

BRITISH DODGEBALL

2020/21

UNIVERSITY COMPETITIONS GUIDE



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DODGEBALL

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO OUR 20/21 UNIVERSITY COMPETITIONS GUIDE. WE ARE MAKING SOME CHANGES FROM THE 19/20 UNIVERSITY COMPETITION CALENDAR IN ORDER TO BETTER ALIGN TO BUCS REGULATIONS AHEAD OF OUR PROPOSED ADOPTION IN THE 21-22 SEASON AND TO ENSURE WE GIVE YOU THE BEST POSSIBLE AND SAFEST DODGEBALL EXPERIENCE IN THE WAKE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. READ ON FOR MORE DETAILS!



CLUB & INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

Clubs need to register with us as club members so we have your contact details. There will no longer be a fee attached to this for the 20-21 season for university clubs (unless you need to use our Public Liability insurance in which case you will need Premium membership - check with your university as most institutions will provide insurance for your club). You can register your club on the [club membership page](#).

Individuals can choose to get [British Dodgeball membership](#) to have a say on the direction we develop the sport, get voting rights at our AGM and get discounted products. Other sports demand you get membership to play - we prefer to give you the option to support us.

All of your club players will need to register with us in order to be able to play in any competition. They can register on our [Playing Registration](#) when this is opened for the new season (approx. the 15th September).

This provides us with a valuable insight into dodgeball participation in the UK. All data is stored and used in line with our Privacy Policy, available to view at the foot of our website.

Please ensure you make this clear to your players; if any players are found to be playing without the necessary registration then our rules & regulations state that the team they played for may be sanctioned.

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE & BUCS

Introducing dodgeball as a future BUCS sport was a priority of ours last season and we have been delighted to work through the process with BUCS in order to achieve this. The plans were in place for dodgeball to begin the 2020/21 season as a BUCS sport, but unfortunately the Coronavirus Pandemic has put this on hold until the 2021/22 season.

We are making some changes to better align our league structure to how BUCS leagues operate in order to ensure a smooth transition for implementation of dodgeball into the BUCS calendar next year.

Most of the changes have been summarised below:



- A reduced number of league rounds to an average of 5 per regional league
- An alignment of our regional leagues to BUCS regions within the UK
- More open University competitions in more regions of England, Scotland and Wales & more mixed open competitions to support institutions that don't quite yet have full women's sides
- More work with institutions in Scotland thanks to increased demand from BUCS members
- We are looking to work in partnership with universities that can host our leagues
- An extra member of staff at events to ensure each event is COVID-secure

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE REGIONS

MEN'S

We expect to form a Super League with 6 teams once again. Below this, we will follow BUCS regions to form 5 regional leagues:

- Northern
- Midlands
- Western
- South Eastern
- Scotland

Each league will be made up of 4-8 teams. Regions with higher demand will have a second league below (similar to last season).

Our Welsh University clubs will play amongst themselves in a Western league or form a Western league with universities in the South-West of England. We will follow one of these routes depending on entries. Similarly, some BUCS sports have Scotland as its own region which we may be ready to do. Our NI-based university clubs can continue to enter the community leagues.



WOMEN'S

We expect to form a similar structure to last year with two regional leagues. The names of these leagues will be changed slightly to align with BUCS naming conventions:

- Midlands
- Western & South Eastern

If more teams enter, then we may be able to split the Western & South Eastern leagues, or add a Northern League. We will do whichever option reduces travel for the most teams whilst still creating viable leagues.

WANT MORE GAME TIME?

University club teams are more than welcome to sign up to our community regional leagues. These run twice per year, through Autumn/Winter and Spring/Summer. You can sign up by visiting our [Regional leagues page](#) (opening for the new season soon).

ENTER A UNIVERSITY LEAGUE

SIGN UP NOW!

You can enter a University League now by completing this [University League Sign-Up Form](#). The deadline for signing up is Saturday the 31st October at midnight.

LEAGUE COSTS

As usual, payments will be taken at the start of the league and at a halfway point. We look to be flexible with payments as we recognise that it is sometimes down to your committee to collect subs from players rather than it being organised by your university sports officers. You can email ben@britishdodgeball.com to discuss your financial situation if required.

The overall cost of a team's league entry will be reduced in addition to university clubs not having to pay club membership fees. We expect the price per round may need to be increased slightly to £70/round to cover an increase in costs as we take measures to ensure each round is set-up to be COVID-secure including one extra member of staff at each league meet.

HOST A LEAGUE

Generally, BUCS leagues work by either one institution volunteering to host an entire league or multiple institutions volunteering to host a league between them. There are many benefits to this including keeping travel costs down for members of the host university and keeping the venue cost down for us, allowing us to pass the savings on to you through cheaper league fees.

As such, we are really keen to develop a relationship with universities in each region this year in order to aid a smooth transition for when dodgeball potentially becomes adopted into the BUCS programme next season. If you can host a league, we could give your teams highly discounted entry into the league. We would need a sports hall for 4-7 hours on the league dates. If your university cannot commit to this then another option is each university club in a league hosting one league round each. The back-up option is that we book and pay for venues as we have done in the past. Please enquire with your sports officer in advance of signing up to the league and then select the option that applies to you. You can email aden@britishdodgeball.com if you have any questions.



OPEN COMPETITIONS

We will look to host a range of open competitions in different regions to support four key groups:

- Students whose club is not able to commit to a full league season.
- Female students whose club's women's section is not able to commit to a full league season.
- Students who are casual dodgeball players and do not want to personally commit to a full season.
- First-year students who are playing dodgeball competitively for the first time.

As such we will hold four types of open competitions:

OPENS

These are our standard Open competitions where teams of Women or Men can sign up to play in a one day event. All abilities and experience levels are welcome.

MIXED OPENS

We will run mixed open events which encourage players to play for a mixed gender team. These are really popular as they encourage the social mixing of teams and allow clubs with too little women to field a women's team to get involved.

FRESHERS OPEN

This is the ideal event for first year's from every club to come together and learn the ropes of the game against competition of a similar level.

UNIVERSITY CHAMPS

Our University Championships event is the highlight of our university calendar. Only open to our member university clubs, do battle to find the top team in the UK.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

FRESHERS & MIXED OPEN Central England	7 NOV 2020
UNI LEAGUE 1 Regional	14/15 NOV 2020
OPENS North West & South East	22 NOV 2020
OPENS West Midlands & South Coast	5 DEC 2020
OPENS North & South	10 JAN 2021
UNI LEAGUE 2 Regional	23/24 JAN 2021
UNI LEAGUE 3 Regional	6/7 FEB 2021
OPENS Scotland & Wales	20 FEB 2021
UNI LEAGUE 4 Regional	27/28 FEB 2021
OPENS South West & North East	14 MAR 2021
UNI LEAGUE 5 Regional	20/21 MAR 2021
OPEN East Midlands	27 MAR 2021
UNI CHAMPS Central	24 APR 2021

*Dates are subject to change due to facility availability and restrictions during the pandemic.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

DODGEBALL IS NOT JUST ABOUT COMPETITION!

Our sport brings opportunities to develop as a coach or referee, the opportunity to volunteer as a media officer, to run social events with your club and to connect and create relationships with local community clubs to promote a smooth transition for your members into community sport and lifelong activity.



COACH EDUCATION

We highly recommend that all clubs have at least one Level 2 trained dodgeball coach per team. This helps to ensure that safe, high quality sessions are organised. As a university club member, you can [sign up to one of our coaching courses](#) or you can host one. If you can host a course at your university, we can provide 3 of your members with free training. Contact aden@britishdodgeball.com to arrange this.

BECOME A MEDIA OFFICER

Our Social Media Manager is looking to build a team of media representatives in all areas of the UK. If you are interested in photographing & filming dodgeball, email alex.media@britishdodgeball.com to find out more.

BECOME A PAID REFEREE

We are always on the lookout for more paid referees! Whether it is refereeing at one of our university or community leagues and opens, you can develop your officiating with the aid of referee mentors. Contact alex@britishdodgeball.com to find out more.

PATHWAY TO COMMUNITY CLUBS

Our vision is to:

'INSPIRE COMMUNITIES AND GENERATIONS TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF PLAYING DODGEBALL.'

This includes giving people who pick up the sport in university the opportunity to enjoy playing it for the rest of their lives after graduation. Community clubs with clear university feeder clubs are in a very advantageous position as they get new members joining them every single year. University players benefit as they have a clear place to play after graduation. Details on all our member clubs can be found via the British Dodgeball [website](#).

DEVELOP YOUR CLUB

Whether you are setting up a completely new club, growing your club or getting to grips with a new committee after your old committee members have moved on, our university clubs are in very different positions. We have a [New Year University Club Guide](#) and [club resources](#) you can use to help you set up and develop your club.

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SEE YOU ON THE COURT



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