball return line). They should make the head referee aware of any dead balls that have been released, and where possible warn a team that a ball is not yet live. They may also call players “out” for hits, catches and other offences, and are able to make calls directly, not just through the head referee.

13. Forfeits

13.1 Where a player or team wishes to forfeit a set they should leave the court with one hand in the air and ask the referee to “re-set”. There is no limit to how early or late in a set a set may be forfeited. Forfeiting will result in a score of 0 players on court for the team forfeiting.

13.2 An official registration time will be set for all British Dodgeball events. All participating players are expected to be at the venue by this time. Teams must not enter the sports hall more than 30 minutes in advance of the official registration time. Contraventions to these rules may result in sanctions for the offending teams.

13.3 If a team fails to attend an event they were scheduled to compete in, they will forfeit the match(es) that they were scheduled to play. For all junior age groups this will be recorded as a 20-0 win to the opposing team.

13.4 Where a team fails to attend three or more rounds of league fixtures, the British Dodgeball Junior Rules Committee reserves the right to discount any scores against the forfeiting team from the league table and to void any of the forfeiting team’s own points.

13.5 For any match in which a team has fielded any number of ineligible players, this will be seen as the offending team forfeiting this match.

13.6 In the instance that both teams in a match are not in attendance or both have fielded ineligible players, the match will be declared as a non-result draw, i.e. both teams will finish the match with nil points from games, and nil league points for the match. This will be shown as a -20 v -20 score as a match result and on league tables.

14. Contact

The Junior Rules Committee consists of the following members. For any queries involving junior rules please contact hello@britishdodgeball.com with the email titled: 'FAO Junior Rules Committee'.

- Alice Bowler – British Dodgeball
- Aden Woodall – Manchester Junior Bees
- Ben Hoyle – Eden Dodgeball Club
- Brooke Thurbon – Harborough Hurricanes
- Joy Neave – Flintshire Dodgeball
- Mark Yates – Enderby Junior Dodgeball Club
- Michael Bailey – Altrincham Dodgers
- Robyn Kerrie Smith – GCG Juniors
- Stephanie Robson – Hartlepool Mavericks
- Victoria Foster – Wilmslow Wasps