

THE DODGEBALL SURVEY 2022

REPORT



BRITISH
DODGEBALL



INTRODUCTION

The Dodgeball Survey 2022 was open for responses throughout the months of February 2022. The main aims of the survey were to:

- Learn more about the current makeup of our dodgeball community
- Gather feedback on the provision of dodgeball in the UK, including details on coach education and competitions
- Educate respondents on the wide range of areas we work in and gather feedback on some of our current initiatives
- Gather feedback on the impacts of COVID-19 on the dodgeball community

We expanded the survey's scope from previous iterations to better welcome respondents from a wider range of backgrounds (most noticeably schools, colleges and school games organisers) in addition to universities, coaching companies and community clubs to learn more about the wider landscape of the sport in the UK.

We would like to thank everyone that took time to complete the survey and help us learn more about your involvement in dodgeball and your views on the sport; this information will help us to continue to develop the sport to encourage people from all ages and backgrounds to Come Join In.

As part of a continued dialogue between British Dodgeball, our members and those involved in the playing, coaching, teaching, administering or spectating of dodgeball in the UK, we have developed a list of actions to be undertaken which should prove effective and are realistically achievable. This will help us to improve the sport we all love in line with both your feedback and our [2022-2025 4-year strategy](#).

You will therefore see the following in this report:

- Survey Findings
- **Next Steps**
- *Quotes (anonymised)*



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- Why We Love Dodgeball

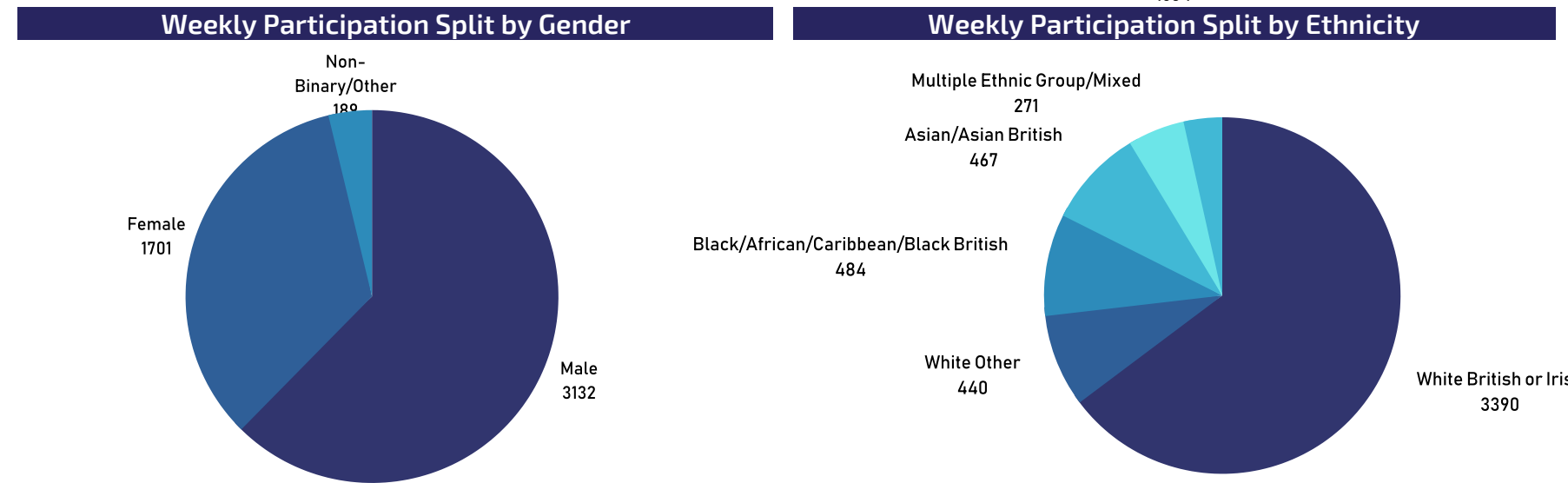
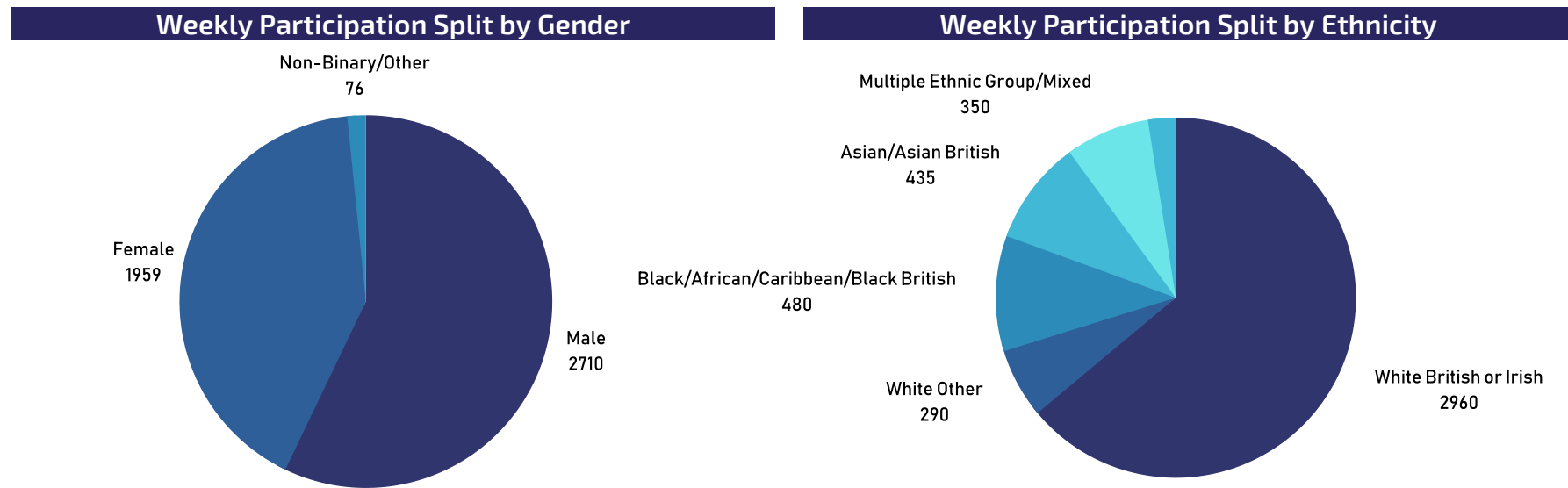
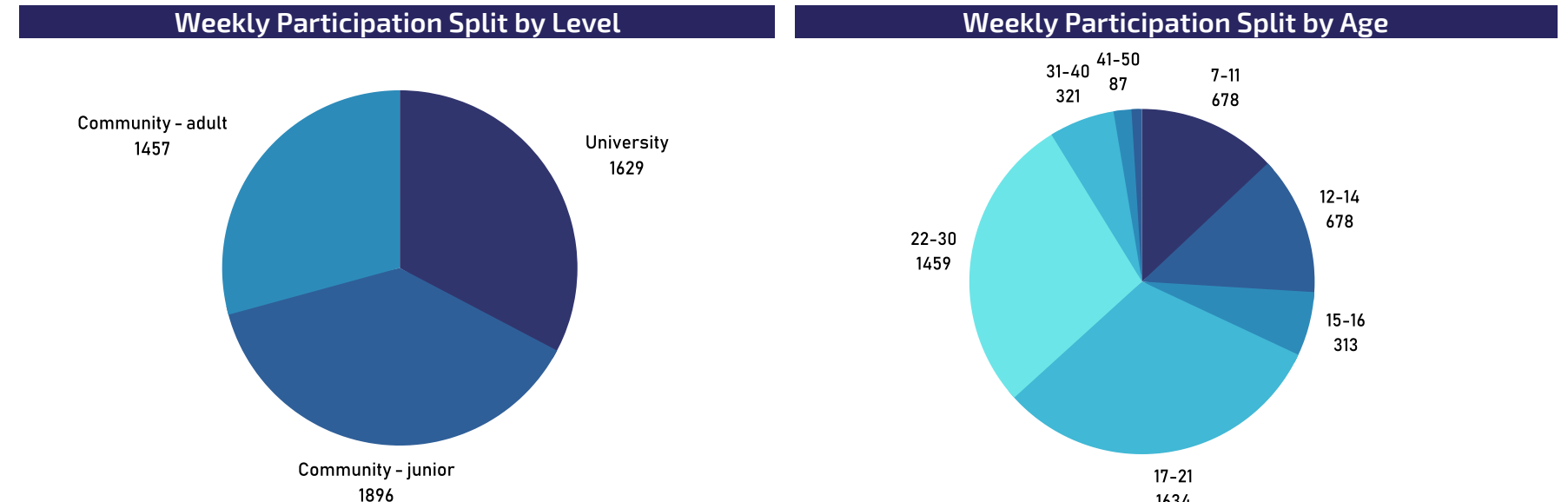
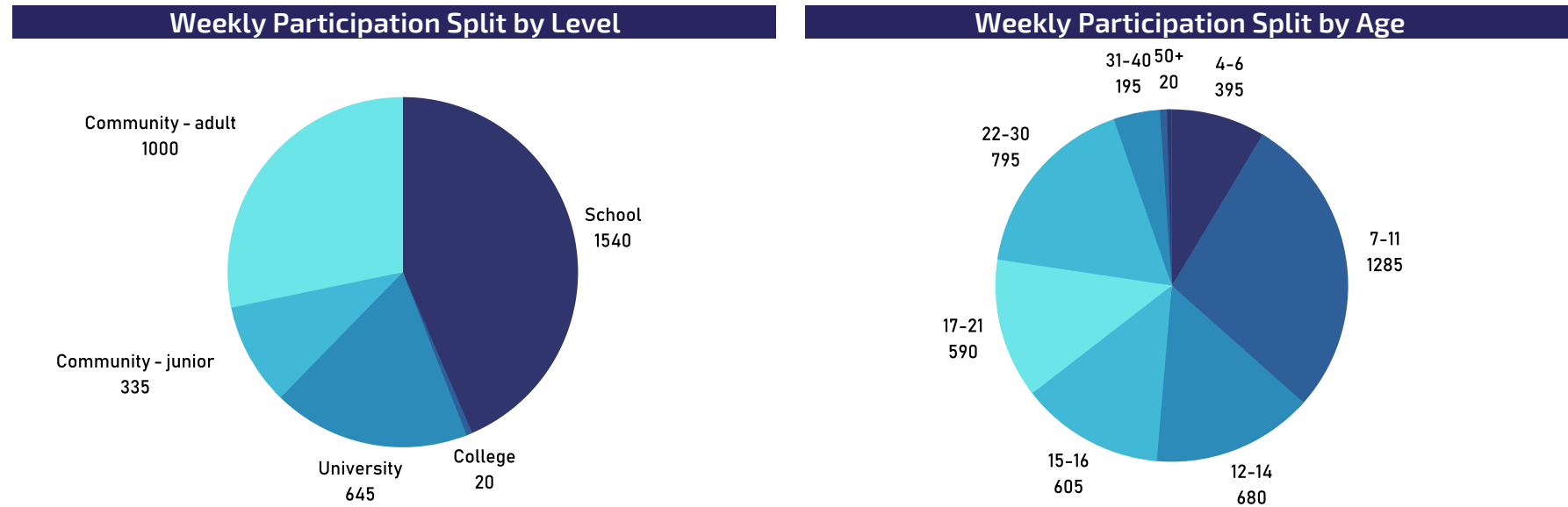


PARTICIPATION DATA – RESPONDENT ORGANISATIONS

PARTICIPATION DATA – CLUBS

Respondents' organisations have 3,545 participants playing each week split as follows:

We estimate all affiliated university & community clubs have 4,982 participants playing each week split as follows:



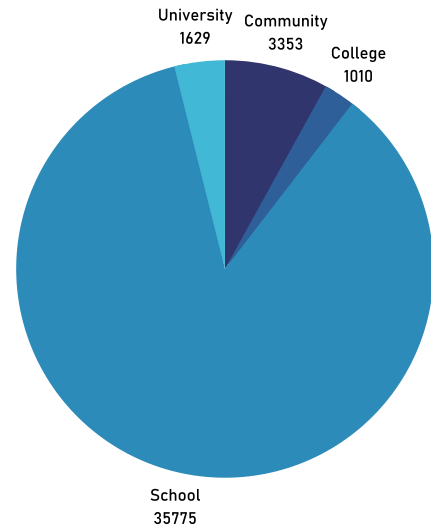
- Respondents' organisations host 230 dodgeball sessions per week.
- Session split is 77.6% mixed/open to all, 12.1% male-only and 10.3% female-only.
- Participants from respondents' organisations spend an average of 115 minutes playing dodgeball each week.
- The total combined time of all participants from respondents' organisations playing each week is 5,655 hours, equating to 235 days or 0.6 years.

- All community & university clubs host 289 sessions per week.
- Session split is 54.8% mixed/open to all, 24.4% male-only and 20.8% female-only.
- Participants from all affiliated community and university clubs spend an average of 120 minutes playing dodgeball each week.
- The total combined time of all participants from all affiliated community and university clubs playing each week is 9,926 hours, equating to 413 days or 1.2 years.

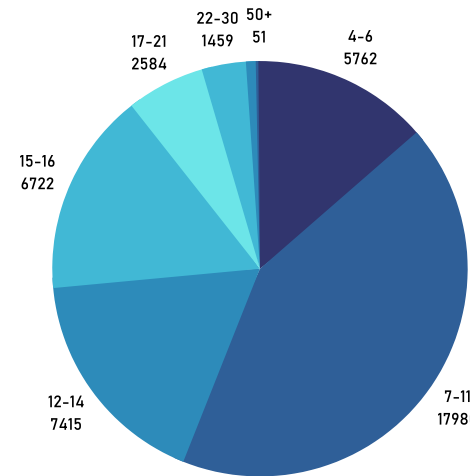
PARTICIPATION DATA – ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Combining survey results with member data, we estimate all member organisations engage 41,768 participants each week:

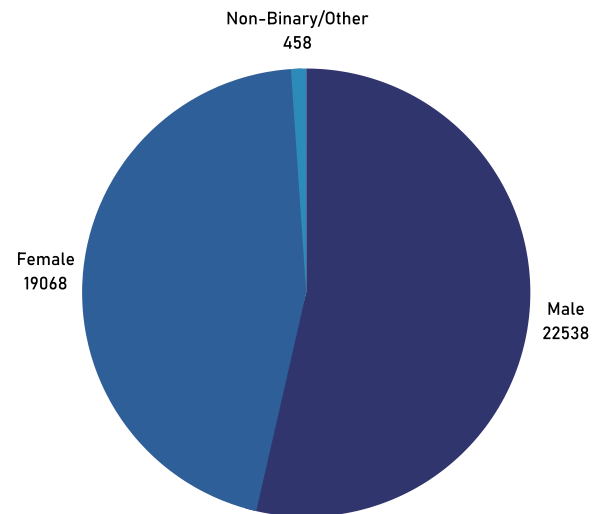
Weekly Participation Split by Level



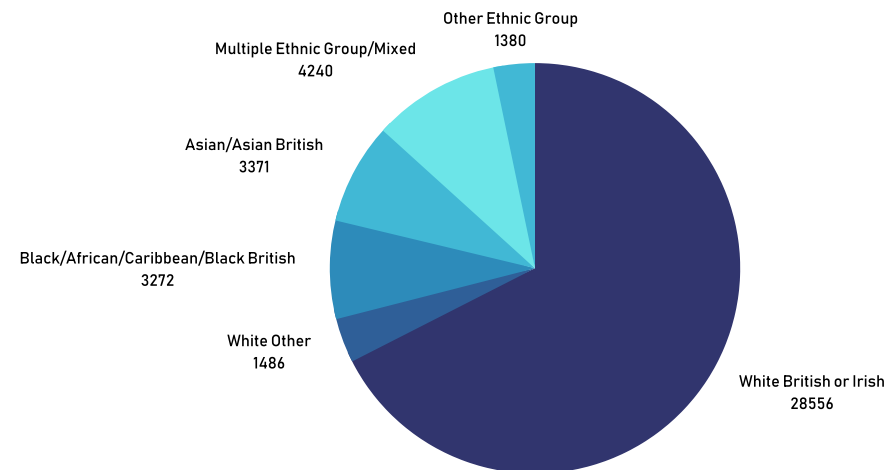
Weekly Participation Split by Age



Weekly Participation Split by Gender



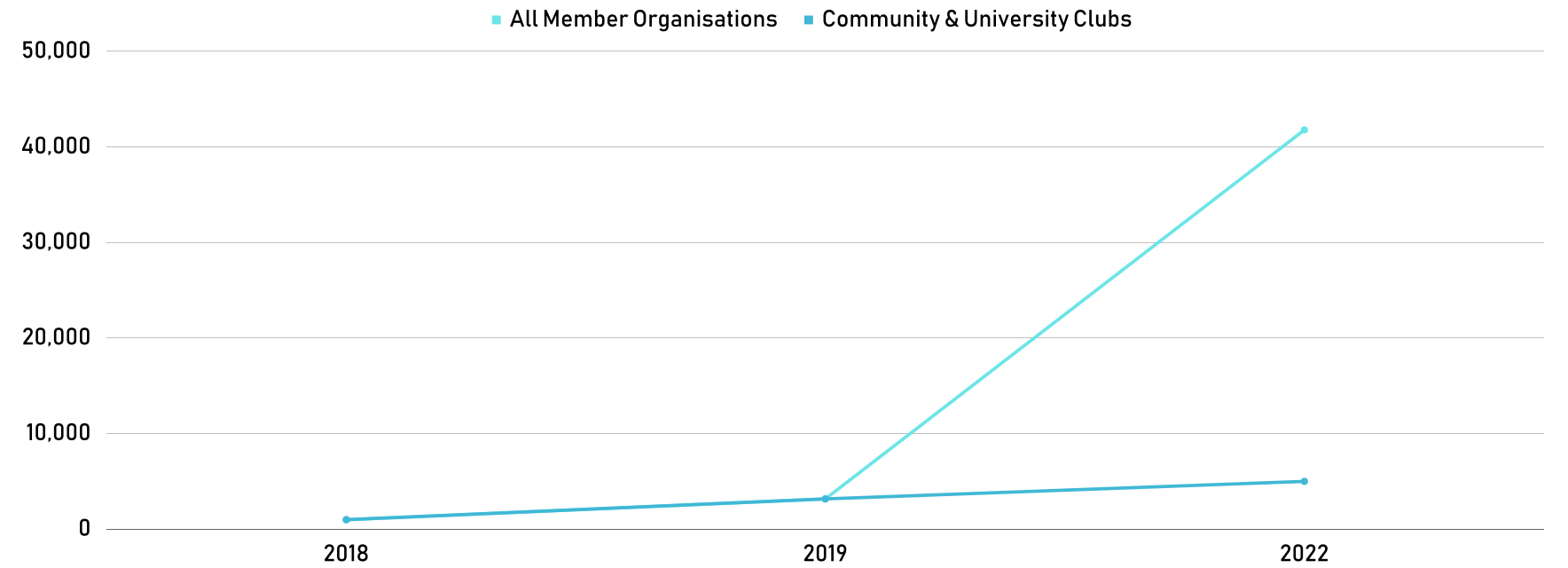
Weekly Participation Split by Ethnicity



- We estimate all members host 2,737 dodgeball sessions per week.
- Session split is 84.6% mixed/open to all, 7.9% male-only and 7.5% female-only.
- Participants from all member organisations spend an average of 58 minutes playing dodgeball each week
- The total combined time of all participants from all member organisations playing each week is 40,626 hours, equating to 1,693 days or 4.6 years.

GROWTH VS 2019

Weekly Participation Growth



- 1,228.1% increase in weekly participation at all member organisations vs 2019 +
- 58.4% increase in weekly participation at community & university club level vs 2019 +
- 8.0% more survey respondents vs 2019 +
- 3.2% decrease in the number of respondents from different organisations vs 2019 -

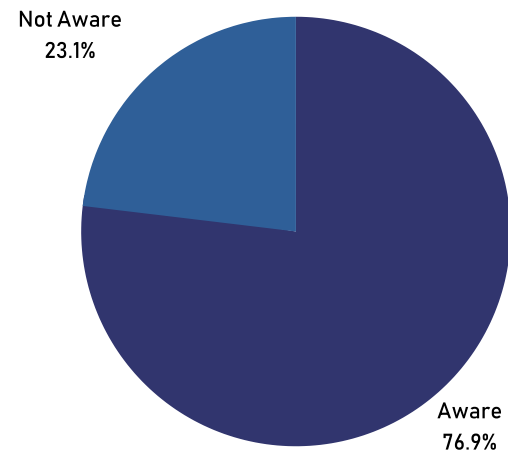
This extreme growth is mainly attributed to the recruitment of education members (schools, colleges and universities) over the last 3 years, who now make up 84.3% of our member organisations. It is extremely encouraging to see that weekly participation figures have also grown 58.4% at club level over the last 3 years, especially considering the impacts of COVID-19.

In order to further grow participation at all levels, we will continue to:

- Support the set up of new clubs and new club sections by offering [Club Membership](#) & support to organisations in the form of development guidance & schemes such as the [New Club Award](#), [Come Join In Funding](#) and bid-writing assistance.
- Encourage more [schools](#), [colleges](#) & [universities](#) in the UK to sign up to British Dodgeball [Education Membership](#) and provide relevant support and services such as [Coach Education](#) & [Competition](#) provision.
- This links with all 6 key areas outlined in our [4 Year Strategy 2022-2025](#).

GIRLS DODGE TOO!

Awareness of Girls Dodge Too! Initiative



The GDT seminar was really helpful and the BD team have been working with my club to help organise a women's-only session, which I think will have a huge impact in increasing the number of women playing.

GDT- just work at college/university level and just keep working to increase women's participation.

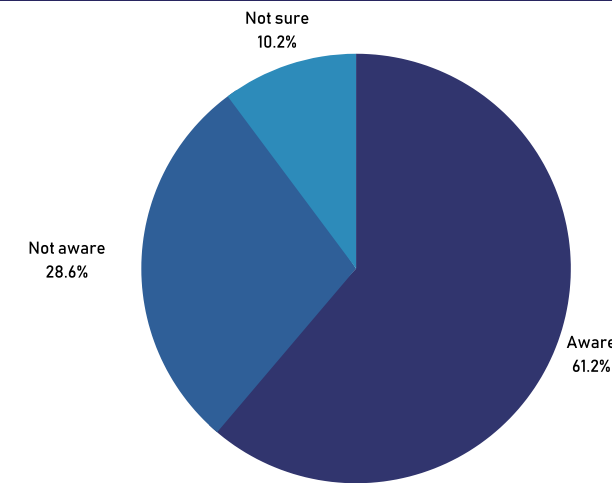
Focus on dodgeball as a fun game for 30+ aged women (in women's-only sessions) whose children will hopefully also start playing.

The initial Sport England-funded project has been a great success, engaging 1,020 new women & girls so far in dodgeball.

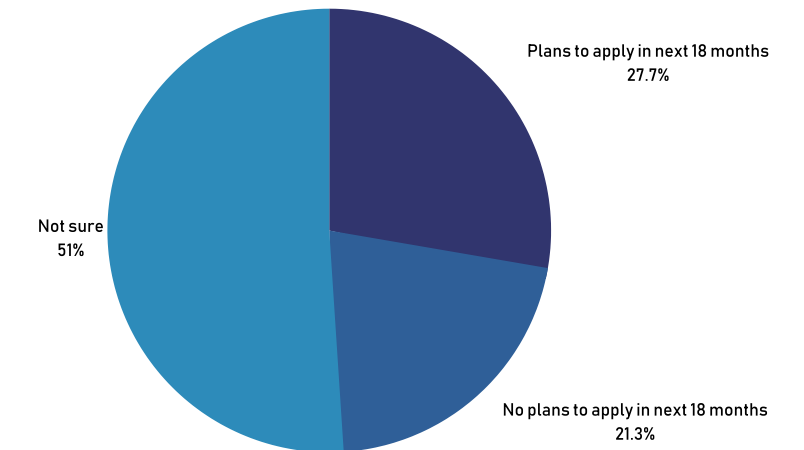
- We will continue to grow the provision of competitive opportunities for women and girls where possible. An example of this is in the regional league system where there is now a women's midlands and south regional league - as more clubs enter teams, we will be able to grow the number of women's regional leagues to reduce distance as a barrier to access.
- Outside of the Sport England-funded project, we have directly and indirectly provided funding for 3 clubs to set up women's sections; we are looking for more clubs to offer opportunities for women & girls in their locality and encourage anyone wanting to set up a female section to email hello@britishdodgeball.com to see how we can support.
- We will look to publicise successes in this area further via social media, news letters and our [Girls Dodge Too! Webpage](#).
- We have added information on alternative grip & throw styles into our [online courses](#) so players can learn more ways to throw which may better suit them when properly coached.

DODGEMARK ACCREDITATION

Awareness of Dodgemark Accreditation



Clubs Planning to Apply in Future

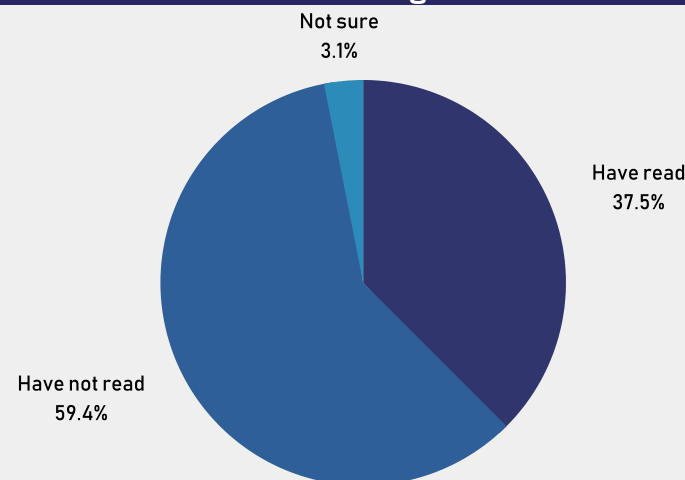


Dodgemark accreditation shows that a club has all of the relevant committee structure and safeguarding, financial, coaching and administrative processes in place to achieve success on a long-term basis. British Dodgeball aims to have a minimum of 6 Dodgemark-accredited clubs by 2026.

- We will run a webinar outlining what dodgemark accreditation is and why it is important for developing a community club.
- We will celebrate dodgemark-accredited clubs on our website.
- We will look to publicise successes in this key area further via social media, in news letters and on our [Girls Dodge Too! Webpage](#).

4-YEAR STRATEGY 2022-2025

Awareness of the British Dodgeball 4-Year Strategy 2022-2025



Our 4-Year Strategy 2022-2025 should be shared more to demonstrate the key areas that we will focus on whilst developing the sport.

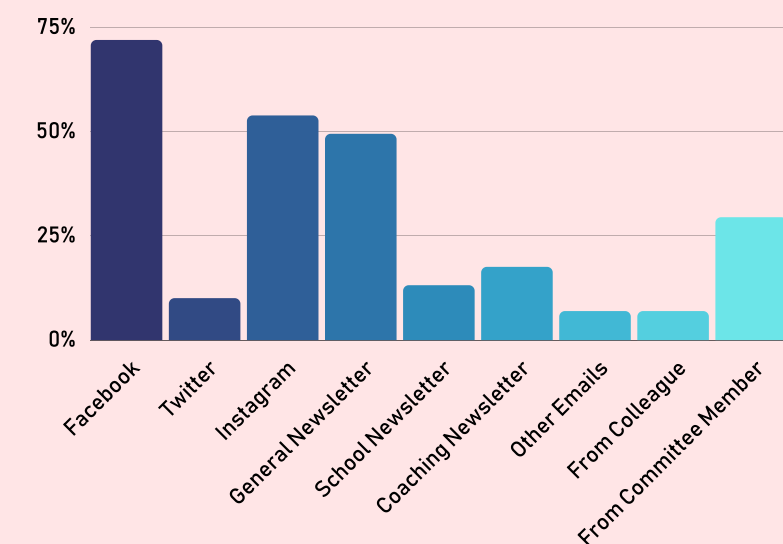
- We will look to publicise the [4-year strategy 2022-2025](#) further via social media, in news letters and on the website.

As evidenced, our new general newsletter has been a great success in sharing aspects of work which British Dodgeball undertakes to help aid understanding of what we do to grow the sport. This currently goes out to over 5,000 people every 2 weeks.

- We will continue to use clear lines of communication to reach members and non-members for news & updates.

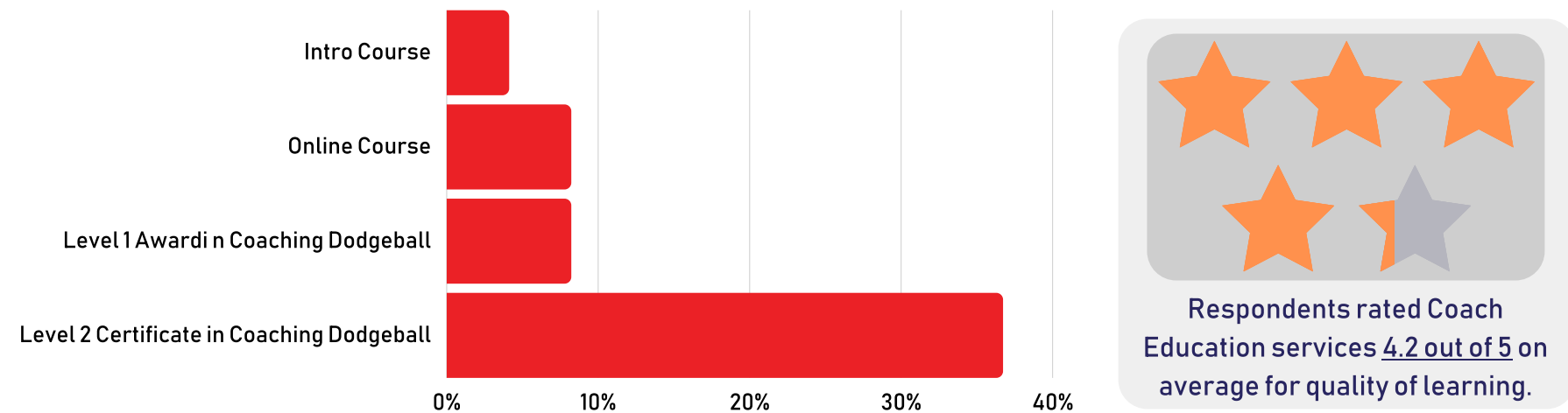
COMMUNICATION

How Respondents Receive British Dodgeball News & Updates

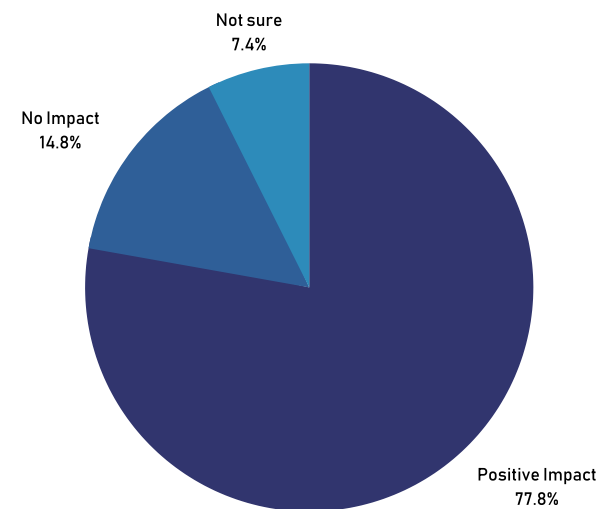


COACH EDUCATION

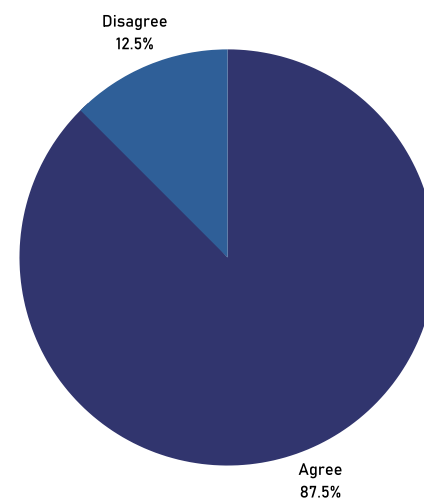
Respondents' Organisations that have Received Coach Education in the Last 3 Years



Impact of Coach Education upon Coaching Practice



Coach Education: Good Value for Money?

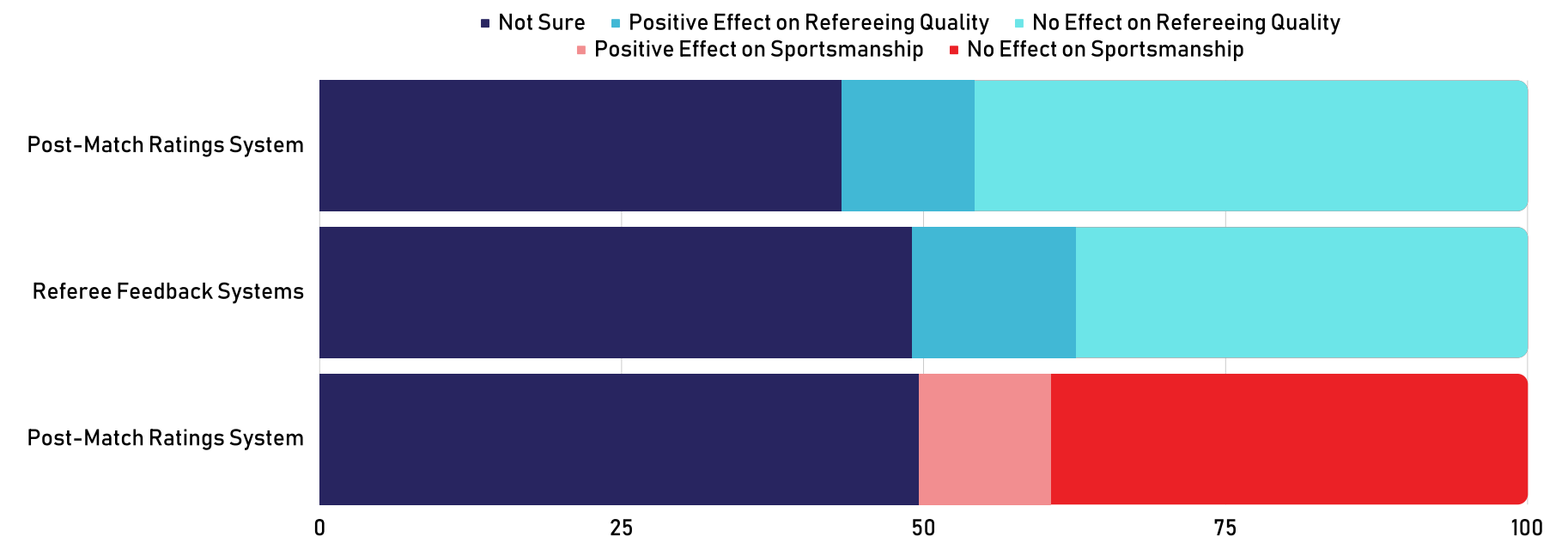


Coach Education is rated very highly amongst respondents. We have recently redesigned our Level 1 & Level 2 coaching courses in order to provide an enhanced level of technical, tactical and coaching knowledge.

- We will continue to redesign the Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Dodgeball in line with our [Coach Education Pathway Progression Map](#) and promote this to club coaches & high-performing practitioners in addition to international coaches, ensuring content (including modules on learning theory and group management) is relevant & useful for all.

SPORTSMANSHIP & COMPETITION FEEDBACK SYSTEMS

Impact of Competition Feedback Systems on Refereeing Quality & Sportsmanship

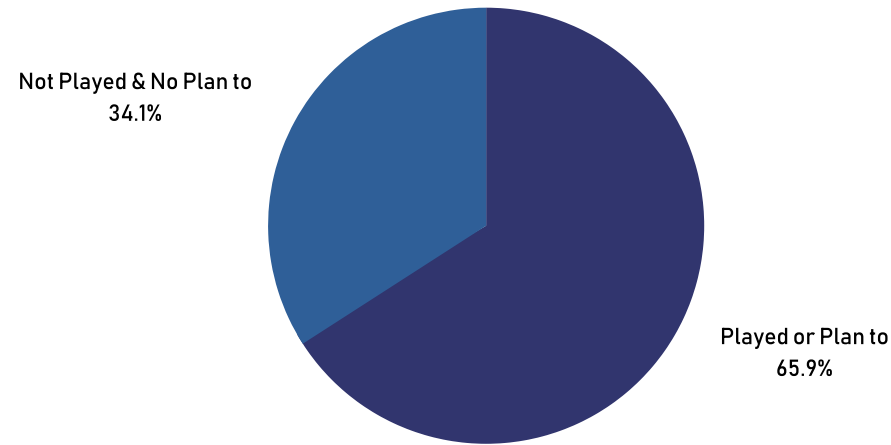


Whilst our competition feedback systems have had some effect, this is something we need to review if it is going to have a significant effect in improving the quality of refereeing or levels of honesty and sportsmanship on display in our sport.

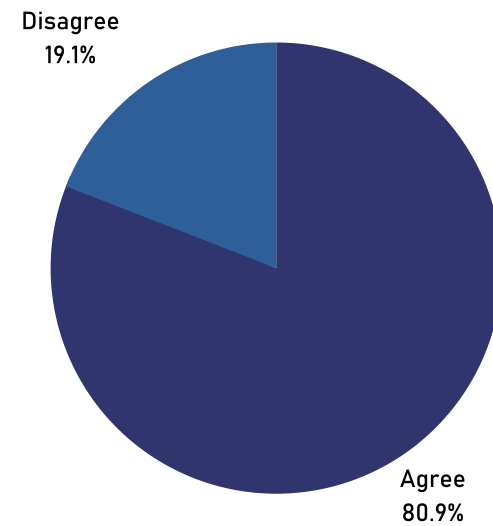
- We will recruit a Head of Referees with a clear role on training and development of referees in the UK.
- We will work with the Head of Referees, the Head of Rules and the Rules & Disciplinary Committees to review the post-match ratings system and the referee feedback systems.
- We will review our reporting procedure and look to implement a clear system which is simple for referees, clubs and players to use.
- We will add reporting information to pre-event communications and ask that clubs pass this information on to players.
- We will clarify to adult teams that they should tell the referee their Dodgeball Code score for opponents, and referees will write it down after both teams have signed. This means teams do not see any awarded scores.

COMPETITIONS

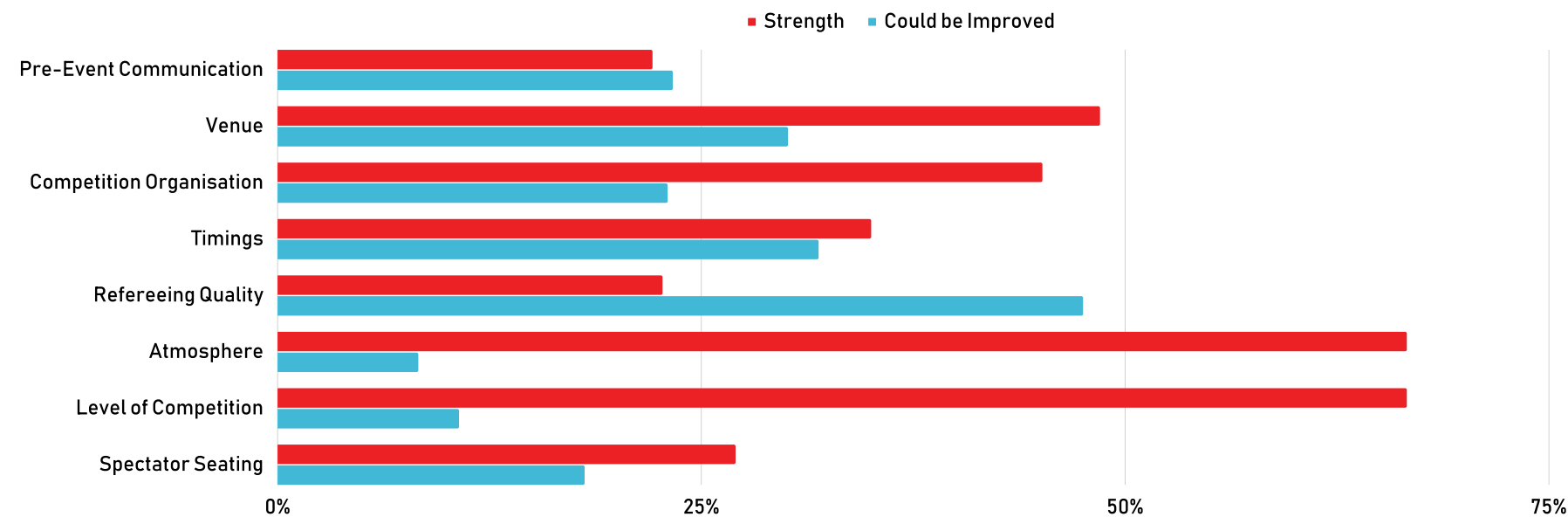
Respondents' 21-22 Season Competition Attendance



Competitions: Good Value for Money?



Respondents' Opinions on British Dodgeball Competitions

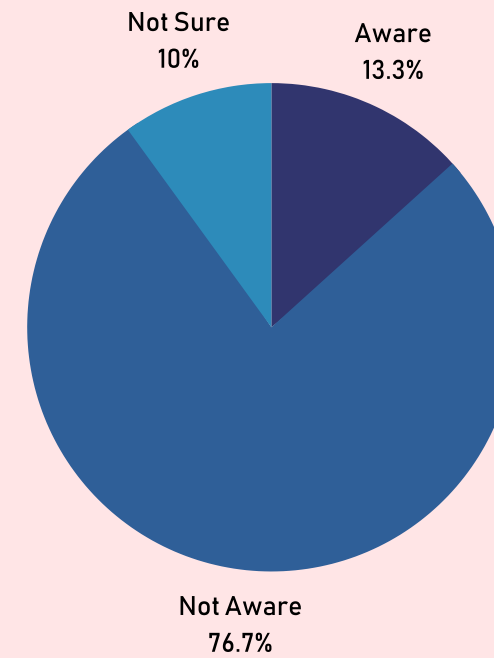


Overall, respondents consider every aspect of competitions to be a strength more than something to be improved, with the exceptions of pre-event communication and refereeing quality.

- We will conduct follow-up emails to ask what respondents wish to see in pre-event communication.
- We will share these results with club committees, who are sent pre-event communication and are responsible for passing information on to players, to ensure that relevant information is passed on to players.
- We will look at trends in feedback from specific leagues and competitions to assess if any other aspects of our competition offer can be improved.

OFFICIATING

Awareness of University Free Referee Training Offer



Dodgeball can be a tricky sport to officiate as so many things can happen in a short frame of time with multiple balls needing accounting for, and balls move so quickly that often different people have different opinions on what happened. This is compounded by the pandemic stalling the recruitment & training of new referees for over 18 months and the fact the sport is so young; even the most experienced referees have only been involved in the game for approximately ten years, which is a stark contrast to established sports like football and cricket. We want people to actively enjoy refereeing, and relish the challenge of developing themselves as an officiator, so we need to all work as a community on getting the culture right amongst players and spectators in addition to referees.

- We will recruit a Head of Referees with a clear role of training referees in the UK.
- We will promote opportunities to become a referee such as the [Event Referee Training Pathway](#) & the [University Free Referee Training Offer](#).
- We will make a referee webpage to highlight the importance of this role.
- We will explore the possibility of sending referee mentors on referee training courses in other sports, cascading knowledge back to our refereeing community.
- The Head of Referees will conduct regular training sessions on de-escalation, sanctioning and rules clarifications to raise consistency and standards.

OUR INITIATIVES & SERVICES: COMMENTS & RESPONSES

I think a coaching level targeted at experienced players to improve clubs training sessions, drills and overall quality would be good.

➔ We already have a course focused on turning players into coaches: [Introduction to Coaching Dodgeball](#) - the Level 2 has been redesigned this season to be far more relevant to club coaches also!

4 year plan- transparency on how you are going to stay accountable for these aims and objectives?

➔ We will continue to publish an [End of Season Report](#) and discuss progress at our [AGM](#) with members.

The coaching course was really valuable for me, as someone new to the official rules, however, I found there's no clear pathway for more advanced training & coaching. I think there would be a big appetite for a central knowledge base for coaches to share tips & techniques.

➔ Look at our [Coach Education Pathway Progression Map](#) for our more advanced courses. We will look into the possibility of a centralised group to be open to all [Coach Members](#) to ask questions & share good practice.

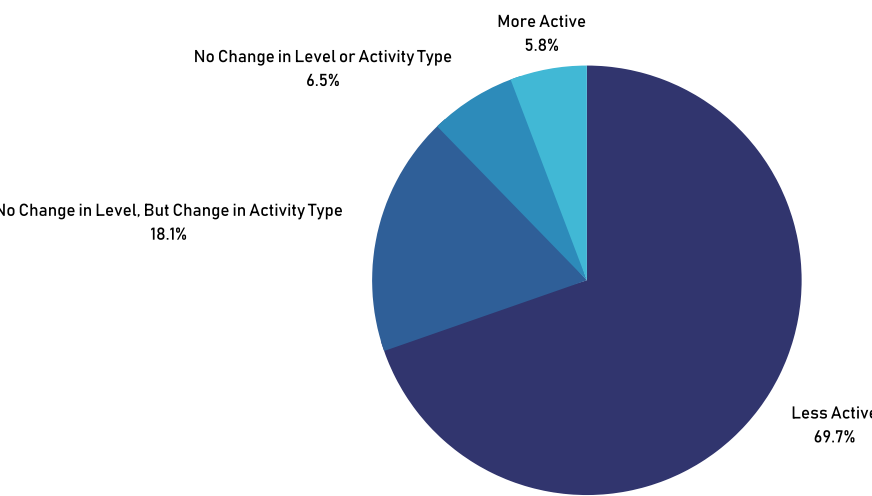
I believe there should be a focus on refereeing in the 4 year plan; without good quality refereeing and support, the game won't be able to run correctly at the adult level.

➔ Whilst not a specific key area, we agree that refereeing is very important to get right. That's why we are investing in this area and hiring a new Head of Referees with a role more strongly focused around training.

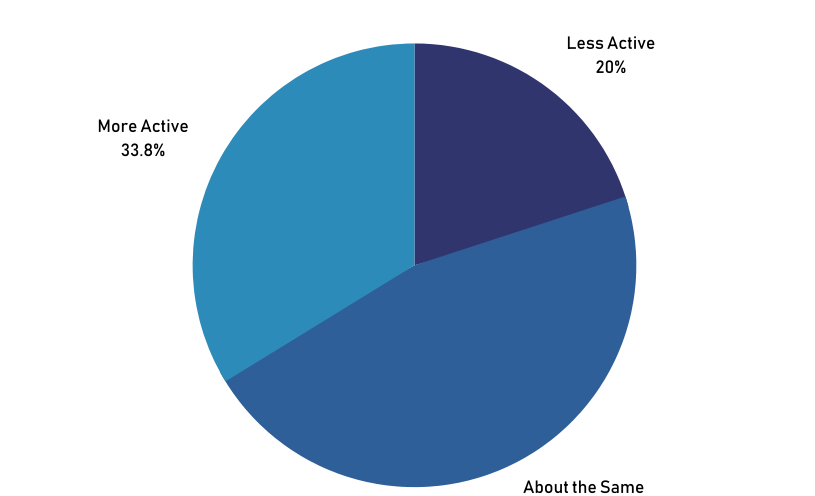
IMPACT OF COVID-19

CLUB STATUS, WORKFORCE & SUPPORT

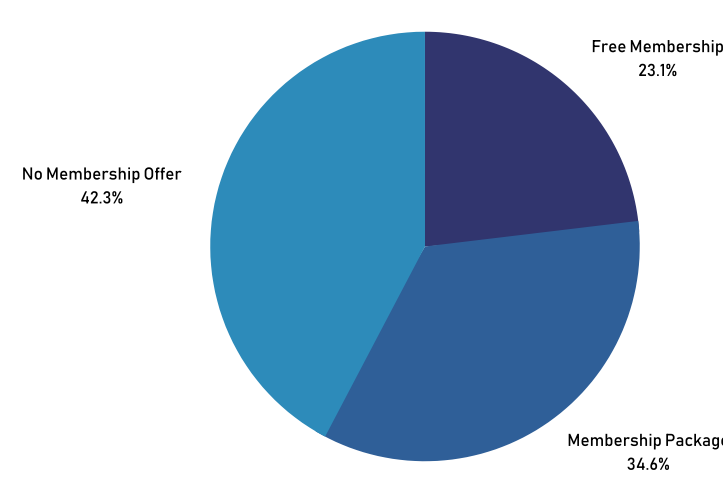
Respondents' Activity Levels During Lockdown vs Before



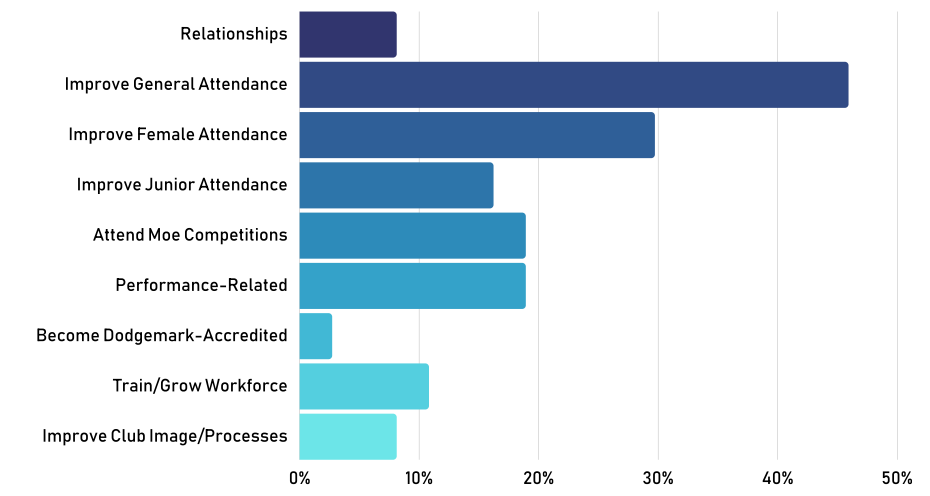
Respondents' Activity Levels Now vs Before COVID-19



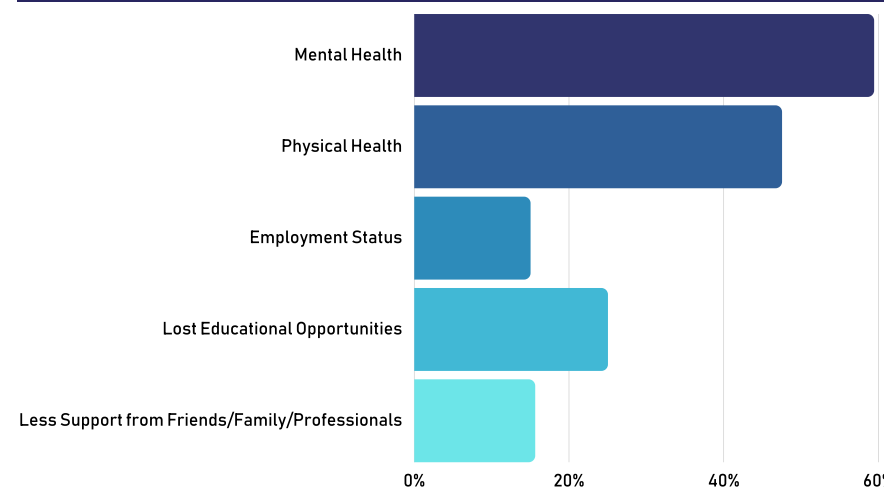
How Does Your Club Organise Membership?



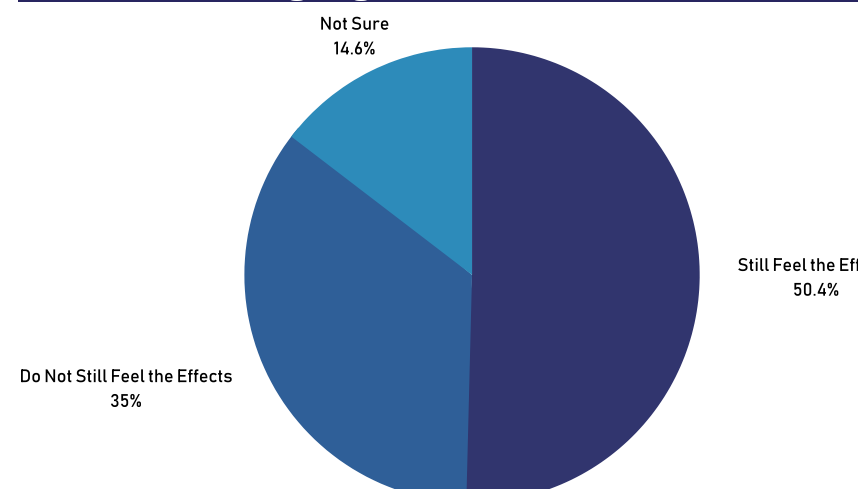
Club Development Goals



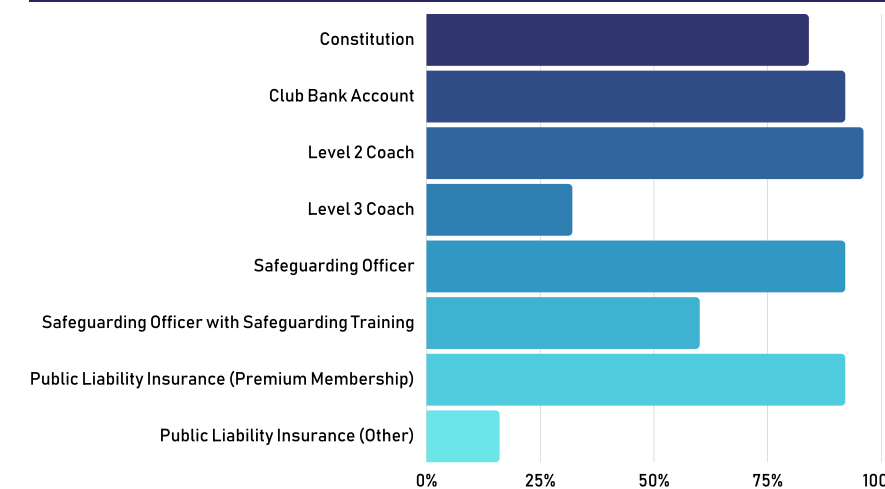
Effects of COVID-19 & Lockdowns



Ongoing Effects of COVID-19



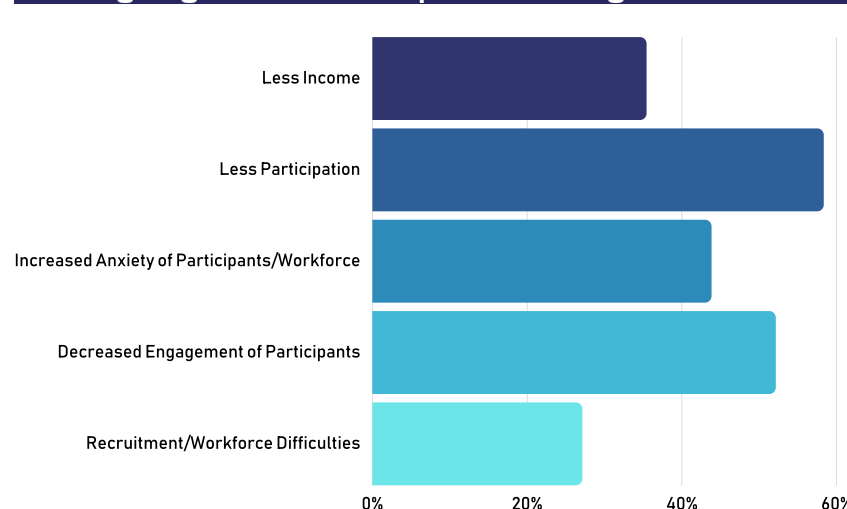
What Does Your Club Have in Place?



Workforce Status

- Each community club has an average of 8.1 committee members.
- Of those 8.1 committee members, 0.2 is salaried, 0.6 is paid per hour, 0.7 get free sessions or expenses in exchange for volunteering and 6.6 volunteer in exchange for nothing.

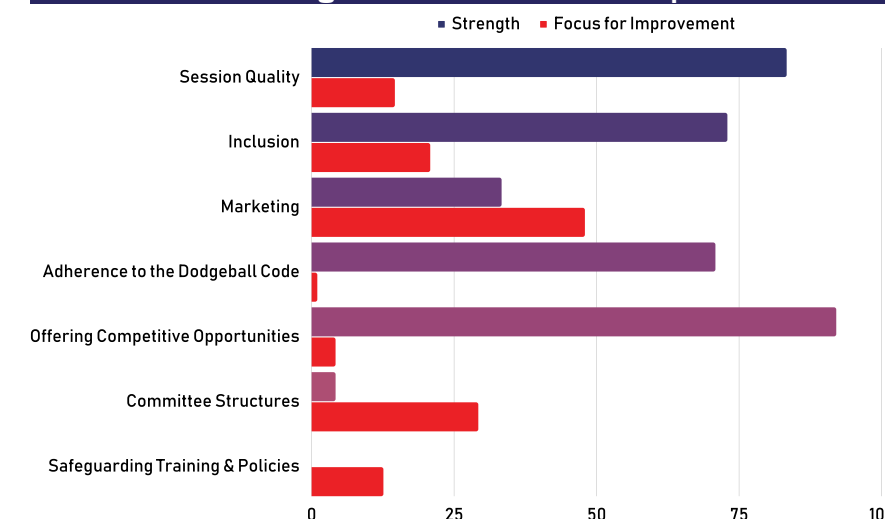
Ongoing Effects on Respondents' Organisations



As an indoor sport, COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdowns had a significant effect on individuals & organisations in a myriad of ways. We are proud to be back running events and training for members and non-members in the UK, but effects are clearly ongoing within the British dodgeball community at both an organisational & individual level.

- We will continue to signpost clubs to funding opportunities in order to support them as they return to play - any club committee members are able to contact hello@britishdodgeball.com to start the conversation should they wish.

Club Strengths & Focus for Development



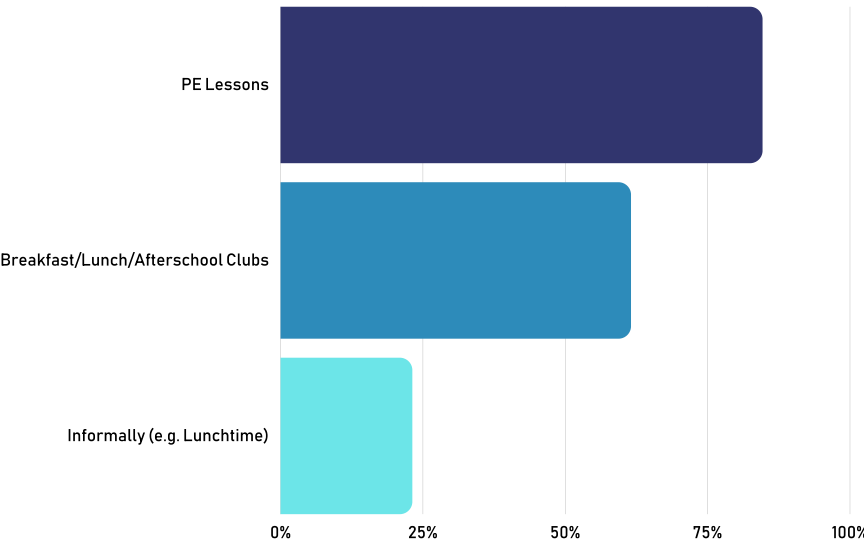
The majority of clubs have the minimum requirements to operate safely in place. Many clubs are reliant on volunteers and risk folding if key volunteers leave. The majority have no focus on developing their organisation beyond growing attendance or improving performance; we want to encourage the growth of organisations with robust policies and processes in place which will stand the test of time & have a positive effect on their local community.

- We will encourage clubs to put a membership offer in place to aid safeguarding and record keeping.
- We will hold regular club development webinars on topics such as growing & supporting your workforce, committee structures, offering competitive opportunities, financial practice & marketing.
- We will review member club criteria for next season to encourage clubs to develop as organisations.
- We will promote the Level 3 course to club coaches.
- We will recommend appropriate safeguarding training & create a safeguarding webpage.

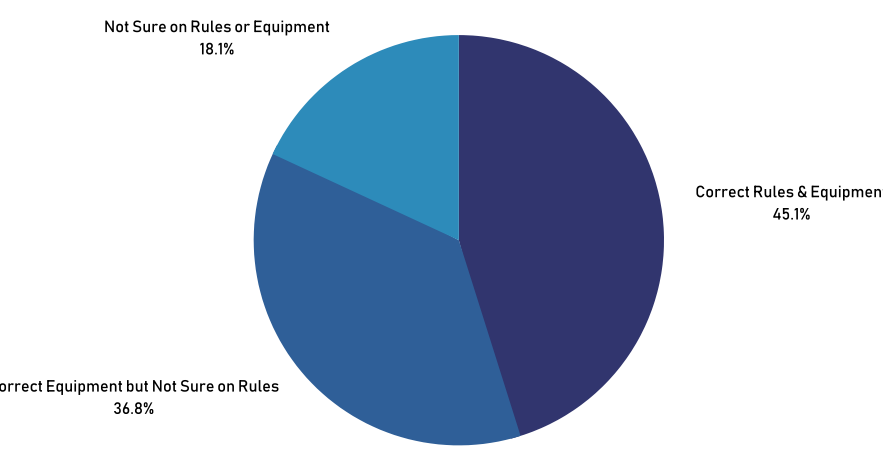
SCHOOL DODGEBALL

COLLEGE DODGEBALL

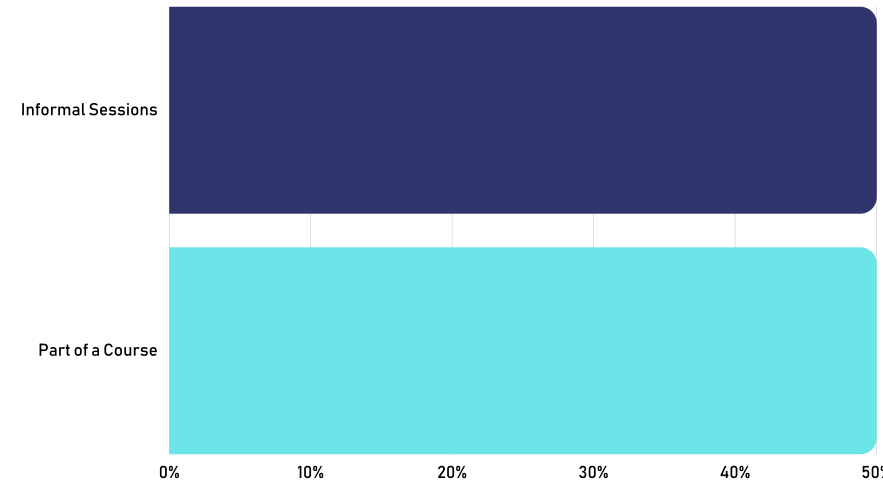
Respondents' Schools Play Dodgeball in These Formats



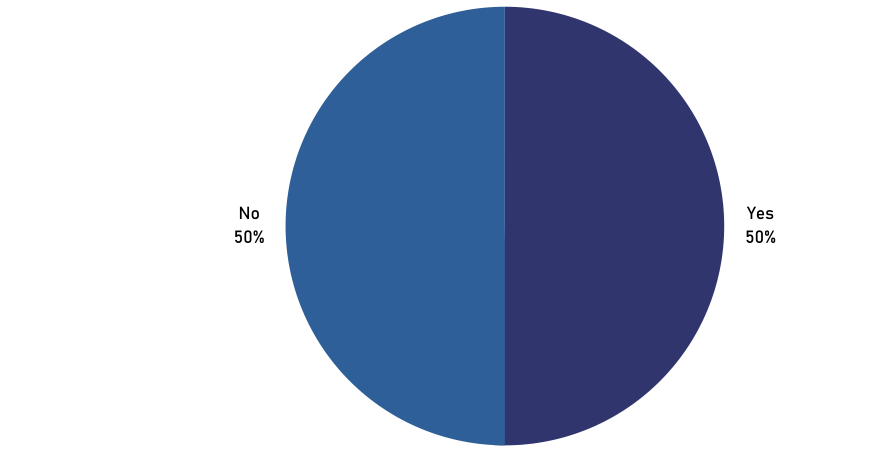
Do You Use the Correct Rules & Equipment?



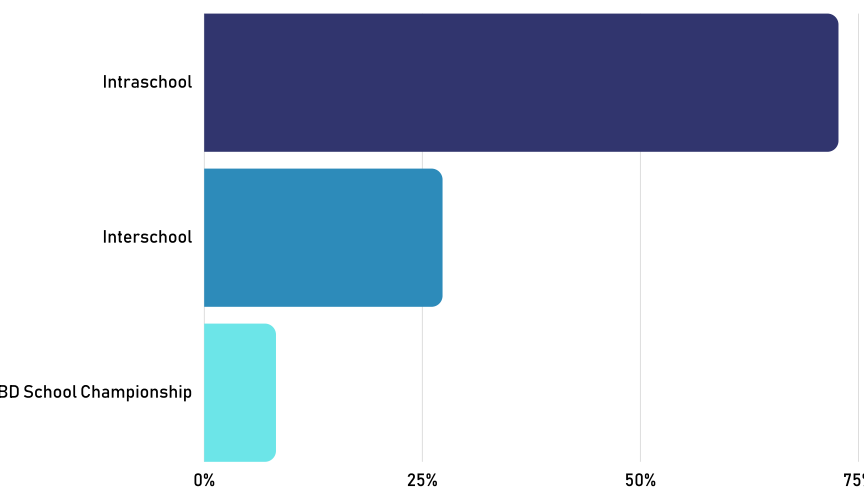
Respondents' Colleges Play Dodgeball in These Formats



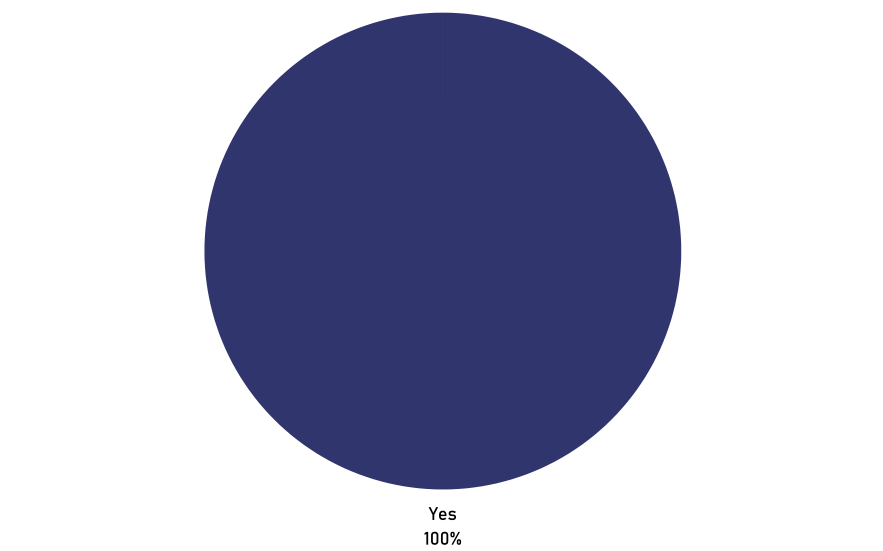
Has Your College Hosted a BD School Championship?



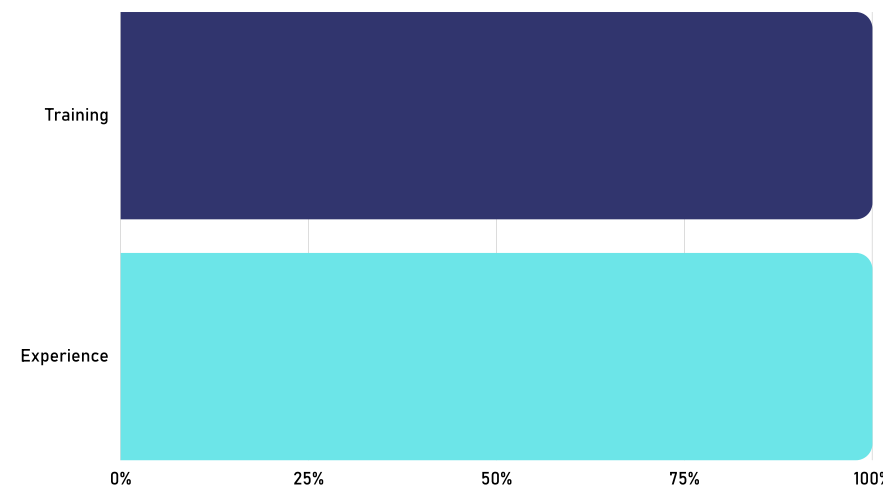
Have You Competed in Dodgeball This Year?



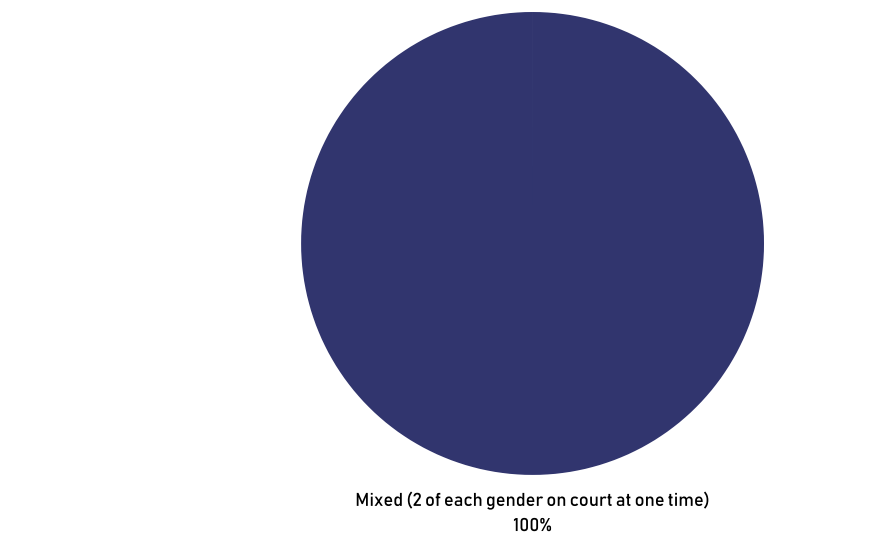
BD School Championship - Good Value For Money?



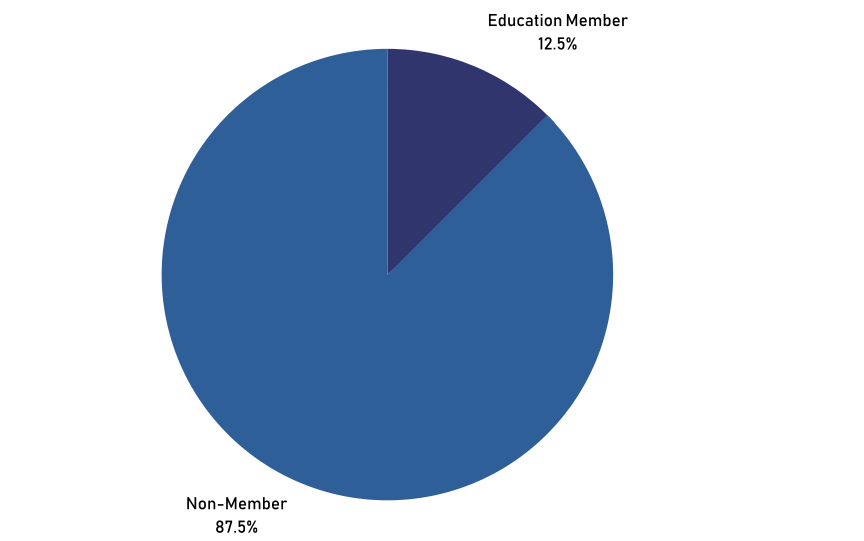
Did Hosting Have a Positive Effect on Students?



Desired College Competition Format



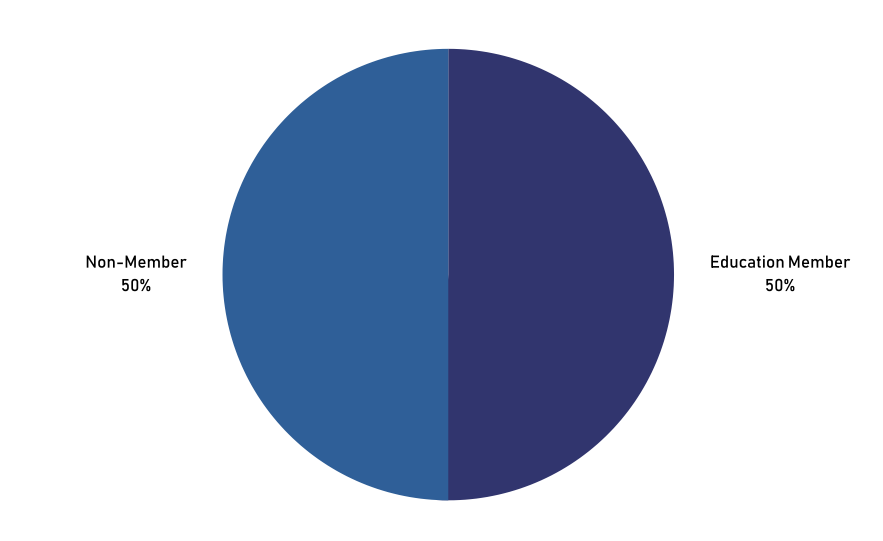
Education Membership Status



School Dodgeball is growing at a brilliant rate. We have hosted 27 primary school events this year, the most by a significant margin. All respondents consider these events to be good value for money and we look forward to seeing this continue to grow. Despite having gained 301 education members in the last 2 years, the majority of respondents' schools are not yet education members.

- We will consolidate our primary school offer, building on participant numbers from this year.
- We will continue to work with key partners such as School Games & Bishop Sports to encourage standardisation of the sport.

Education Membership Status



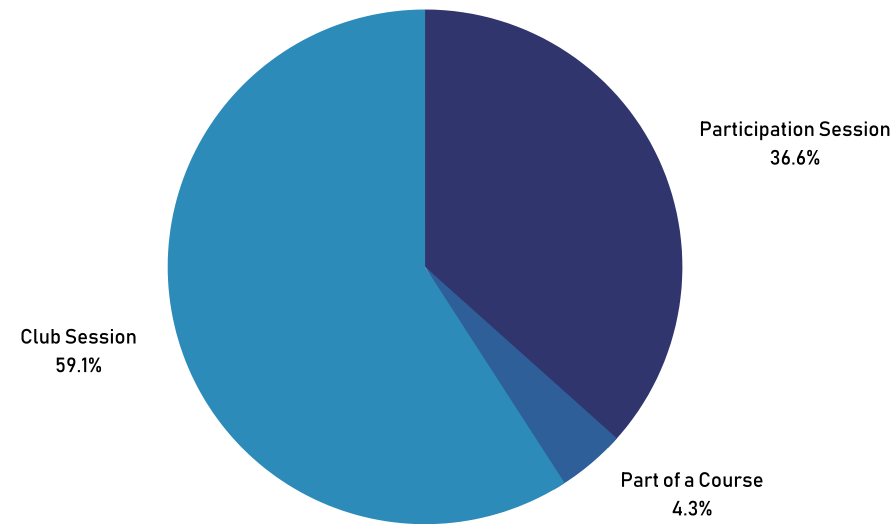
We have worked with over 40 colleges this year to deliver training and given students the opportunity to act as young leaders. All respondents consider hosting school championship events to be beneficial for their students. Despite having gained 301 education members in the last 2 years, only half of respondents' colleges are education members.

- We will look to host pilot college open competitions with ambitions of creating college leagues in areas of demand.
- We will look to deliver training alongside more colleges to promote the development of college clubs.

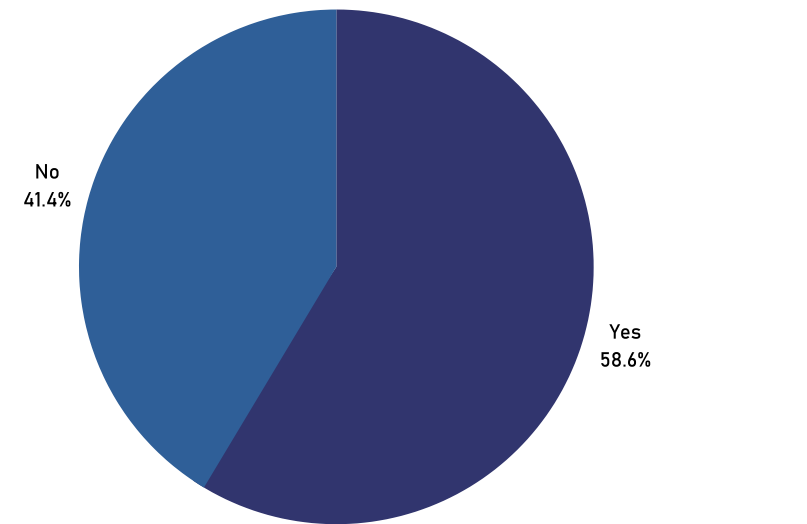
UNIVERSITY DODGEBALL

COMMUNITY DODGEBALL – JUNIOR

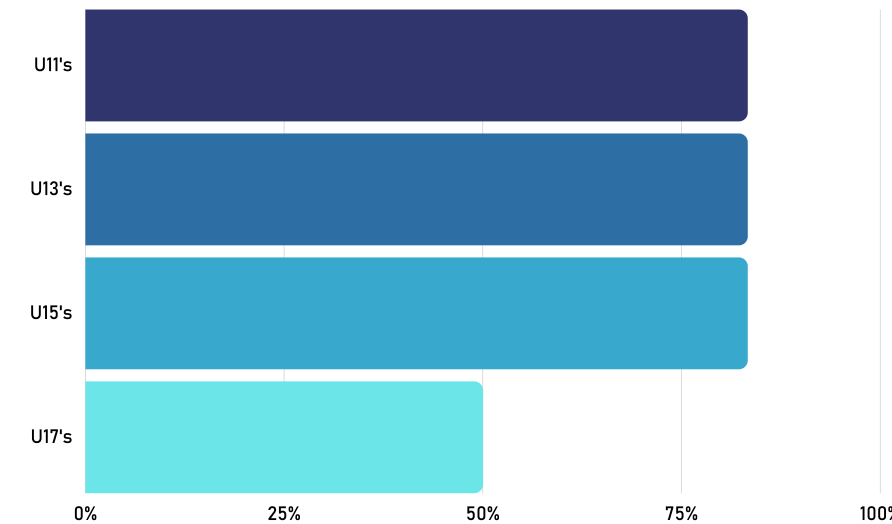
Respondents' Universities Play Dodgeball in These Formats



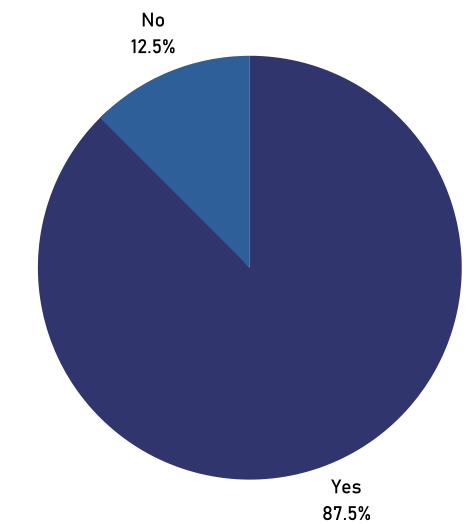
Have You Competed in BUCS Dodgeball This Year?



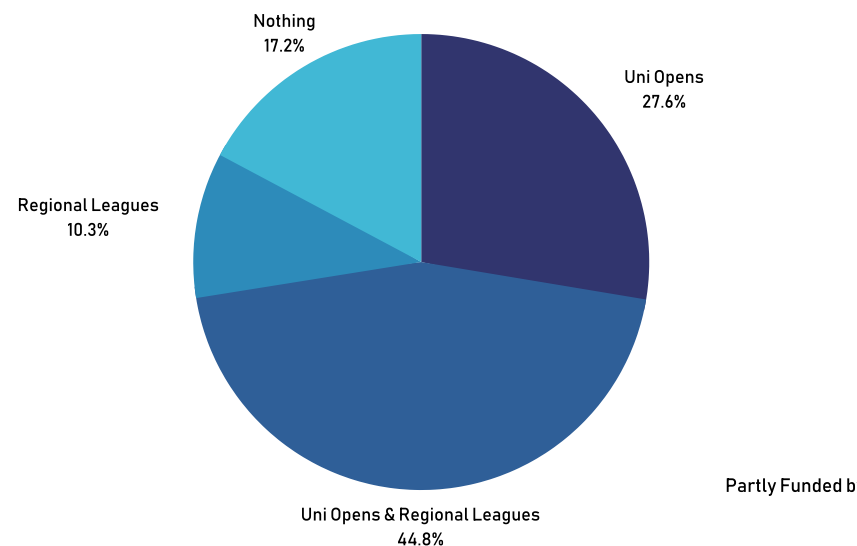
Respondents' Clubs Cater for the Following Age Groups



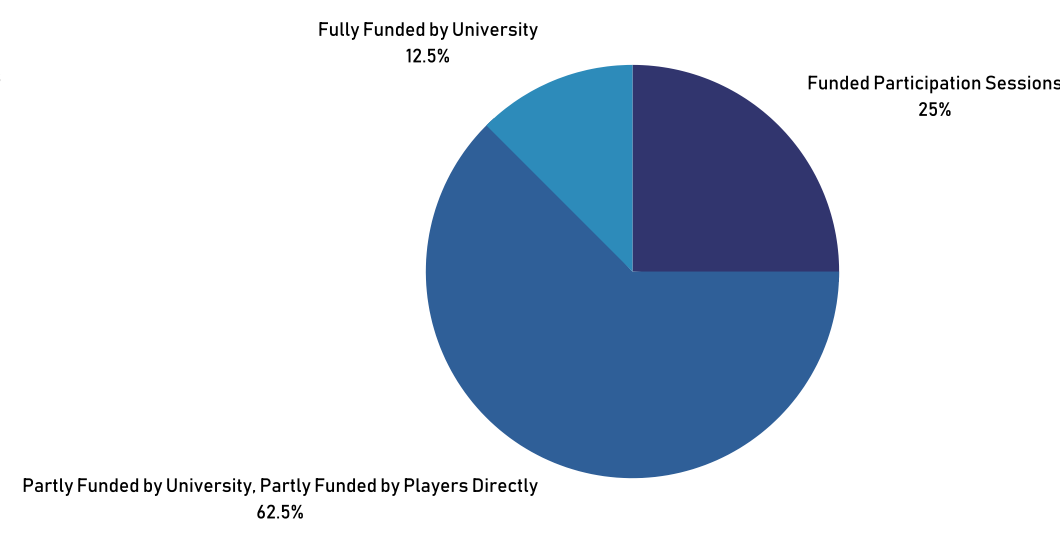
Have You/Your Child Competed in BD Junior Leagues This Year?



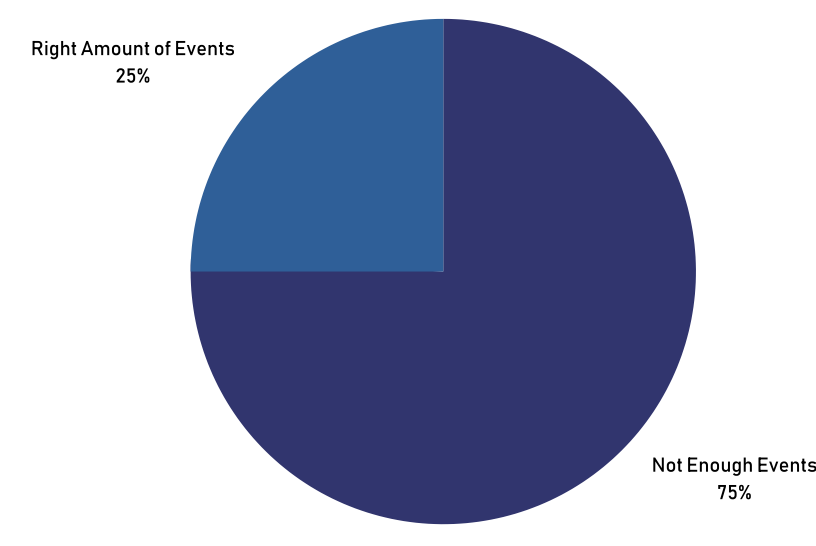
What BD Competitions Have You Played in This Year?



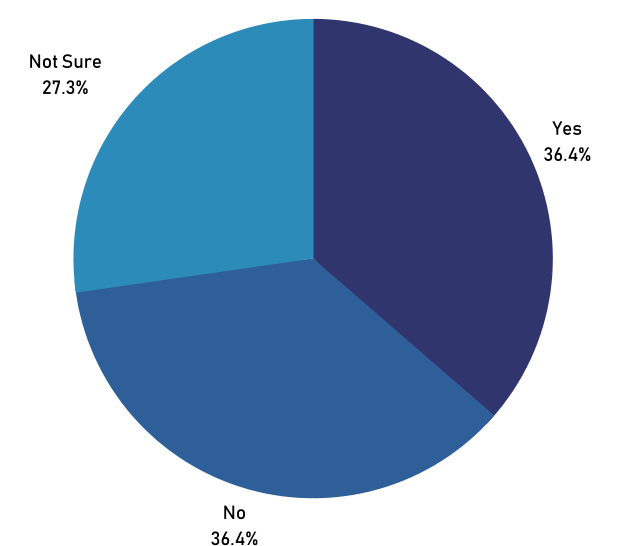
How Respondents' University Dodgeball is Financed



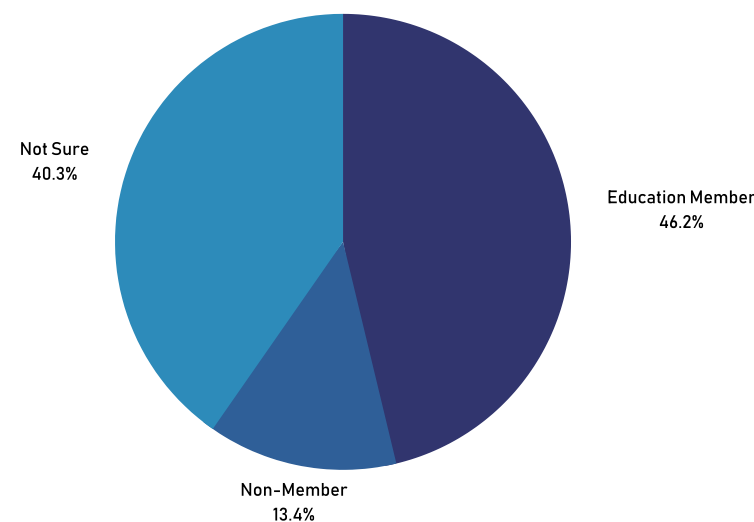
Respondents' Perception of Amount of Junior Events



Have You Noticed Increased Player Retention with the Move to U17's?



Education Membership Status



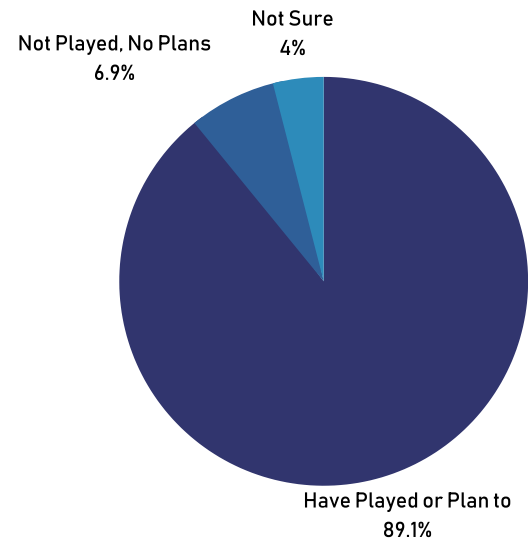
University Dodgeball was perhaps hardest hit by the pandemic as the gap in play meant many experienced players & volunteers graduated and were not replaced. Despite this, we are delighted to be hitting similar participation numbers to pre-COVID-19 in all university competitions. Many respondents are not sure if their university is affiliated to British Dodgeball.

- We will build upon out for year with BUCS and continue to offer a range of university-specific competitions.
- We will continue to promote our [University Club Finder](#) on the university webpage.

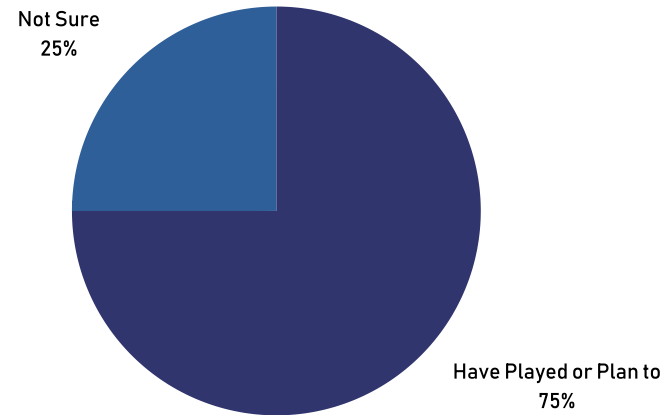
Community Club Dodgeball for Juniors is organised by a great many dedicated individuals. The majority of survey respondents have had their club participate in junior leagues and do not think there are enough British Dodgeball events for juniors. Due to the range of age groups, geography of junior clubs and willingness of parents to travel, it can be tricky to host competitions that meet club's requirements.

- We will conduct follow-up work, asking clubs what types of events they would like to see and what would be most likely to get a buy-in from parents and players.
- We will continue to promote our club development services to encourage more clubs to start new sections that cater for all age groups.

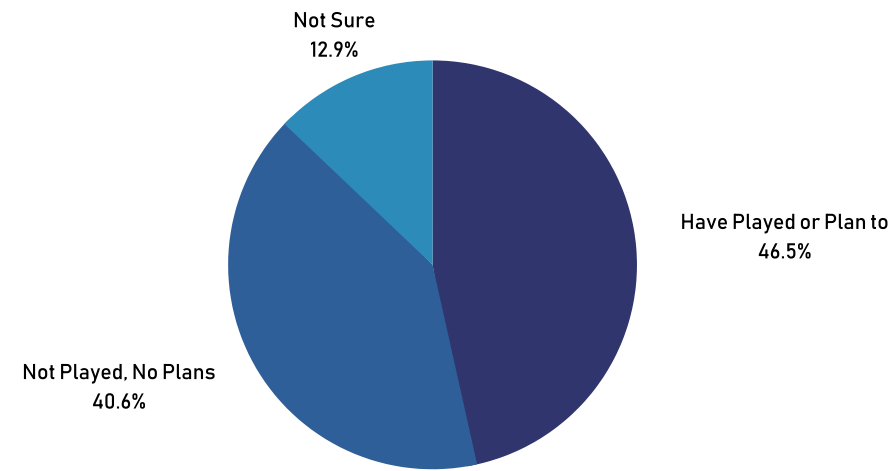
English National League Participation*



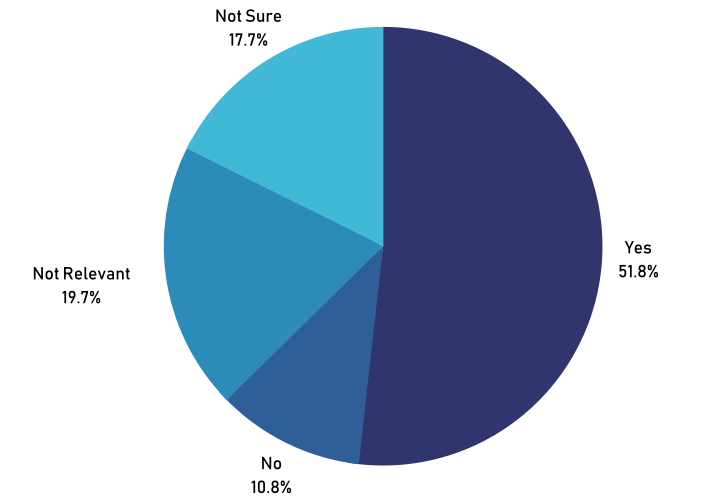
Scottish National League Participation*



English Mixed League Participation

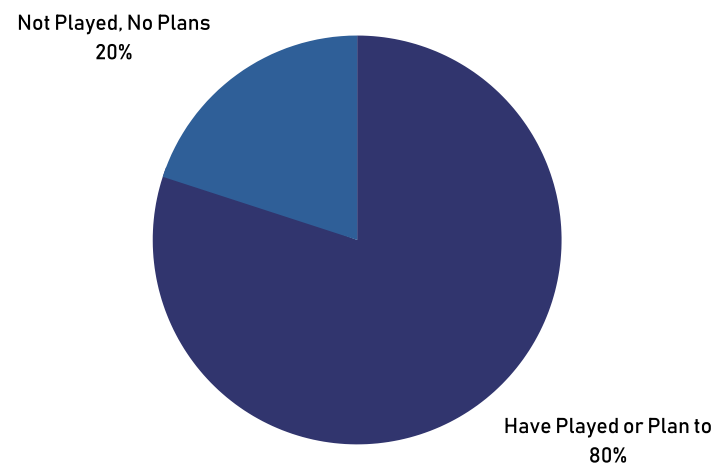


Run North & South Mixed Leagues with a Finals Day?

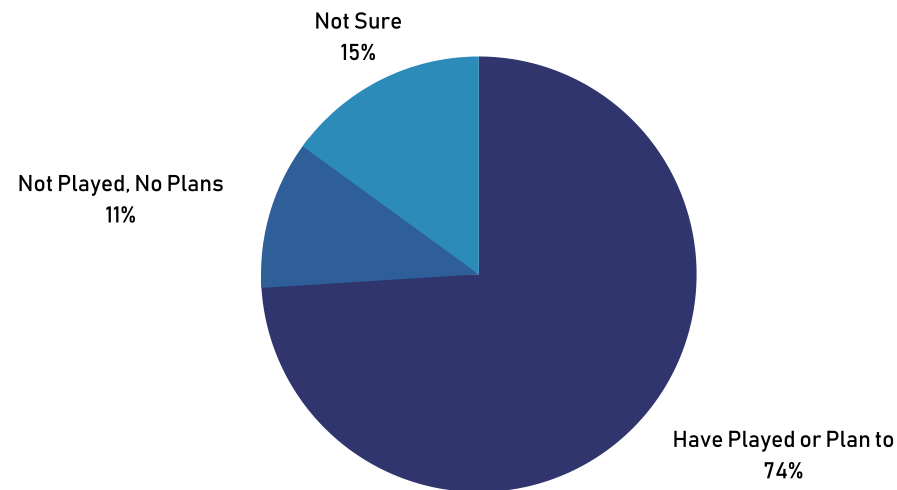


*Only respondents from the relevant Home Nation were counted in these statistics.

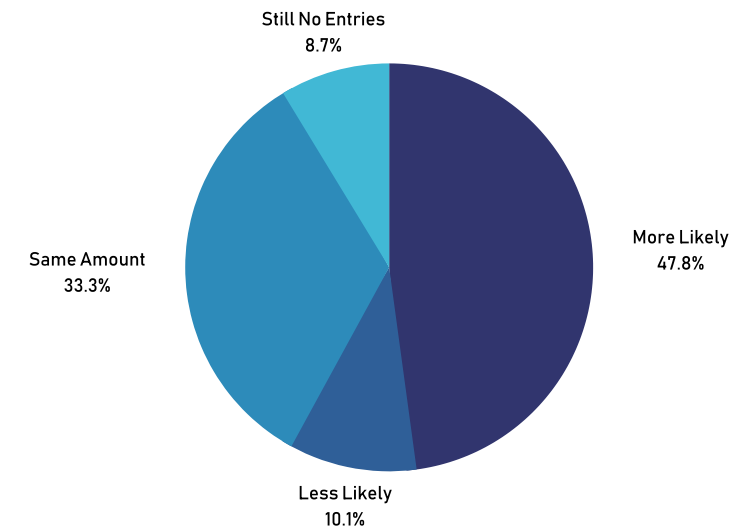
Northern Ireland National League Participation*



Adult Open Participation



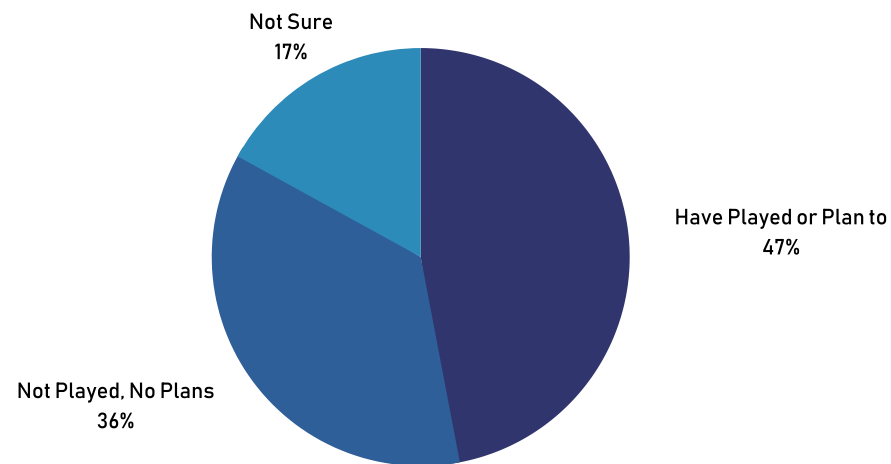
Would Splitting the Mixed League Change Your Team Entries?



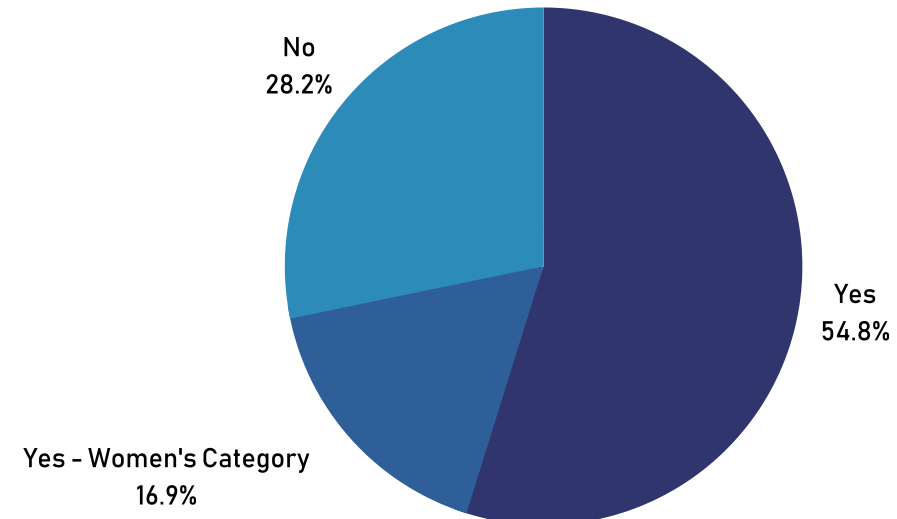
We are delighted that so many respondent have entered competitions as we look to return to re-COVID levels of events and attendance, putting on a range of events to suit all abilities, skill levels and preferences. The majority of respondents agreed with the proposal of splitting the English Mixed League into North & South divisions.

- We will explore the concept of running North & South English Mixed Leagues with a Finals Day.
- We will look to expand the English National League as the current structure is full; this is dependent upon team entry.

Regional League Participation



Interested in Playing Foam Dodgeball?



Community Dodgeball - Adult Comments & Responses:

We need more qualified/trained referees in Northern Ireland.

➔ We will look to recruit a Head of Referees with a clear role around referee development in all areas of the UK.

More regular feedback as people have a lot to say and voice. but I think BD is heading in the right direction and I am grateful for how much dodgeball has been provided since returning from COVID. There is a lot of hard work going in.

➔ We will continue to communicate via our usual channels, conduct surveys like this to get regular feedback which we can act upon and provide annual end of season reports to members during our AGM.

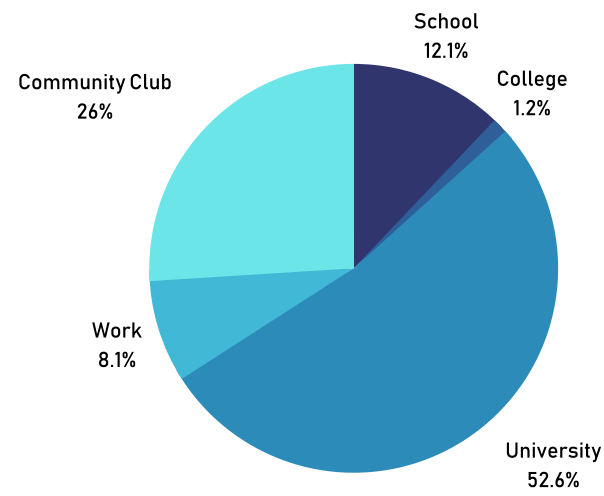
Happy there is now a women's regional league - hopefully there will be more teams that enter in future.

➔ We will continue to look to offer regional women's events whenever there is enough demand to make this viable.

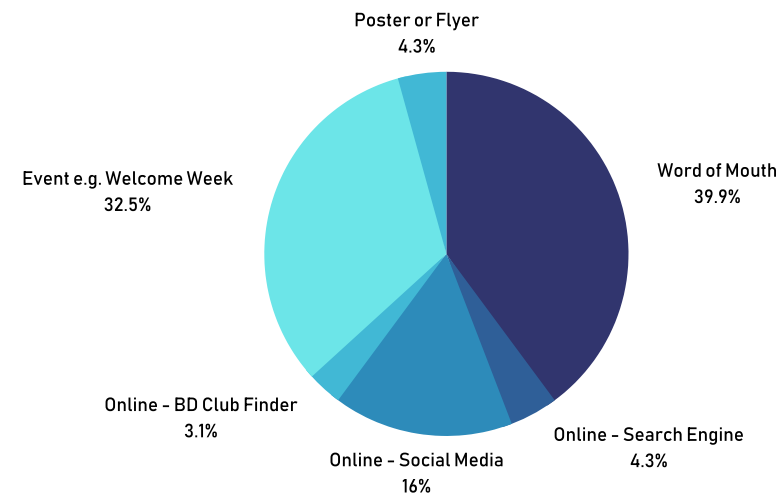
Doing great work overall! Big shout outs to the volunteers, refs, organisers etc. who make this sport happen.

➔ A big thank you to those that responded to this survey & all that make dodgeball happen from British Dodgeball.

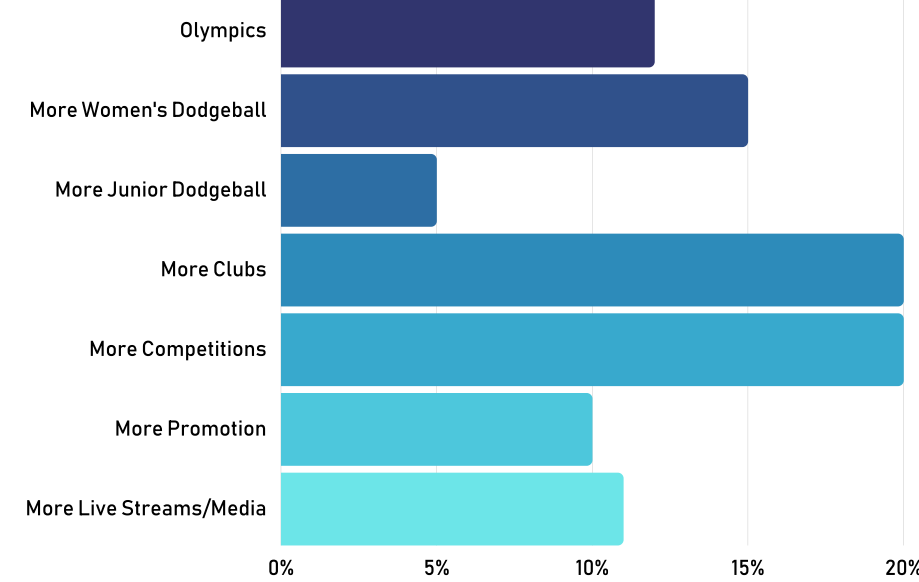
How Did You First Get Involved in Dodgeball?



How Did You First Find Out About Clubs/Sessions?



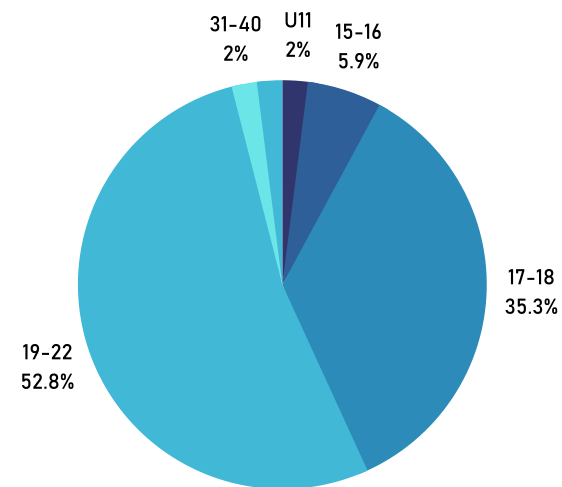
How Do You Want To See Dodgeball Develop in the Future?



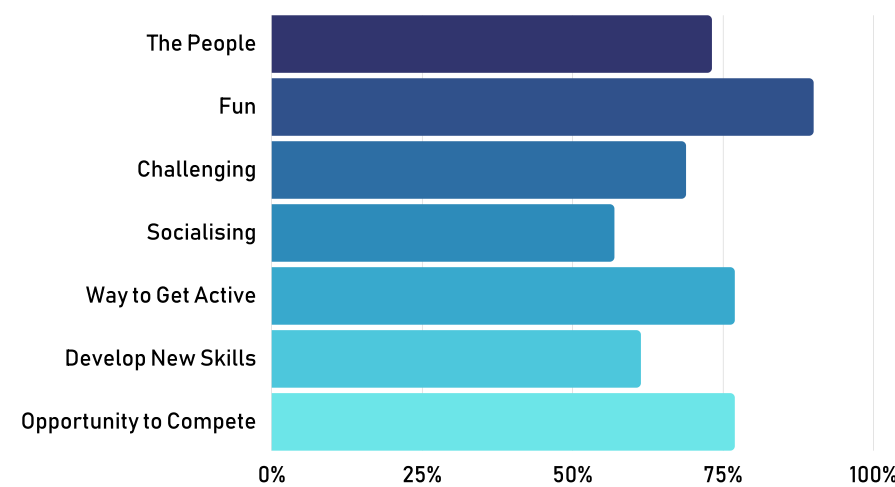
A keyword analysis of this open question generated the following results. The most popular answers were more clubs and more competitions, which are two aspects that grow annually under British Dodgeball. More women's dodgeball and more junior dodgeball were the two most popular specific sections people wish to see growth in. Dodgeball becoming recognised as an Olympic sport is not within our control or remit, however we always support our world governing body in their journey for recognition.

- We will continue to grow the women's & junior games via the Junior Dodgeball & Girls Dodge Too! key areas.
- We will continue to support the set up of new clubs via [New Club Award](#), [Come Join In funding](#), [club resources](#), [bid writing assistance](#) and development support.
- We will continue to hold competitions in all areas where they are viable.
- We will continue to release a regular newsletter, providing news & updates to over 5,000 people.
- We will support the WDBF where possible in their ambitions to develop dodgeball around the globe via British Dodgeball board members, staff and members volunteering their time as representatives.

How Old Were You When You First Got Involved?



What Do You Love About Dodgeball?



OTHER COMMENTS FOR BRITISH DODGEBALL STAFF & BOARD

Congratulation on getting us all through the pandemic. Keep pushing the referee and coaching recruitment and support, I think its the only way to keep growing sustainably.

Personally I like it as it is. I think it's at a good level and BD are doing a lot right with their events and leagues.

I understand that this is a very thankless job and I really do appreciate all your time, weekends, long hours, complaint resolution and effort you put in. So thank you for helping me to play my favourite sport

I would like to see more local clubs in different regions across the UK, the more the better!

Thank you for all the hard work of the staff, volunteers and board to making the sport what it is today in this country. It's an exciting time to be involved and I'm looking forward to seeing how it will grow over the next 12 months.

You're doing a great job - looking at where we are at now compared to 5 years ago is class.

What Does Dodgeball Mean To You?

It's a great fun way to keep fit, build team work and life skills.

It has been a lifeline in some pretty dark times honestly. Dodgeball has gotten me out of the house and active during weeks when I wouldn't have left my bed otherwise... The endorphins of a good training session have been invaluable to my mental health (and obviously my physical health too!).

Belonging to a community.

For me, dodgeball is about putting inclusion and fun ahead of taking things too seriously.

It means something to look forward to in the week.



BRITISH
DODGEBALL

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April 2022