



CLUB MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

23-24 Season Update



Developing Club

Under 2 years old



Established Club

Over 2 years old



Recommended



OCTOBER 2023

INTRODUCTION

From the start of the 2025–2026 season, all British Dodgeball member clubs will be classed as either a Developing Club, an Established Club or a Dodgemark Club. The purpose of this update document is to outline the requirements of each club classification to provide clubs with both a thorough understanding and adequate time to prepare.



IMPACT ON CLUBS

The full table of requirements (as of October, 2023) is listed on page 3.

The main addition is the requirement for all Established Clubs is the requirement to have a junior section. As an Established club is defined as a club which is over 2 years of age, this means that all clubs over 2 years old must have a junior section. Clubs who do not adhere to Club Membership requirements will not be eligible for British Dodgeball club membership benefits such as insurance and the ability to compete in British Dodgeball leagues.

This document outlines the following in order to assist clubs which are impacted:

- [Club requirements](#)
- [Rationale of why requirements are being added](#)
- [Case studies](#)
- [Support your club can access](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)

2025-2026 SEASON MEMBER CLUB: REQUIREMENTS

	Developing Club	Established Club
Definition	A new club which has held British Dodgeball club membership for less than 2 full seasons.	A club which has held British Dodgeball club membership for 2 full seasons or longer.
Requirements		
		Developing Club Requirements, plus:
Club Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution or articles of association • Club bank account • Club email address • Junior development officer 	
Member Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold inclusive sessions for the local community (min. 1 age group) • Promote sessions to local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold inclusive sessions for the local community.* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Year 3: link session ◦ Year 4: min. 1 age groups ◦ Year 5: min 2 age groups
Playing Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular sessions at local venue • A trained coach (min. 1 British Dodgeball Level 2 coach) • Club referee lead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular junior dodgeball sessions*
Duty of Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding policy • Data protection policy • Appointed safeguarding officer with recommended safeguarding training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow British Dodgeball safe recruitment practices for coaches & those in authority roles

**See next page for details*

ESTABLISHED CLUB: JUNIOR SECTION REQUIREMENTS

The specific requirements for what each club's junior section must look like depends on the age of the club. Since this is a new way of looking at clubs, all existing clubs will be considered to be Developing Clubs in the 2023-2024 season, meaning that all existing clubs will become Established Clubs (Year 3) at the start of the 2025-2026 season, and must therefore have the requirements listed in the previous page in place, plus the following:

YEAR 3 (2025-2026)

Clubs in receipt of their third season of British Dodgeball club membership must at minimum run a weekly session for at least one age category of junior players:

- This must be a regular (weekly session), although short breaks due to school holidays, venue booking difficulty or workforce issues are acceptable.
- This does not need to be inclusive for the community at this stage. As such, this may be through a school link e.g. sending an coach to run an afterschool club, and evidencing through letters sent from the school/invoices paid by the school.

This may form the first steps to creating a demanding player base and may create revenue for the club, but clubs should be aware that the demand will progress in the club's next year of operation - as such, you might wish to get ahead earlier.

YEAR 4 (2026-2027)

Clubs in receipt of their fourth season of British Dodgeball club membership must run a weekly community session for at least one age category of junior players:

- This regular session must be inclusive for the community, i.e.. at a community-accessible venue and open to all. This must be operated directly by the club.

YEAR 5 (2027-2028)

Clubs in receipt of their fifth season of British Dodgeball club membership must run a weekly community session for at least two age categories of junior players.

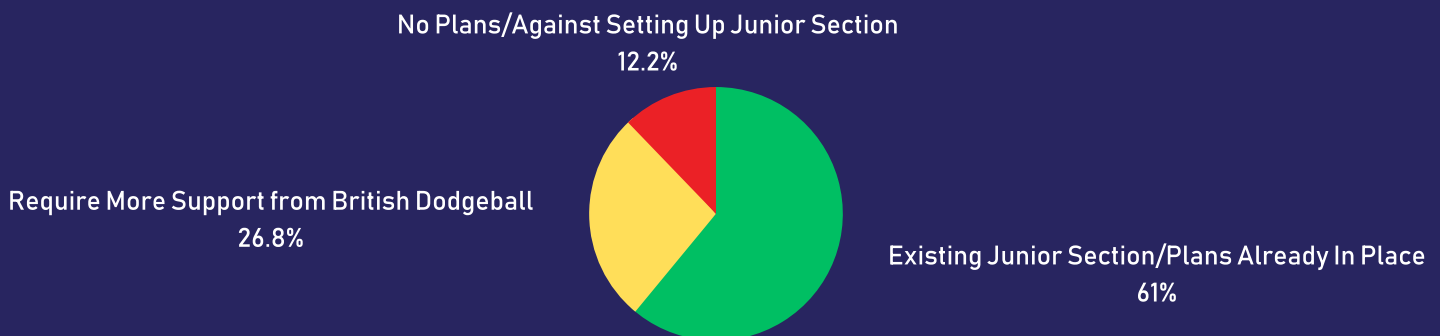
& BEYOND

There are no additional requirements at this stage for clubs beyond this level, although we encourage clubs to complete the pathway from u11 up to adults, providing opportunities for people of all generations to #ComeJoinIn & setting the club up for a sustainable future. Clubs could apply to become a Dodgemark club, or seek funding for more ambitious projects, such as paying for part-time or full-time development officers or setting up multiple satellite clubs to provide further opportunities to play and to create sustainable employment opportunities for club staff members.



RATIONALE

IMPACT ON CLUBS



We surveyed clubs regarding any junior sections they may have and any future plans regarding junior dodgeball:

- The majority of member clubs (61%) either have an existing junior section, or were already laying plans to set one up before the junior section requirement was announced. These clubs will not be impacted by the new requirement, and will in fact gain from it in the long term by way of having more support from British Dodgeball in the setup process and gaining increased competitive opportunities.
- 26% of clubs require additional support from British Dodgeball, which is outlined in the [Support section](#); they can access this as of now.
- 12% of clubs committees are resistant to this requirement; although this is a minority, it is important to recognise that every club matters as does every club volunteer. As such, we hope that the further sections in this rationale helps to persuade them of the benefits to themselves, their clubs and dodgeball in general when the requirement is added.

THE NEED FOR GROWTH

There are a number of developments taking place in the present sporting landscape in the UK which we have a duty to ensure our clubs are ready for if they are to survive and thrive in the long term. These include:

- General cost increases of equipment, sports venues and subsequently training & competition fees.
- Coach Education demands: It will eventually be necessary for British Dodgeball to redesign our Coach Education programmes to meet [CIMSPA National Coach Standards](#) as part of a government-mandated national movement towards professionalising the sports coaching industry. This might mean needing to run far longer, more demanding courses ourselves, or signposting coaches to an organisation such as UK Coaching (where they can complete a 72-hour long general Coach Learning Programme before completing a dodgeball-specific course with us) in order to meet minimum deployment criteria needed to be insured to run sessions independently. Either way, it's likely to cost coaches significantly more to train (comparable to many other sports now where a Level 2 course currently costs £450+). This is likely to happen in the next 3-5 years, and we must ensure that we are all ready for this for the good of the sport. Clubs need to have enough income to be able to support the training of new coaches (akin to how many other sports clubs already operate) because it is more unlikely that individuals will be able to finance training costs themselves.

Looking at the wider landscape, our aspiration is for clubs to develop beyond a group of friends who play for 3-4 years before disbanding due to other commitments taking priority, and to instead be set up with the governance and finances to still be around in 30-40 years. Having a junior section helps to secure a club's future, both in terms of finances and player numbers. As one example, Chippenham Chargers have double the number of junior players attend sessions each week compared to senior despite the adult section starting first, with the junior section contributing significantly more to the income of the club.

CASE STUDY – WESSEX WOLVES



In the Spring of 2023 our Regional Development Officer, James, held a meeting with the Wessex Wolves Dodgeball Club to discuss starting a junior dodgeball club. From there the club applied for some Come Join In Funding and were successful in their bid. The club then launched in April 2023.

How are the junior sessions going?

We have an average of about 15-20 per session but last week we had 26 our best yet, lots of new members and they all want to come back. Honestly, we are so pleased! I had a bit of a happy cry moment after the session as its just been so amazing to see the club grow in just 9 sessions.

What has been the biggest positive of starting a junior club?

The best part has been seeing so many children attend the sessions and the parents are so engaged and invested already. Some of the Mums and Dads want to play as well!



**WESSEX WOLVES
JUNIOR
DODGEBALL
AGES 7-11**

**TASTER SESSIONS STARTING
MAY 15 2023**

**THORNDEN SCHOOL GYM
SO53 2DW
MONDAYS 18:30 - 19:30**

**REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST NOW
(OR TURN UP ON THE DAY)**

Contact us:
 Wessex Wolves
 Wessex Wolves Dodgeball Club
 Wessexwolvesdc@hotmail.com

FUNDED BY THE BRITISH DODGEBALL 'COME JOIN IN' AWARD

**WESSEX WOLVES
JUNIOR
DODGEBALL**

**TASTER SESSION
APRIL 24 2023**

**REGISTER
YOUR
INTEREST NOW**
Ages 7-12
Sign up to our mailing list to get notified

CASE STUDY – RHONDDA DRAGONS



Rhondda Dragons dodgeball club are familiar within the adult community dodgeball scene as well but they have also been making huge strides with their junior dodgeball sessions. Support from British Dodgeball, Sport RCT and Sport Wales, has been critical for their junior dodgeball development.

"Our British Dodgeball adult club has been going for about 5 years now, we wanted to start up a Junior session to give kids an opportunity to play Dodgeball outside of School, and offer an accessible and affordable sport. We originally set up the Junior Sessions with funding from Sport Wales and The National Lottery Be Active Wales Fund to help with the initial hire, equipment and coaching costs. With only 2 or 3 kids each week at the start, we were struggling to market and advertise the Junior Sessions to the local community, but with Sport RCT's help we now get up to 20 every week! Diolch!"

The coaches at Rhondda Dragons have ran taster sessions in schools and supported the first ever Primary School tournament in their county. Later this season British Dodgeball are planning to host the first Welsh Schools National Championships with the Dragons support.

British Dodgeball can support clubs in to build networks and connections, like SportRCT that will support clubs to grow their junior sessions. This can help your club access funding to help finance a new junior section, provide access to new venues and generally offer support which other clubs in your area may already get.




£2.50 Come Join In!
Junior Dodgeball
for ages 3 to 10

LET'S PLAY DODGEBALL!

Not for profit club run by volunteers

They hold Qualifications in:
Coaching
Enhanced DBS
Child Safeguarding
First Aid



- FUN
- ACTIVE
- TEAM WORK
- HAND EYE CO-ORDINATION
- AND MORE!

5PM - 6PM MONDAYS
HAWTHORN LEISURE CENTRE
FAIRFIELD LANE, CF37 5LN

Photo Credit: Sport Wales and Eat Sleep Media

CLWB ACHREDEDIG
Chwaraeon RhCT
Sport RCT
CLUB ACCREDITATION
(20★23)

Rhondda Dragons Dodgeball Club

Dilys tan / Valid until: 31/12/2023
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/AchreduClybiauChwaraeonRhCT
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/sportrctclubaccreditation

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [@sportrct](#)






BRITISH DODGEBALL



8pm to 9pm Thursdays
Hawthorn Leisure Centre
Fairfield Lane
CF37 5LN

COME JOIN IN! DODGEBALL AGES 11-15 £2.50

Not for profit club run by volunteer coaches

RhonddaDragons@gmail.com
RhonddaDragons



CASE STUDY – EDEN EAGLES



Eden Dodgeball Club started as an after school club delivered free of charge to the children, we used school equipment and at the time there was no venue hire charge. These initial sessions gave us the demand from children from this one school. But once the demand was not just from the one school we moved into the local town sports centre and were able to cover our venue hire and equipment costs.

Our recommendation to other clubs is to start small and be patient, grow as the children grow and don't overreach. Engage parents as much as possible to help with things like registers or looking after teams at events. The under 11's is the most in demand age group. We have found it is really important to get a couple of key school links to act as an ongoing pathway for children to your club.

British Dodgeball can support clubs to connect with local schools to begin building their network of players and contacts. You could send a player in to run taster sessions during or after school, or speak at an assembly. This could also help you to find both a venue and audience to start a weekly session when your club reaches Year 3, but is not yet ready to set up a full junior section.



RATIONALE

BENEFITS TO OUR PLAYERS

Dodgeball is quickly becoming one of the most popular sports in the UK, with Active Lives data ranking dodgeball as the 4th most participated sport in English schools and the 5th in Welsh schools. Dodgeball in schools is also in high demand with 33% of children expressing a desire to play more dodgeball than they are currently playing, higher than any other sport. Running junior sessions provides those youth players with a keen interest for dodgeball the opportunity to continue their participation outside of school.

Our annual dodgeball surveys show that players regularly give feedback regarding their desire to compete against those of a similar ability more locally. The only way we can make this happen is to have more players in the game so that leagues can continue to grow in both number of leagues and the number of divisions at each league. More teams from sustained mean player growth as a result of introducing a junior section will lead to more competition.

Adult players will therefore benefit from more chances for British Dodgeball and clubs to organise more local competitions, reducing travel costs and increasing the opportunities for your players to compete against those of a similar level. Finally, they will feel part of a more vibrant community as player numbers continue to grow.



BENEFITS TO CLUBS & THEIR WORKFORCE

Junior sessions are a great way to support the wider development of the club through increased income junior sessions provide. Junior sessions also offer an opportunity for member to earn money through coaching these sessions. Paying coaches (or giving them other benefits such as providing them with free access to adult sessions) can be an excellent incentive, and may encourage others to get involved.

Long-term, there are real opportunities for clubs to start paying committee members for their contributions, and coaches who run sessions in schools who in turn further promote your sessions. This can lead to a committee who feel more valued and suffer from less burnout and your club being in a position to offer employment opportunities. Looking at clubs who already offer this opportunities such as Manchester Bees and Hartlepool Mavericks, the income from junior sections is a major catalyst in a club's development process.

Coaching junior sessions, or assisting to set up junior sessions, allows members to develop their own skills. Providing members with the opportunity to undertake training and development as a junior coach or junior development officer can be appealing to members, especially those wishing to pursue a coaching-based career. Having a coach training and development plan can also attract new members looking to develop their coaching skills e.g. university students.

Increased members at clubs creates more teams playing in events, which in turn can attract further members with your improved competition offer.

ACCESS SUPPORT

We know there are some clubs who may have limited experience when it comes to working with young people. As a benefit of Club Membership, British Dodgeball can assist those at all points of this journey by providing support in 4 key strands:

GENERAL

WEBINARS

We will run a series of webinars to support clubs in the set up of their junior sections. We will vary the evenings these webinars are on to allow for more clubs to attend. All webinars will be recorded and shared with junior development leads for viewing at a later date. Want help with a particular area? Get in touch as others may be interested in the same area.



1:1 SUPPORT

Our development team is excited to offer one-to-one support for clubs during the development of their junior sections. We can signpost committee members to relevant information, funding, and resources, that will help with the development of your junior club. Development managers are on hand to answer any questions you may have & offer advice during the set up process. Get in touch with [Alice](#), [James](#) or [Aden](#) now.

FINANCIAL

FUNDING

Our development team is on hand to help clubs with sourcing funding which may make it that much easier to set up a junior section set up. Our development team can provide assistance in finding funding pots you can apply for, writing or co-writing funding bids, and connecting you with local support.



Funding sources can include:

- British Dodgeball Come Join In fund
- Active Partnership fund e.g. Active Cumbria
- Sport England Small Grants
- Local based funding sources

Different funding pots will have different requirements and will fund different aspects of club development. We can assist you to apply for funding to cover a variety of aspects including: equipment; hall hire; coaching costs for club sessions; coaching costs for taster sessions in the community; coach training; criminal records checks; marketing; club membership fees; safeguarding training; competition fees; and festival/event delivery. Amounts we've helped clubs secure in the past have ranged from £500 to £10,000 depending on the scope of the project.

ACCESS SUPPORT

WORKFORCE

NETWORKING & RECRUITMENT



British Dodgeball have developed a wide range of contacts across the sport & leisure industry. From venues to Active Partnerships, our team will be able to connect you with the right people to help you along on your junior section journey. This might help you to secure a new training venue which makes running a junior session more feasible.

Recruiting your workforce is a hugely important step in developing and growing your club. Recruitment can consist of: approaching current members or parents of members, placing adverts in the local area, or contacting local coaching companies, colleges, schools and universities.

BENEFIT STRUCTURES



Rewarding your workforce can help keep them motivated & attract new potential members, who in turn can become part of your club's workforce. Rewards can include: membership discounts, coaching kit, opportunities to develop their personal skills, thank you cards and shout outs, paid-for training, or monetary payment in return for their assistance. We can discuss these ideas with you and develop something financially viable.

MARKETING

SCHOOL LINKS



Our ever growing network of schools is perfect to help clubs grow their junior player base.

We have direct access to School Games Organisers & PE leads across hundreds of schools and can put you in touch with those in your local area. This could have a huge positive impact on your club's ability to promote to young people in your area, as you could send a player or coach into these schools to promote your club directly.



SCHOOL COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

Our growing Primary School and Secondary School competition pathways offer unique opportunities for clubs to access the next generation of junior dodgeball players. With over 30+ primary competitions and 12+ secondary competitions per season (and growing each year), there is a fantastic opportunity to directly market your junior section to this audience. We can distribute club flyers and promote your sessions at local events.

The school competition pathways also offer the chance for clubs and their members to become directly involved by refereeing. We invite clubs to get involved in these events so you can promote directly, and can even supply free dodgeballs or fund some coach training as a thank you.



As an adult-focused club, how can we make the junior session work for us timings-wise? 

If possible, leverage your existing adult sessions. You could book extra hall space (or split existing hall space) and run the junior session alongside an early adult session. Alternatively, you could book an extra hour at your current venue before one of your adult sessions. That way, it's easier for your active players to coach at the session before they play themselves. It also connects the club more with juniors getting the opportunity to see the adults and vice versa. We understand that not all clubs will have this option, and can offer support in seeking new venues that have the availability for this.

None of our adults have any experience or interest in working with young people. How can we proceed? 

If you are in this situation, some possible options which other clubs have found to be successful include:

- Adopting a payment model: you could seek funding to provide the ability to pay an adult coach for their time working with junior players. British Dodgeball staff can support with this.
- Use parents: As soon as you're up and running, look to recruit keen parents to take over the management of the club.
- Use a sports coach: Hire a local sports coach to deliver the club sessions.

Another nearby club already has a junior section. How are we meant to attract any juniors? 

Dodgeball has the ability to support more than one club in each area - multiple adult clubs in your area proves this! We have aspirations of having as many dodgeball clubs in UK in the future as there are basketball, hockey or even football clubs, so that there is a truly local offer for everyone. We have some incredible statistics showing how popular dodgeball is; the limiting factor is lack of opportunity, not lack of interest from the local community, and this will help to address that issue. We'll encourage a collaborative approach between local clubs e.g. by offering sessions on different nights to attract young people with differing availabilities, and signposting young people to other local club sessions if they cannot attend yours. That way, your club has more local teams to compete with which bolsters growth.

We're anxious about the safeguarding aspect of running a junior section. What can we do to make sure everyone is kept safe? 

Safety and safeguarding must be everyone's number one priority. Visit our [safeguarding page](#) for general support, but know that we're on hand to ensure you feel confident with new processes such as managing young people's details, managing pickups/dropoffs and ensuring you have the right ratio of coaches required for safe delivery.



What competitive opportunities can we use to keep junior players invested in our club?

If it isn't looking likely that there is the critical mass required to set up a regional British Dodgeball junior league in your area, then offering intraclub and interclub competitions is the way to go. This could look like running a special match week in place of your regular training slot, inviting local clubs to participate in a friendly competition or allocating one week each month towards running a local league with neighbouring teams. Not only will these keep young people hooked, they'll also create revenue which can be used to sustain your club model and pay for future growth.

What age categories can we offer?

British Dodgeball junior age categories are: under 11, under 13, under 15 and under 17. When your club reaches its 5th year and must run at least two age categories, then we encourage you to be creative if required e.g. you may run an under 11's session (primary school) in half a hall with an under 15's session (high school) in the other half of the hall if you won't have enough for an under 13's session. Anyone too old for u15 could join your adults.



COME JOIN IN