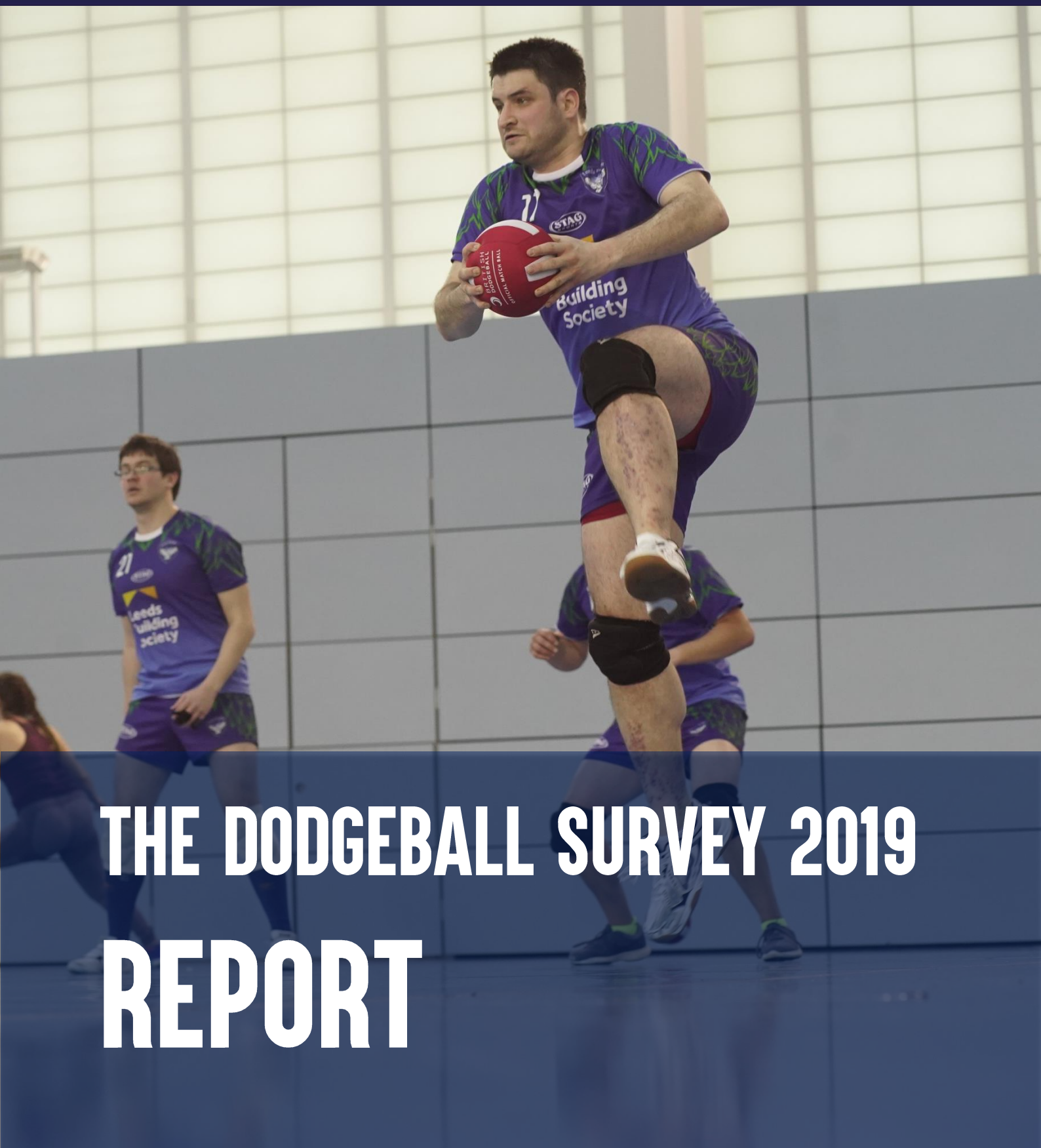




BRITISH  
DODGEBALL

[www.britishdodgeball.org](http://www.britishdodgeball.org)  
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#ComeJoinIn



# THE DODGEBALL SURVEY 2019 REPORT



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Dodgeball Development Limited  
Company No: 10944585

Abacus House, Pennine Business Park,  
Longbow Close, Huddersfield, HD2 1GQ

## Contents: [\(click headers for link\)](#)

### **3. SURVEY DETAILS & FINDINGS**

### **4. RESPONDENT INFO & PLAYING STATISTICS**

### **5. NON-COMPETITION FEEDBACK**

- Foam Dodgeball Demand
- Referee Development
- Dodgeball Code Adherence
- Women's Dodgeball Size
- Value for Money

### **7. INFORMAL SESSIONS**

- Informal Session Demographics
- Informal Session Interests

### **8. JUNIOR CLUBS**

- Junior Club Demographics
- Junior Opens
- Junior Leagues
- Regionalisation of U16
- More Regional Junior Leagues
- Barriers to Entry
- Other feedback

### **11. UNIVERSITY CLUBS**

- University Club Demographics
- University Opens
- University Leagues
- Less University League Rounds
- Barriers to Entry
- Other feedback

### **13. COMMUNITY CLUBS**

- Community Club Demographics
- Community Opens
- National Leagues
- Regional Leagues
- Barriers to Entry
- Other feedback

### **16. CLUB DEVELOPMENT**

- Club Status
- Club Goals
- Potential Future Support Demand
- Development Points



## SURVEY DETAILS

The survey was open for a period of just over three weeks, from the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Many of the questions regarding competitions were asked in an open manner, meaning that if individuals highlighted a certain aspect of competition e.g. the venue, they mentioned this with little to no prompting. British Dodgeball staff then looked through the survey to group similar answers in order to find trends. This method gives more weight to any observed patterns as people specifically thought to mention these aspects of competition when questioned.

### Key:

Black: Question details

Blue: Trends observed

Red: Actions to be taken

Box: Quotes from the survey (anonymised)



## SURVEY FINDINGS

### Total members & weekly attendance 2019:

- Estimated **4905** members at British Dodgeball member clubs
- Estimated **3145** different individuals play weekly at British Dodgeball member clubs

### Comparison to the Dodgeball Survey 2018:

- ▲ People from **32 more clubs** responded (62 compared to 30) – **106% increase!**
- ▲ **1468 more members** at respondent clubs (2438 compared to 970) – **151% increase!**

The survey was the biggest dodgeball-specific survey of its kind and has generated lots of positives and points to improve around the organisation, administration and culture of the sport.

### Some key outcomes are:

- We will put on more courses in places where a minimum number of participants can be reached to recruit and train more referees. Let us know if you are interested by emailing [hello@britishdodgeball.com](mailto:hello@britishdodgeball.com).
- We will put rating systems and sporting spirit awards in place to celebrate adherence to the code and further promote a positive culture within the sport.
- We will produce a detailed report this Spring that highlights the work of British Dodgeball as a non-profit organisation.
- British Dodgeball will endeavour to secure larger venues with spectator areas and where possible refreshment and catering services.
- We have set up the **New Club Award** and a new **Club Support page** for those interested in setting up new sections.

Our promise is to support a sustainable future for the sport in the United Kingdom. To do this we want to support all our clubs to be sustainable organisations too, with the capacity to welcome players of all ages and abilities. We currently have four full time members of staff and our workforce is growing each year. Work with us to grow the sport and make dodgeball bigger and better in the U.K. Come Join In.





## RESPONDENT INFO & PLAYING STATISTICS

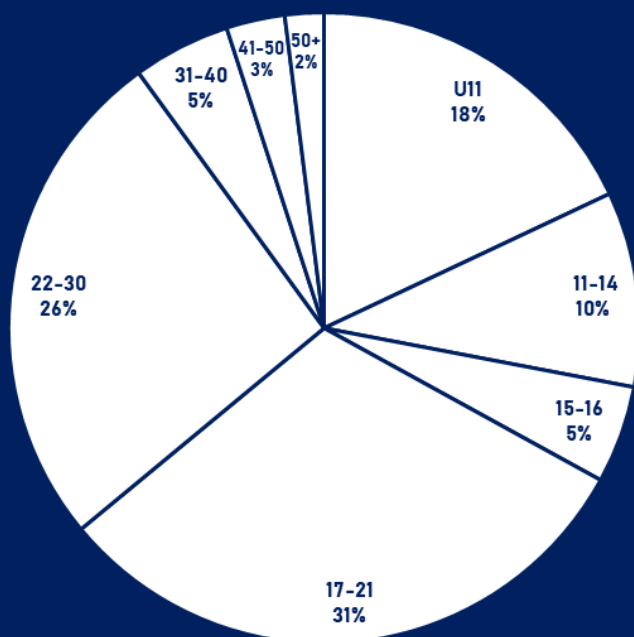
### Respondent Info

- 122 players, 24 sports coaches, 54 community club coaches/volunteers, 17 parents & 11 teachers responded to the Dodgeball Survey 2019
- Gender of respondents: 70% male, 29% female, 1% non-binary
- Respondents from 62 clubs
- Respondent type: 3% from informal sessions, 13% from junior clubs, 22% from university clubs, 62% from adult clubs
- 56% of respondents are on their club's committee

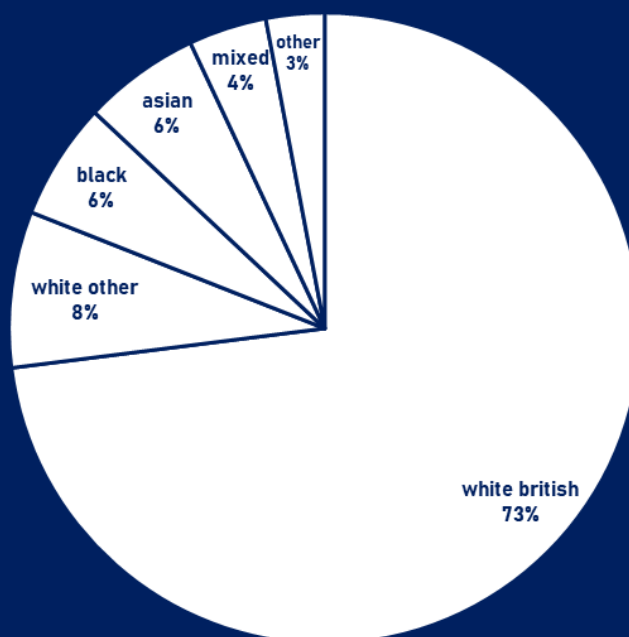
### Playing Statistics

- 2438 total club members from respondents' clubs
- Total average weekly session attendance of individual: 1581
- Average club membership: 39
- Average session attendance: 26

RESPONDENTS' CLUBS AGE  
DEMOGRAPHICS



RESPONDENTS' CLUBS ETHNICITY  
DEMOGRAPHICS



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## NON-COMPETITION FEEDBACK

### Foam Dodgeball Demand

Respondents were asked whether they would be interested in having the opportunity to participate in more foam dodgeball.

- 60% of respondents were interested in having more opportunities to play foam dodgeball
- 40% were not interested in having more opportunities to play foam dodgeball

#### Actions:

- We will host a foam open, support clubs to host their own through use of the Club Competition Service.
- We will host a small foam league in August (out of cloth dodgeball season).

### Referee Development

Respondents were asked whether they thought the standard of refereeing had improved in the last three months, and to give feedback on referees and the rules.

- 27% specifically highlighted that they thought the standard of referees has increased in the last 3 months
- 25% specifically highlighted that they thought the standard of referees was good
- 32% specifically highlighted that they thought the standard was not high enough or that referees were inconsistent
- 13% specifically highlighted that there needs to be more referees & more courses (particularly in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- 11% specifically highlighted that there needs to be more clarity around the rules
- 9% specifically highlighted that the standard of assistant/line referees needs improving

#### You said:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>For a while there were some inconsistencies between refs but lately that has been sorted due to the headshot rule, we have never had a problem with the refs, they call what they see and certain refs will explain why they made a call or not.</i>   | <i>Refs are mostly good and fair and seem to enforce all rules correctly. Very few issues with refs mainly just making sure line refs help where possible with subtle hits that can be missed.</i>   |
| <i>Yes, I have noticed the refereeing is very clear in the rules and excellent in spotting going over line etc.</i>   | <i>I have felt the qualified referees at University South League meets have been doing a good job. We have had a couple of cases when there's a main ref who is not an actual ref calls plays "Play Ball" after we have made the team call/ initiated a play and are moving towards the centre to throw. That generally I feel is unnecessary and poor reffing but generally has been very good!</i> |
| <i>Yes, having the refs mentored is really showing an improvement and allows for feedback.</i>  |  |
| <i>There are and have never been refs available in Scotland.</i>  |  |
| <i>I think the rules are getting clearer and I love the rules guide. It makes it easy that Jess is always happy to help when a rule seems a bit grey. The only rule as a ref and a player I am not keen on is the sanctions. I think it needs to be clearer in a diagram of what classes as a red, yellow and penalty set, retriever fault etc.</i> |  |

#### Actions:

- We will continue to support our head of referees to develop referees continually.
- We will put on more courses in places where a minimum number of participants can be reached to recruit and train more referees. Let us know if you are interested by emailing [hello@britishdodgeball.com](mailto:hello@britishdodgeball.com).
- We will put a ratings system in place to celebrate good refereeing and assistant/line refereeing and support poor performances.
- The British Dodgeball Head of Rules will release a sanctions document clarifying sanctions.
- The British Dodgeball Rules committee will review the rules ready for next season.





## Dodgeball Code Adherence

Respondents were asked whether they thought that the culture of the sport had improved since the creation and promotion of the Dodgeball Code, or whether more work was needed.

- 47% think there has been an improvement in behaviour and an increase in positive attitudes such as honesty and respect since the Dodgeball Code was released
- 53% think there is still more work to be done before the level of honesty and respect is at a suitable standard

### Actions:

- We will continue work promoting Dodgeball Code to existing and new coaches and clubs.
- The British Dodgeball Rules Committee will review sanctions for non-adherence to the Dodgeball Code.
- We will put sporting spirit awards in place to celebrate adherence to the code and further promote a positive culture within the sport.

## Women's Dodgeball Size

Respondents were asked whether they would the use of the new size 2 (6.5") dodgeball rather than the current size 3 (7") dodgeball in the women's game.

- 53% would prefer the use of a size 2 ball (6.5") as opposed to a size 3 ball (7") in women's dodgeball
- 47% would prefer to keep using the size 3 (7") ball in women's dodgeball

### Actions:

- We will send findings to World Dodgeball Federation (WDBF).
- We will send sample balls to a range of women's clubs for feedback.

## Value for Money

Respondents were asked whether they considered British Dodgeball events to be good value for money.

- 81% think that British Dodgeball competitions and events are good value for money
- 19% think that British Dodgeball competitions and events are not good value for money

### Actions:

- We will produce a detailed report this Spring that highlights the work of British Dodgeball as a non-profit organisation.



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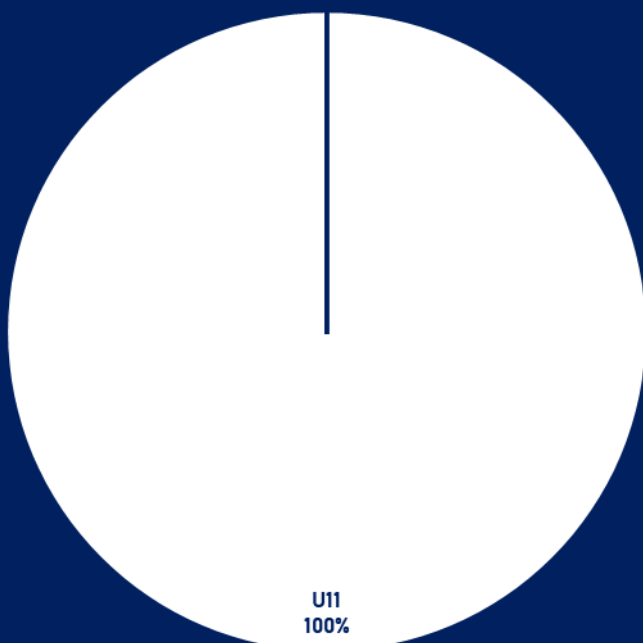


## INFORMAL SESSIONS

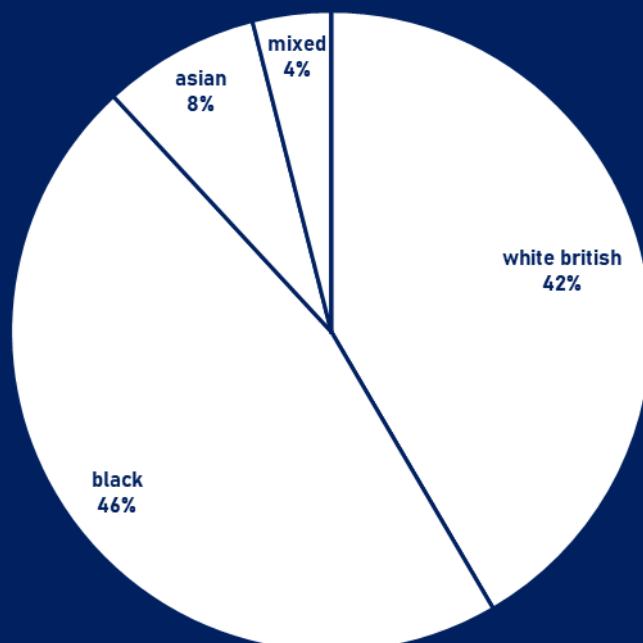
### Demographics

- 100% of respondents work with the U11 age group
- 50% of respondents were male and 50% were female

RESPONDENTS' CLUBS AGE  
DEMOGRAPHICS



RESPONDENTS' CLUBS ETHNICITY  
DEMOGRAPHICS



### Informal Session Status and Interests

- 100% of respondents use the correct ruleset
- 75% of respondents use the right equipment
- 100% are interested in entering competitions



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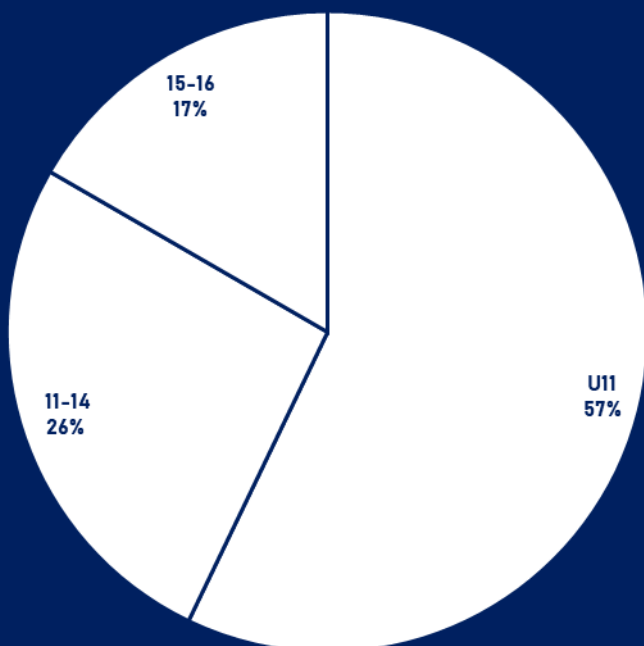


## JUNIOR CLUBS

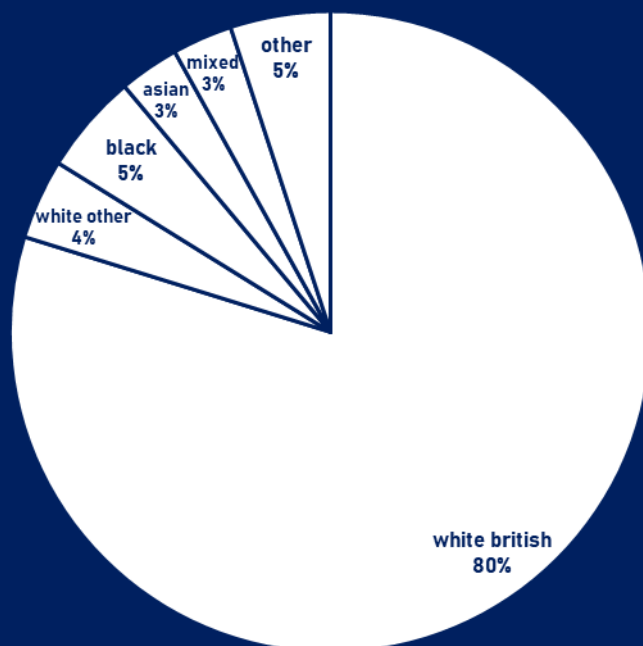
### Demographics

- Respondents were from 9 different junior clubs
- 42% respondents male, 58% female
- 365 total members from respondents' junior clubs
- Total average weekly attendance: 254
- Average number of club members: 41
- Average attendance at sessions: 28

RESPONDENTS' CLUBS AGE  
DEMOGRAPHICS



RESPONDENTS' CLUBS ETHNICITY  
DEMOGRAPHICS



### Junior Opens

Respondents were asked to give feedback on Junior Open competitions.

- 74% gave specific positive feedback about Junior Opens.
- 43% highlighted the experience as a positive factor
- 36% highlighted the good level of competition as a positive factor
- 36% highlighted good venues as a positive factor
- 29% highlighted good organisation as a positive factor

You said:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Chance to compete at a high level. Chance to get to meet people from all over the country. Chance for young children to see university facilities. Very well organised with timings and facilities. Nice medals.</i>        | <i>December 2019 - good experience of tournament play for our first tournament</i>  |
| <i>Yes, we have entered and will still enter. The kids love it and enjoy it, the competition is always good and fun, venue for league is decent. Alice and Gareth are nice people to get along with and are understanding.</i> | <i>I think the level of competition is fair and all the teams are all friendly. There is hardly ever any use of profanities or trash talk. I always enjoy the opens and think the venues have plenty of space</i> |



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- 53% list specific points to improve at Junior Opens
- 60% highlighted having a spectators' area and improved spectator facilities as a point for improvement
- 20% highlighted having less time between matches as a point for improvement

You said:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Spectator areas so parents can watch their kids easily</i>  | <i>Better venues with more seating for spectators.</i>  |
| <i>Attitude of other coaches. There is a lack of 'role model' like behaviour among a few of the coaches. They get far too competitive and only seem to care about winning. Sportsmanship award/recognition of sporting values should be added.</i> | <i>The biggest problem is space available, and the amount of time between games. I believe that it would be better just having a time slot of the age groups. Like at the u/16 set up at Stafford. Lastly if the current arrangements continue and there continue to be a long drawn out day then the facilities need to accommodate the needs of players and spectators e.g. refreshments.</i> |

Actions:

- British Dodgeball will endeavour to secure larger venues with spectator areas and where possible refreshment and catering services.
- Timings at recent junior opens have been amended to provide as few gaps as possible in schedules.

## Junior Leagues

Respondents were asked to give feedback on Junior Leagues.

- 60% gave specific positive feedback about the junior leagues
- 33% highlighted venues as a positive factor
- 33% highlighted the level of competition as a positive factor

You said:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>You have listened and modified U16s for safety.</i>  | <i>Chance to play against other teams with a suitable venue and the chance to play competitively.</i>   |
| <i>It's a great way for our kid's to meet and play competitive dodgeball, we are currently playing our league in Bolton and it works out really well.</i> | <i>Yes, we have entered a league with multiple teams. The venue is decent for the court and area for spectators. The level of competition is always good fun and mainly fair. Alice and Gareth both so great jobs, easy to approach and very understanding.</i> |

- 25% list specific points for improvement about Junior Leagues
- 20% list a later entry deadline as a point for improvement
- 20% list regionalising the U16 league as a point for improvement

You said:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>It would be great if our U16's could play in Bolton too, why only U11 and U14? Our U16 have to travel all the way to Stafford which is over 3hrs.</i> | <i>Later entry deadlines needed rather than September straight after the school holidays.</i> |
|--|---|

Actions:

- The 2020/21 junior season will start later than the 2019/20 season, providing clubs with more time between the summer holidays and the entry deadlines

## Regionalising the U16's league

Respondents were asked whether the Under 16's league should become regionalised like the Under 11's and Under 14's leagues.

- 70% of respondents agree that the league should be regionalised
- 20% of respondents state that the league should still be operated nationally but be split into divisions

You said:

|   |
|---|
| <i>I would be pleased if this happened as when my son moves to this age group next year it might be closer to home for travelling to event.</i> |
|---|

Actions:

- We will aim to regionalise the U16 leagues as soon as there are enough teams for competition in each region.





## Barriers to competition

Respondents were asked if their team had experienced any barriers which prevented them from entering competitions.

- 40% listed specific barriers their club faced to entering more competitions.
- 24% mentioned travel distance
- 24% mentioned being new clubs so are not yet ready to enter financially

### Actions:

- We will work with new clubs that are having financial challenges to help them to become more sustainable. We will work with such clubs to introduce a payment plan where necessary for league fees.

## Expanding the junior regional league system

Respondents were asked whether they would be interested in a third regional junior league in England and one in Scotland.

- 75% interested in British Dodgeball setting up a third regional league in England and one in Scotland.
- 25% were not interested in British Dodgeball setting up a third regional league in England and one in Scotland.

## Other Feedback

### You said:

*The hard work and dedication by all is really appreciated. It would be good to have a mix of competitive meets and some just for fun to accommodate those players who want to win as well as those who just enjoy playing for playing's sake.*

*I think over the two years' we have travelled to tournaments I have found them well run and organised. Occasionally there have been I felt too long to wait in between games. The referees quite recently seem really on the ball. I think it is a good idea like at the Leicester Open that parents should not be in the sports hall as I think it is distracting to children and referees.*



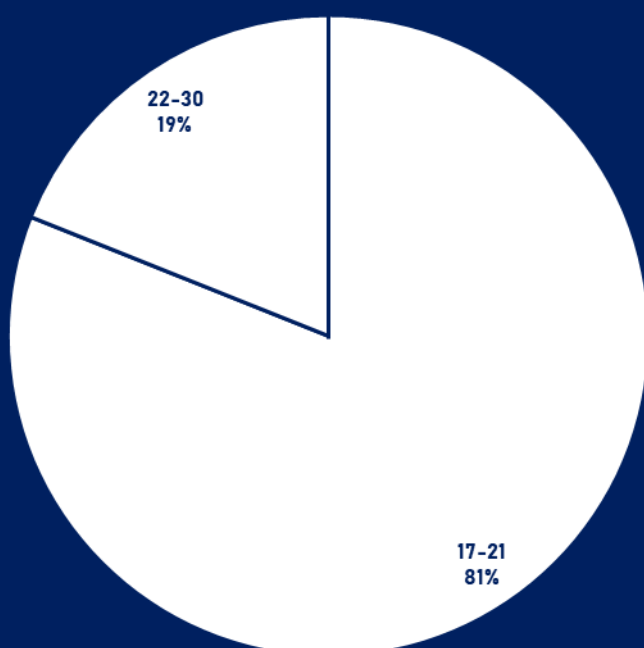


## UNIVERSITY CLUBS

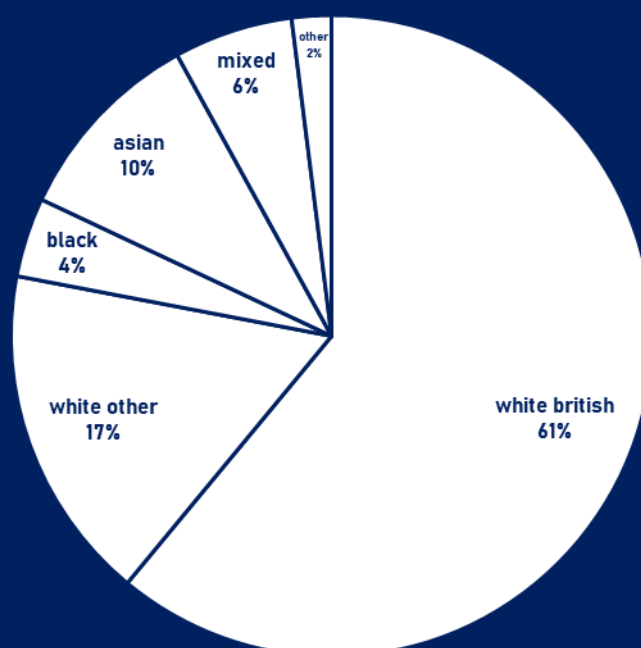
### Demographics

- Respondents were from 19 different university clubs
- 87% of respondents are male, 13% are female
- 492 total members from the respondents' university clubs
- Total average weekly attendance: 233
- Average number of club members: 55
- Average attendance at sessions: 26

RESPONDENTS' CLUBS AGE  
DEMOGRAPHICS



RESPONDENTS' CLUBS ETHNICITY  
DEMOGRAPHICS



### University Opens

Respondents were asked to give feedback on University Open events.

- 57% gave specific positive feedback about University Opens
- 41% highlighted the experience and chance to meet new teams as a positive factor
- 24% highlighted venues as a positive factor
- 14% highlighted the organisation of the day as a positive factor

You said:

*Gives a chance for teams to play in university focused sessions and the chance to talk with other people from dodgeball which you may have never got the chance previously and organise friendly sessions, matches etc.*

*We have entered and will continue to do so. The events are well run and organised well.*

*University Opens are usually ran very efficiently, and in accessible locations so that many teams attend. They are held at universities which gives them a bit of competitiveness with a home team playing.*







- 23% list specific points to improve at University Opens
- No two comments related to the same improvement

You said:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| More opens in more locations more frequently throughout the year. | Aim to include more fixtures and courts |
|---|---|

Actions:

- We will continue to put on multiple University Opens for an increasing number of university clubs to access.

## University Leagues

Respondents were asked to give feedback on University Leagues.

- 70% gave specific positive points about University Leagues
- 52% highlighted the timings of the league (whether it be day, or match schedule) as a positive factor
- 33% highlighted the level of competition as a positive factor
- 24% highlighted venues as a positive factor

You said:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Organisation is very good, good atmosphere with all teams there, venues are all good choices.   | What's convenient is the fact it is on a weekend and that they are held professionally and don't feel thrown together (if you'll forgive the pun)!                      |
| Yes, it's been good having the men's and women's leagues for the midlands at the same place on the same day. This has helped for transport as well as supporting the other teams. | Yes, it's good to play competitively against other skilled players, putting the tactics I've learnt into action. I am pleased the men's matches are earlier in the day. |

- 53% listed points for improvement with regards to University Leagues
- 38% listed the standard of refereeing or assistant refereeing as a point for improvement
- 25% listed venues as a point for improvement

You said:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Use larger venue with less slippery terrain.  | Possibly look at ways to reduce the costs of entry for league. |
| I would improve the assistant refereeing. We encountered dishonesty throughout games and unfortunately one decent main ref isn't going to see everything happening. |  |

Actions:

- We will attempt to develop more partnerships with universities so they can host next season's league fixtures.
- We will investigate how cost can be reduced through a possible reduction in rounds.
- We will continue to develop our referees and teams as assistant referees by offering more courses and guidance.

## Barriers to competition

Respondents were asked if their team had experienced any barriers which prevented them from entering competitions.

- 40% listed specific barriers their club faced to entering more competitions.
- 25% mentioned travel distance/costs
- 17% mentioned a lack of knowledge about competitions

## Reducing League Rounds

Respondents were asked if they would prefer to play in less rounds but have the opportunity to play in more university opens, or if they would prefer to remain in a 7-round university league.

- 64% would prefer to reduce the 7-round University Leagues to 5 rounds and have more opens throughout the year to supplement competitive opportunities
- 36% would rather that the University Leagues remain at 7 rounds

Actions:

- We will investigate how cost can be reduced through a possible reduction in rounds.





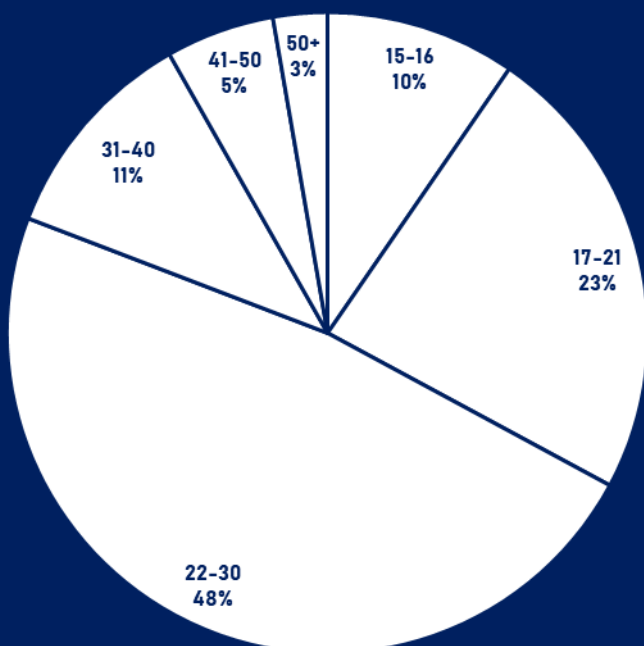


## COMMUNITY CLUBS

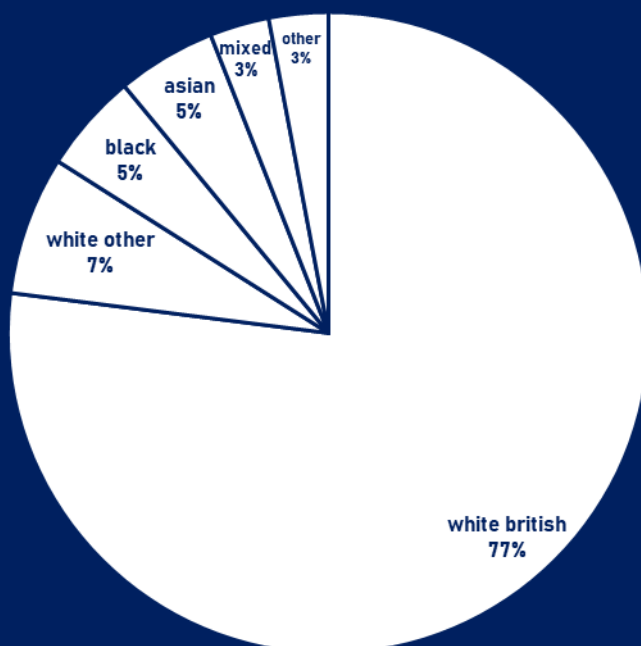
### Demographics

- Respondents were from 19 different community clubs
- 73% respondents were male, 26% female and 1% non-binary
- 1425 total members from respondents' community clubs
- Total average weekly attendance: 975
- Average number of club members: 30
- Average attendance at sessions: 20

RESPONDENTS' CLUBS AGE  
DEMOGRAPHICS



RESPONDENTS' CLUBS ETHNICITY  
DEMOGRAPHICS



### Community Opens

Respondents were asked to give feedback about community open events.

- 84% gave specific positive feedback about Community Opens
- 41% highlighted the experience and chance to meet new teams as a positive factor
- 24% highlighted venues as a positive factor
- 14% highlighted the organisation of the day as a positive factor

You said:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Competition is very good at all events this year. Sportsmanship has improved. Venues are usually good. Coordination has improved a lot too. | I like the large format of the opens this year, with lots of teams and a large number of games making the travel worthwhile  |
| They are usually very well organised, so much better than last season. The venues so far have been pretty decent too.                       | Opens are a great opportunity to play against teams you might not get to play against in league. The atmosphere when playing at an open is buzzing! Everyone has come for a good time and you can feel that. Timings have much improved and the venue always changes so it varies the distance having to travel. |



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- 62% list specific points to improve at Community Opens
- 18% list the refereeing standard/allocation of assistant referees as a point of improvement
- 11% list splitting opens into divisions or seeding groups as a point of improvement
- 8% list timings (less wait times between matches/less Sunday opens due to public transport) as a point of improvement
- 8% list venues being accessible on public transport as a point of improvement

You said:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Timings as there is long gaps which causes people to get cold, so ensuring there is a big enough venue for at least 4 plus courts.</i> | <i>Many have been on Sundays which presents a very difficult challenge for our club. As our members live in London, not many have access to cars, and so we largely rely on public transport.</i> |
|---|---|

Actions:

- Next season, we will aim to coordinate a series of Opens which build on this year's successes and improve upon the point listed above.

## National Leagues

Respondents were asked to give feedback on National League.

- 77% gave specific positive points about National Leagues
- 52% highlighted the venues as a positive factor
- 33% highlighted the level of competition as a positive factor
- 23% highlighted the timings of the league & league organisation as a positive factor
- 12% highlighted the refereeing standard as a positive factor

You said:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>The BD English super-league might be the best league in the world. The level of competition is incredible and no match feels won before it starts.</i> | <i>Being able to play competitive dodgeball at high a standard in a great facility</i>  |
| <i>The venue is great, and the main referee standard seems a lot higher currently.</i>  | <i>The NI women's league is good as it gives the team something to work towards. The venue is well-placed for all clubs and the dates are usually well coordinated.</i> |

- 53% listed points for improvement with regards to National Leagues
- 17% listed the early start/late finish timings as a point for improvement
- 11% listed playing more fixtures as a point for improvement

You said:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>More social hours i.e. not late evenings.</i>                                 | <i>Stronger repercussions and sanctions for poor refereeing and cheating.</i> |
| <i>Every league day spans around 20 hours from me waking up to getting home.</i> |   |

Actions:

- We will continue to develop in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, building towards being able to employ regional staff.
- The national league structure in England will be under review prior to the 2020/21 season in order to enable room for growth and at the same time ensure league days are not too long.





## Regional Leagues

Respondents were asked to give feedback on the Regional Leagues.

- 51% had comments regarding the regional league
- 25% highlighted opportunities for developing new players as a positive factor
- 18% listed a lack of referees as a point for improvement
- 10% listed changing the dates to be more university club friendly as a point of improvement

You said:

*Regional leagues are very good for getting players involved. The condensed fixture times and venues used are great. The coordinator for East Mids is really trying to do a good job and is great.*

*The leagues have been run ok however they have not had properly trained refs.*

Actions:

- We will continue to promote the Regional Leagues to new clubs and expand to new areas where enough teams wish to enter.
- We will strive to recruit more referees and put on more refereeing courses in areas where the minimum number of participants can be reached.

## Barriers to competition

Respondents were asked if their team had experienced any barriers which prevented them from entering competitions.

- 35% suggested potential barriers to their club entering more competitions
- 33% highlighted distance as a barrier to entry
- 33% highlighted not being able to commit enough time as a barrier to entry

## Other Feedback

You said:

*I think British Dodgeball is a fantastic organisation and has been a huge part of my enjoyment of the sport over the last few years. I think a lot can be said to bad mouth an organisation and you'll always be targeted as the figure head for small things going wrong. Keep up the good work, continue to stay positive and continue to help our sport.*

*With the number of children playing dodgeball grass roots level needs to be the one of the main focuses for the future of dodgeball. Tapping into the school games, educating teachers on the game and developing children's clubs. Dodgeball in Britain needs to be developed from the bottom up and not the top down. There are so many children wanting to play dodgeball but no pathways for them to do so. Maybe offering help and funding to adult clubs to have a junior club bolted on and for new start up junior clubs. As a whole dodgeball doesn't have enough junior clubs over the country to reflect the numbers playing in school. I know this is no easy task but for the future of the sport and for it to develop it needs to be the focus.*



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Longbow Close, Huddersfield, HD2 1GQ

## CLUB DEVELOPMENT

- Committee members from 36 different clubs answered this section of the survey

### Club Status

Respondents were asked what basic documentation and systems their club had in place.

- 86% of respondents' clubs have a constitution
- 83% of respondents' clubs have a bank account
- 100% of respondents' clubs had public liability insurance (86% through British Dodgeball club membership, 14% through other sources)
- 92% of respondents' clubs have a British Dodgeball Level 2 qualified coach.
- 80% of respondents' clubs have a safeguarding lead.

#### Actions:

- As of January 2021, we will no longer accept UKDBA coaching qualifications. Clubs must ensure they have at least one coach who holds, or is working towards, a British Dodgeball Level 2 coaching qualification, in order to be a registered club after this date. British Dodgeball will offer a 50% reduction in qualification costs to any club coach who holds a UKDBA Level 2 qualification. Email [hello@britishdodgeball.com](mailto:hello@britishdodgeball.com) to learn more or book onto a course for the reduced price.
- We require all clubs to have a named safeguarding lead as a point of contact for all safeguarding-related issues. We will support clubs to do this by writing a guide outlining the roles and responsibilities of a safeguarding lead.

### Club Goals

Respondents were asked to specifically highlight their club development goals.

- 52% of respondents specifically highlighted growing attendance at sessions as a club goal
- 30% of respondents specifically highlighted starting or growing a junior section as a club goal
- 12% of respondents specifically highlighted starting a women's section as a club goal
- 12% of respondents specifically highlighted growing their workforce (club committees) as a club goal

#### Actions:

- We have set up the [New Club Award](#) and a new [Club Support](#) page for those interested in setting up new sections.
- We will look into how we can assist clubs with marketing and outreach guidance to raise attendance.

## INTEREST SHOWN IN POTENTIAL FUTURE SUPPORT







## Development Points

Respondents were asked to specifically list points for their club's development

- 22% of respondents specifically highlighted marketing as a point for their club's development
- 16% of respondents specifically highlighted growing their workforce (club committee) as a point for their club's development
- 10% of respondents specifically highlighted setting up a club bank account as a point for their club's development

### Actions:

- Clubs can look through our [committee handbook](#) to help them see how we recommend they set out their committee roles.
- We will look into how we can assist clubs with marketing and outreach guidance.
- We will create a list of bank accounts which clubs can set up easily. In the meantime, anyone wishing to set up a club bank account can email [aden@britishdodgeball.com](mailto:aden@britishdodgeball.com) for guidance.



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