

BRITISH DODGEBALL

ENGLISH NATIONAL LEAGUES

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK



We believe it is important for all national leagues to have a similar size of court (ie, one that is not wall to wall) will this be possible with the northern and southern venues?

British Dodgeball's aim is for all national league venues that form part of the same pyramid to have a similar court boundary. We will therefore make every effort to secure such venues by allocating a reasonable amount of staff time to this task, and this has already begun. With this being a new setup however, we can make no guarantee that this will be the case. This however will mean larger venues that come with a greater cost.

Could the South league be placed more towards the East to reduce travel time for clubs in those locations?

British Dodgeball needs to consider the needs of all clubs and balance this out with finding a suitable venue.

In May 2023 what will promotion and relegation from league 2 to league 1 look like and what will happen to those teams that gain promotion from league 4 to league 3, league 3 to league 2 this season?

League positions will be determined by the rankings at the end of the 2022/23 season. League 1 & 2 promotion and relegation will go ahead as planned, with the bottom 2 teams relegated from league 1 and the top 2 teams promoted from league 2.

Will teams coming down be geographically moved to even out the leagues. How will the leagues look if there is an imbalance of north or south leagues being relegated from league 1?

All clubs will be allocated to a region at the start of each season and after the league entry deadline. The regions may be flexible each season as the sport grows and new clubs emerge. For example, a team relegated from league 1 in the 2023/24 season that is in the North region will participate in the North National League. If there are 4 teams relegated that are all from the North region then they will participate in the North League next season. This will not impact promotion and relegation from the North National League Division 2 for that season. If an imbalance begins to occur between the North and South leagues then this will be addressed at the end of each season. As the sport grows it is our intention that further divisions exist in regions such as the South West and South East to further reduce travel times and as a growing sport the approach needs to be flexible.

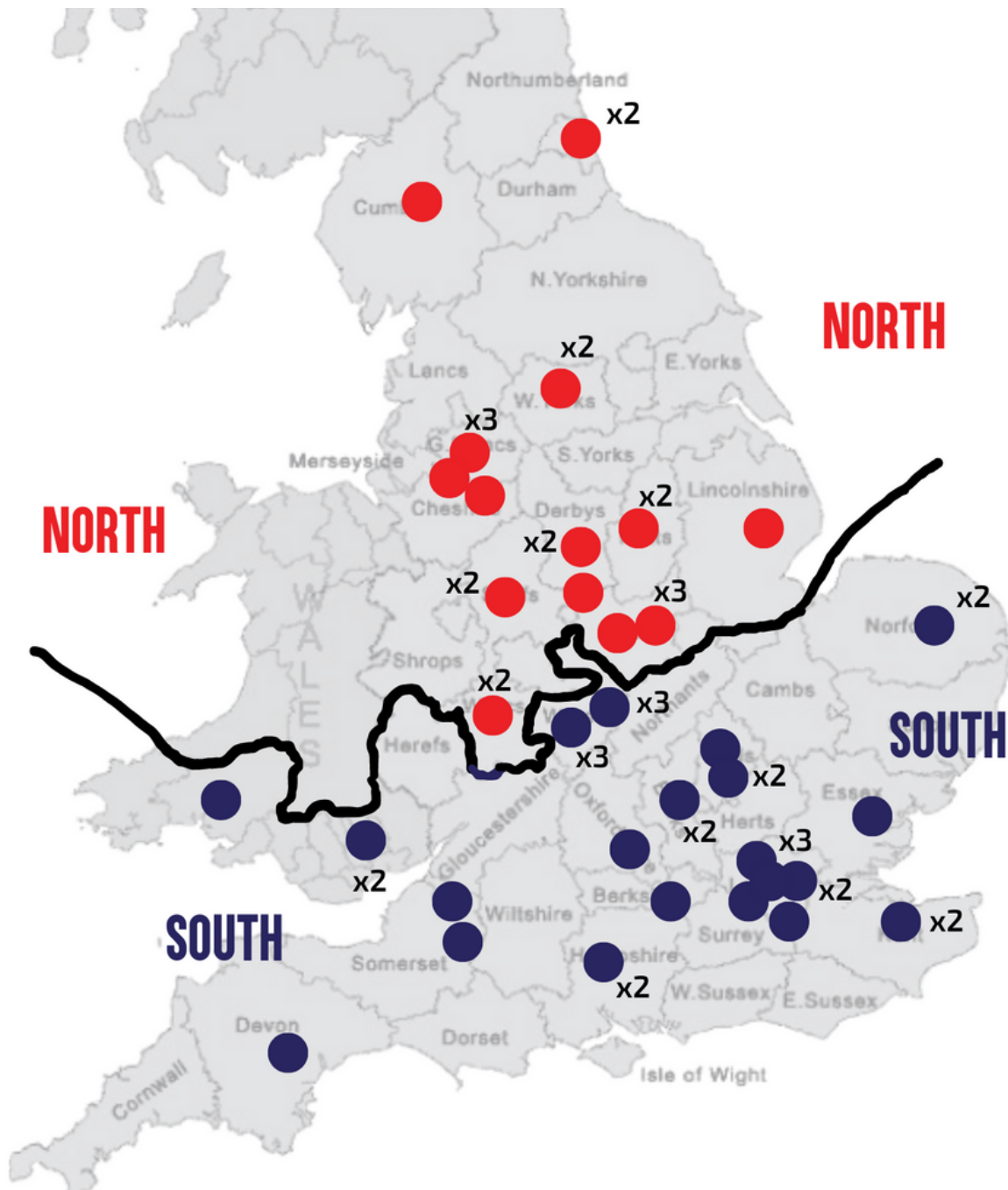
Considerations when allocating regions:

- *Minimising travel distance for teams where possible*
- *Keeping clubs from same teams together where possible*
- *Maintaining even N/S league sizes where possible*
- *Adhering to promotion/relegation from prior season where possible*

Will British Dodgeball decide which league teams go into north/south or will teams choose?

British Dodgeball will set the regulations that determine which teams are placed in which divisions to ensure fairness and impartiality. The map below shows the estimated league split for the 2023/24 season, this may however change depending on entries received by the entry deadline in July 2023. Clubs are represented by red (north) or blue (dots) with x 2 or x 3 to indicate clubs that have multiple teams in the leagues. All teams currently competing in both national and regional leagues in England are shown on the map.

British Dodgeball only operates leagues with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 teams.



4 teams relegated from league 1 is too much. Have you considered a playoff to determine promotion/relegation?

Yes. During planning we have discussed the options for having a playoff to determine promotion and relegation from league 1. As the feedback has suggested this is something the clubs support we will be implementing a playoff that will take place after the 2023/24 league season has concluded. Promotion and relegation from National League 1 will therefore be as follows:

- Teams finishing in 9th & 10th place in National League 1 will be automatically relegated.*
- National League North/South winners will be automatically promoted.*
- A round robin 4 team playoff will take place after the league season has concluded. National League 1 7th place, National League 1 8th place, National League North 2nd place and National League South 2nd place will contest the playoff, with the top 2 teams gaining promotion to National League 1.*

Could Super League and League 1 be extended to 12 teams per league?

No, this is not possible at this time. Due to the amount of teams already competing at St Georges Park, there is no room for this fit. That isn't to say that this could not happen in the future as the leagues continue to grow, but right now it is not possible.

Will clubs with multiple teams be placed in the same region?

Yes, regions will be geographically based therefore clubs will not have teams in multiple regions except in extreme circumstances.

Is it possible to have 3 regional national leagues? (Northern, Central, Southern)

In the future, this is a possibility but having assessed the clubs/teams that are either currently in the national leagues or those competing in our events outside of the national leagues the best fit for the 2023/24 season is to have a Northern and Southern national league only.

Some clubs with multiple teams would see their teams competing at different venues which wouldn't allow them the opportunity to support each other.

The National Leagues running at St Georges Park will not take place on the same date as the Northern and Southern National Leagues. This would allow club members to attend each other's meets and support should they wish.

Fuel costs and transport feasibility: a lot of our players are very young and require transport. We would struggle to enter more than one team due to the time constraints of getting everyone together for lifts and taking them back home.

We understand this may be a challenge for some clubs and hopefully such advanced notice of the changes will enable you to plan ahead in order to compete.

Will the north/ south leagues be on the same weekends and in a similar format (3 matches each meet) to the central leagues?

The Northern and Southern leagues will not be on the same weekends as the leagues taking place at St Georges Park. We do not yet know the entry numbers therefore we are unable to provide the fixtures, however all leagues will have a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3 matches at each round.

What will be the line refereeing commitment at leagues where we play 3 matches?

Each team participating in a 10 team league over 6 rounds with 3 matches at each meet will be required to line ref on 9 occasions throughout the league season.

Will there be a women's national league north and south if there is enough demand?

Yes.

With leagues taking place on different dates what would that mean for transfers?

More details on transfers will be published during the off-season. Players will not be able to participate for multiple teams within their club during the corresponding league round.

Can British Dodgeball try and schedule so that teams travelling from afar are not playing at the very start or very end of the day?

We can not promise for this to be the case due to the number of teams competing who are travelling large distances, but we will certainly try.

Will we have to play any back to back games?

We will make every effort to avoid this.

Players may seek higher level clubs in order to compete at St Georges Park which will make it difficult for lower league teams to grow.

It may be the case that players are recruited to participate at the higher level clubs but this will always be the case no matter what you do and in whatever sport you play. A regional system means promotion for good teams to the national league might be faster (e.g. it would take 3 years to be promoted from the current League 4 to League 1, but only 1 year to be promoted from South 1 to League 1), resulting in better retention of players for promotion drives.

What impact will this have on the regional leagues? If more higher level players start competing in the regional leagues then the opportunity for new players in regionals will change.

There will be 3 regional leagues next season. Sept to Nov. Dec to Feb. Mar to May. We encourage all players to compete in regional leagues. The more divisions we can have at regional leagues, the better for everyone. We see the regional leagues from Sept to Nov being great opportunities for all national league players to compete in as pre-season practice ahead of the national league season starting. Dec to Feb being great opportunities for university clubs to enter regional leagues and for all leagues being great opportunities for new and upcoming clubs and players to compete.

Will marketability of the leagues be diminished by making the days longer the quality of play may be diluted as teams fatigue or rotate.

We believe this will be the opposite. If more matches mean that overall fitness levels are increased then the quality of play will increase.