

END OF SEASON REPORT

20/21





OUR VISION

"INSPIRE GENERATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS OF PLAYING DODGEBALL"

OUR AIMS

- Deliver opportunities that enable a strong pathway from beginner to elite and create a platform for all players to enjoy the game
- Provide training to coaches, teachers and leaders to increase participation in dodgeball
- Inspire people to enjoy dodgeball through positive role models and major events
- Build and strengthen community dodgeball clubs to grow and sustain the sport.

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INTRODUCTION

For all of us in the sport who have had to deal with the constant changes to government restrictions, the stop-start circumstances that became too common at our club sessions and the waiting for dodgeball to return, we can happily say that we are back, that dodgeball is back and long may it continue.

This summer's return to play has shown that the appetite for playing dodgeball has not diminished. On the whole, entry levels have been better than expected, particularly for a time of year when playing in a hot and sweaty sports hall is not everyone's idea of a fun weekend activity.

Entry numbers are also promising for our year ahead with record numbers entering our mixed league and our national league numbers remaining much the same. We're hopeful that as we progress through the season and into 2022 that we are able to raise the maximum entry numbers for our adult open events. Restricted still due to the facilities available and their capacities.

Aside from the positives of the return to play there has sadly been an element of online abuse, staff harassment and abuse of referees throughout the return to dodgeball this summer. Our newly reformed committees on rules, regulations and discipline have been assigned the remit to come down hard this season as we aim to remove abuse from the sport.

The following 2020-21 season report will highlight both what has taken place throughout the past year and also look ahead toward the future. Providing insight into our long term strategy to grow the game of dodgeball in the UK.

Even though we are all still coming to grips with the pandemic and the threat remains, it is time to look forward and take responsibility for the position we are in as a governing body of sport. That means maximising the opportunity we have to make a difference. Through our league and competition offers, our school and coach development resources as well as our areas of focus.

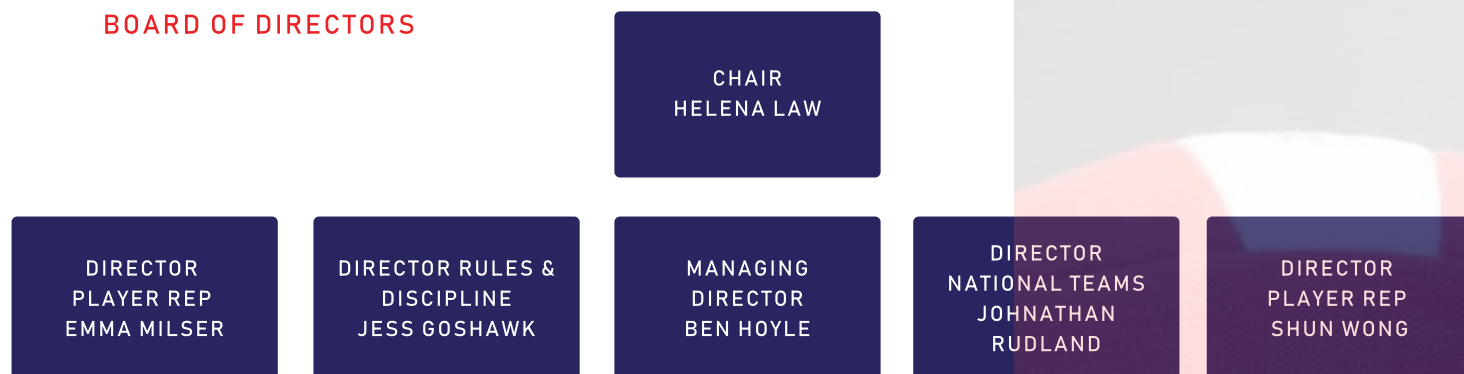
Every dodgeball club can play its part too and we encourage you to get involved as part of a wider movement by following our lead and continuing to grow this great game. This could be supporting a school or junior event, by introducing a new women and girls session, by reaching out and welcoming new older aged members or getting your coaching qualifications and earning a living coaching dodgeball.

We hope you enjoy reading our season report and finding out more about British Dodgeball.



STAFF STRUCTURE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Board of Directors at British Dodgeball make the strategic decisions that ensure the company meets its obligations as the governing body of dodgeball in the UK. This means implementing best practices in the following areas:

- Board structure and that of any sub committees,
- Recruitment of directors.
- Communication with members and other stakeholders.
- Internal reviews of board and sub committee members.
- Policies & procedures that ensure effective financial control and risk management.

Each non-executive position on the board including the Chair serves a term of at least 3 years, with the option to continue for a further 3 years.

FULL & PART TIME STAFF



AREAS OF FOCUS

Alongside our regular aims and objectives we have the following 4 areas of focus that will support the game to grow across the UK. We introduced them during the 2020/21 season with a view to the areas continuing into the next season. Below is a little bit more detail on what to look out for.

JUNIOR DODGEBALL

As we know from various reports and surveys of school children, dodgeball is already one of the most popular sports played at school. Particularly in England where it is ranked 4th in the most played sports and no 1 in the most in demand sports for primary school aged children.

We believe our role is to ensure we are continually providing new opportunities for children to play dodgeball. This includes:

- Providing affordable and accessible qualifications for teachers and school coaches.
- Sharing knowledge on equipment and rules of the game.
- Ensuring there is always a range of free to download resources to help schools get started with dodgeball.
- Administering the development of links with existing community junior dodgeball clubs and help build new ones.
- Supporting the School Games Organisers deliver dodgeball events in their locality.
- Delivering the National Schools Competitions Pathway. A total of 44 events across England.

An important part of the development of dodgeball for children and young people is working with new and existing partners to grow our audience and ensure more children get to know dodgeball and the fun it offers. As British Dodgeball we believe we are not only in a great position to make a difference to so many children's lives but have a responsibility to do so.

If you're interested in becoming a partner of British Dodgeball and/or supporting our Junior Dodgeball area of focus get in touch via ben@britishdodgeball.com



AREAS OF FOCUS

GIRLS DODGE TOO!

Girls Dodge Too! is a Sport England funded project that involves 8 ambassadors delivering new opportunities for women and girls across 8 areas of England.

The project aims to:

- Provide more women and girls with the opportunity to try dodgeball in a fun and relaxed environment and ensure that the experience they have is positive.
- Create a progression pathway that allows the participants to progress from the taster sessions to regular clubs.
- Showcase the amazing women and girls within the sport and inspire more to play.
- Empower our Girls Dodge Too! Ambassadors and utilise their skills throughout the project.

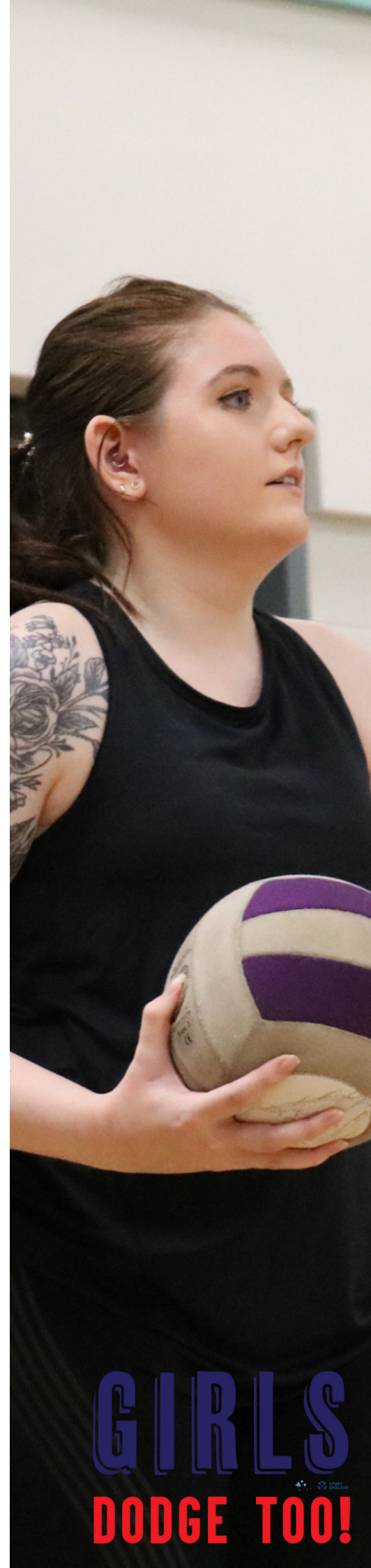
In each of the 8 areas there will be a total of 8 taster sessions and a local festival delivered to both under 16's and adults. There will also be a leaders course in each area as well as signposting to the national festival event at the end of the program in March 2022.

Girls Dodge Too! Ambassadors:

- Kim Sparrow - South West
- Devah Connell - Coventry
- Ageilah Khan - London
- Maddie Smith - Derbyshire
- Katie Howard - Manchester
- Mollie Shackleton - Leicestershire
- Lizzie Rodulson - Surrey
- Immy Sharp - Bedfordshire

Although the Sport England funded Girls Dodge Too! project focuses on 8 specific areas of England, that is not where Girls Dodge Too! ends. Our ambition is to empower more women and girls of all ages across the UK to get playing dodgeball. Some of our member clubs have already been delivering funded GDT sessions in their local areas with great results.

- Eden Dodgeball Club
- Norwich Nighthawks
- Stafford Raptors
- Virtue Empire
- Wilmslow Wasps



GIRLS
DODGE TOO!

AREAS OF FOCUS

COME JOIN IN

Our ongoing Come Join In project aims to create more opportunities for adults to play dodgeball that are either new to the sport, have played a little before or are returning players after a period of absence.

REGIONAL LEAGUES

The aim of our regional leagues is to provide opportunities for players to compete against other teams of a similar standard. Prior to the pandemic the results were excellent as new teams took part in leagues across the UK. During the summer of 2021 the regional leagues have been an opportunity for existing club players to get back into dodgeball after the enforced break. Our aim is to create a tiered system at regional leagues that allows experienced players to compete against each other in a separate regional league to our more inexperienced entrants. This Autumn we are welcoming entries into our North West, North East, Midlands, South West and South East Regional Leagues.

NEW CLUB FUNDING

The British Dodgeball Come Join In Funding Award is an opportunity for those wishing to set up new community dodgeball clubs to apply for up to £500 to support basic start up costs such as hall hire, equipment and qualifications. Applications are being received in this first round of funding up to the 31st October 2021 and are welcome from all areas of the UK. We have however identified the following priority areas based on there being a significant demand for dodgeball and not many clubs existing in these areas:

- South of England
- East of England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

We also want to use our Come Join In page as a toolkit to support existing dodgeball clubs attract and sustain new players.



AREAS OF FOCUS

GET INTO COACHING

Behind every great dodgeball player is a great coach, and in the UK, there are more than 3000 qualified dodgeball coaches. Ranging from those delivering beginner sessions at schools and youth groups to those working with high performance players at national team level.

The reason we hold coaching so important to the development of the sport is because if the dodgeball workforce can grow then every other aspect of the game will grow with it.

A great opportunity to get involved in coaching is via your local dodgeball club. You will become the face of the club in the community and the direct link between schools, youth players, beginners and the regular club sessions.

Coaching can be highly rewarding. Through coaching you can not only help others to be active, improve and connect but also improve your own mental wellbeing by experiencing good inner feelings and develop qualities for life such as leadership, confidence, adaptability and organisation.

We want to encourage more and more people to not only get into coaching but to make a career from it. There are over 3 million people enjoying a career in sports coaching in the UK, coaching anyone from toddlers to the elderly and from basic movement to elite performance coaching. If you take up a career in coaching dodgeball you will likely find yourself coaching in primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities and community clubs.

A career as a self-employed dodgeball coach can earn you between £20,000 and £45,000 a year depending on your ability to deliver to a range of groups.

This season we have already seen Manchester Bees adopt the coaching model and employ a Youth Development Officer to grow their junior section with sessions delivered on a weekly basis.



GET INTO 
COACHING

FINANCIAL



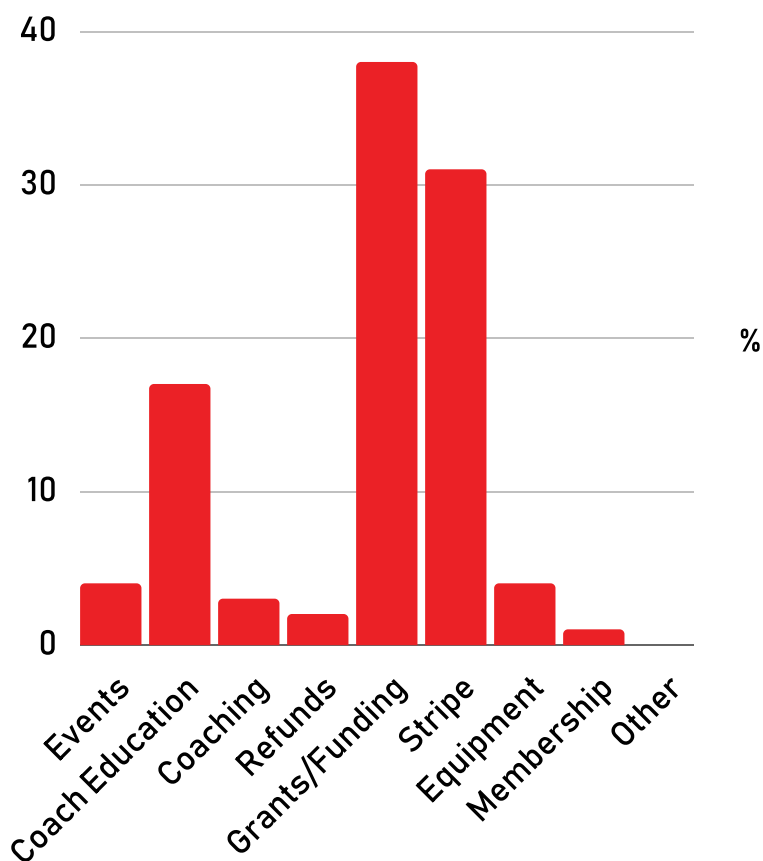
British Dodgeball Financial Overview for the period 1st August 2020 to 31st July 2021

Income = £167,401.89

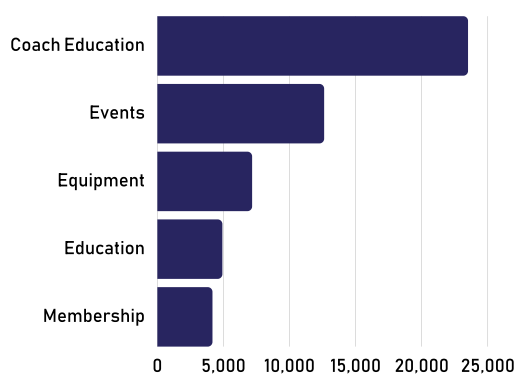
Expenditure = £198,784.52

Profit/Loss = (£31,085.61)

INCOME

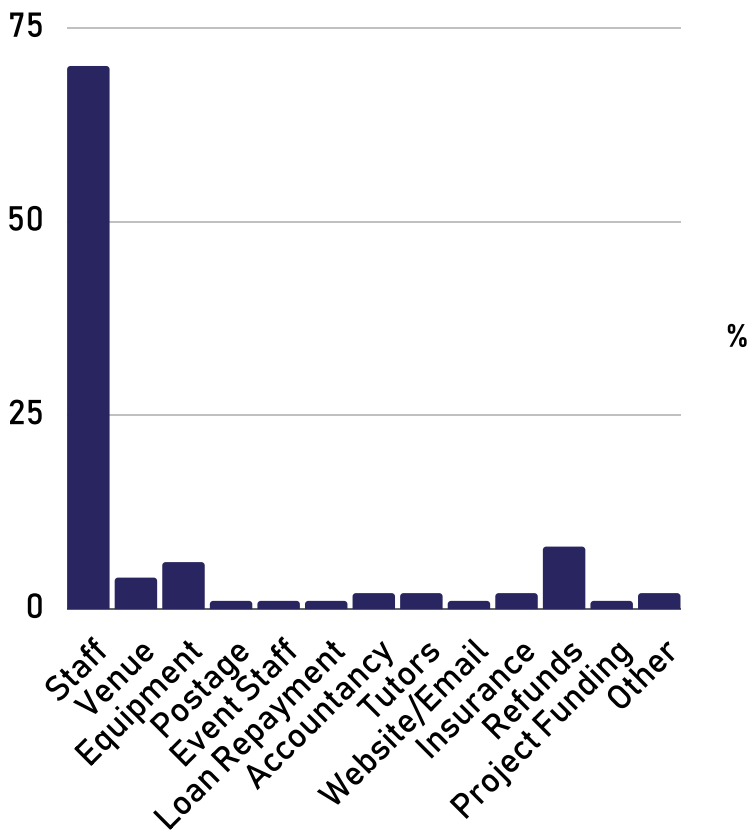


STRIPE BREAKDOWN



FINANCIAL

EXPENDITURE



SUMMARY

An overall loss of just over £30,000 during the Coronavirus Pandemic can be explained as follows:

1. Nearly £17,000 of refunds provided to clubs due to events not going ahead.
2. The JRS grant covered only a proportion of staff wages during the 2020-21 season. More than half of salaries and on costs were paid by British Dodgeball.
3. Only 11% of all income in the 2020-21 season came from events, compared with 43% from the season before.
4. 16% of all income in the 2019-20 season came through project funding. There was no project funding this season.

We have been encouraged by coach education income picking up during the pandemic since the introduction of online learning at British Dodgeball. All club refunds have now also been issued and therefore this cost will not likely show next season. The future therefore having come through a rough year is looking much more positive.



LEAGUES & EVENTS

RETURN TO DODGEBALL SUMMER 2021 CALENDAR

- 7 Adult Opens - 20 Men's Clubs, 13 Women's Clubs
- 2 Mixed Opens - 16 Clubs
- 5 Regional Leagues - 36 entries from 25 Clubs
- 2 Foam Opens - 11 Clubs

From the end of June to early September we provided 4 types of adult events; standard adult opens with a men's and women's category, mixed opens, foam opens and regional leagues both with 1 category with no gender restrictions.

Entries wise Regional Leagues proved the most popular with men's opens also doing well. Men's Opens may have performed even better if participant restrictions were not in place and entry numbers could be increased. However with there never being more than 1 or 2 teams on the Men's Open waiting lists this is unlikely to be the case.

Although there were only 2 mixed opens these proved quite popular with 16 different clubs participating. The demand for Foam dodgeball is smaller still but perhaps growing as 11 clubs took part in 2 open events.

Entries into women's opens has been low during the summer and is going to be something we aim to promote and address as we head into the new season. There were still a total of 13 women's clubs competing in the opens with a further 2-3 groups of female players coming together to form teams to take part.

Disruption due to Covid throughout the summer has been minimal and the lack of impact track and trace has had on the adult events has proven how successful our return to play and safety protocols have been. We thank all the clubs for adhering to them through this testing time.



LEAGUES & EVENTS

RETURN TO DODGEBALL SUMMER 2021 CALENDAR

- 3 Junior Opens - 12 Clubs

We hosted 3 junior events during the summer return to play, one in Leicester, one in Bolton and one in Dunblane. Each event in England had the aim of running an under 11's, under 13's, under 15's and under 17's category event, in Scotland a under 11's and under 14's event took place as planned. The under 11's category proving the most popular with 18 teams taking part, under 13/14's had 14 team entries, under 15's 3 and under 17's 3. The under 15's event in the North West and the under 17's event in the Midlands did not take place.

A level of consideration is needed with regard to junior entries in that we are still operating within a pandemic and parent spectators were not permitted in the sports halls which we believe had an impact on entry numbers. Our junior events in England also took place in late June/early July when return to play was just beginning and confidence in getting back to normal was understandably uncertain.

It is however positive to see so many children back and enjoying dodgeball this summer at our events, particularly in the growing under 11's and under 13's categories which can only lead to a bright future for the sport.



LEAGUES & EVENTS

2021/22 SEASON

ADULT DODGEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUES

The 2021/22 season in England will remain at St George's Park for all men's and women's leagues. The leagues are almost operating at capacity with only space for 2 more women's teams in Women's League 1. That means that plans will still be in place for the Men's league to split beyond league 1 into a North & South League 2 National League in the 2022/23 season, if there is demand. We will determine early demand through our July entry window.

In Northern Ireland the league has reduced due to club numbers after the pandemic and no entries from Republic of Ireland based teams. We do however look forward to a competitive league in both the men's and women's and hope to see the league grow once more.

In Scotland we will be hosting our National Leagues from early 2022 and it is anticipated that there will be both a men's and women's league. Our newly formed sub-committee with representation from all our Scottish member clubs are currently discussing their needs.

The Welsh National League is not taking place in the 2021/22 season and those teams competing have now joined the English leagues. An ongoing discussion will determine if a Welsh National League returns in the future.

REGIONAL LEAGUES

The Regional Leagues continue to be a success and represent a great opportunity for new teams to take part in competitive dodgeball events. There 4 round model also supports the long term sustainability of dodgeball clubs through the investment from players. Due to Regional Leagues being an opportunity for all clubs to participate they will not form a pathway to the National Leagues.



LEAGUES & EVENTS

2021/22 SEASON

ADULT DODGEBALL

MIXED LEAGUES & OPENS

Mixed League popularity has increased slightly for the 2021/22 season and if this trend continues then we will be looking into expansion for the 2022/23 season. There have however been some significant changes to the teams that are taking part and we will be looking closely at commitment levels before making any significant expansion plans. The 2 mixed opens we put on during the summer proved popular and we will be adding some new mixed opens into the calendar soon.

MEN'S OPENS

Going into the 2021/22 season we are still in a position where larger venues are not available so hosting those large opens with 4 or more courts taking place are not possible at present. We're hopeful that in 2022 we will be seeing larger opens such as the British Open and English Open.

WOMEN'S OPENS

Women's Open entry numbers are less in comparison to the men's events and as there are no regional leagues specifically for women's teams we need to put in place an offer that will attract more current and new women players and teams to compete regularly. There will be some new standalone women's opens taking place as part of our Girls Dodge Too campaign. More details will be available on the website and announced via social media soon but these events will have tiered levels that aim to ensure players and teams are able to compete at the level correct to them. And hopefully drive an increase in women's dodgeball.

FOAM OPEN SERIES

Foam dodgeball is still very much within a trial period in the UK with the Foam Open Series ensuring there is an opportunity to play with reduced regulations whilst at the same time limiting the risk to British Dodgeball. We will be keeping a close eye on entry numbers this Autumn/Winter before determining the course of action for the Foam Open Series in the Spring.



LEAGUES & EVENTS

2021/22 SEASON

ADULT DODGEBALL

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The British Championships in 2022 will see the top teams from the English, Northern Irish and Scottish Leagues as well as the defending champions compete for the title. All matches will be the full match length of 30 minutes and qualification will be via the National Leagues to ensure teams competing are the highest standard from the UK.

UNIVERSITY DODGEBALL

BUCS LEAGUES & FINALS DAY

We're delighted that dodgeball is officially a BUCS sport and we hope this will be of benefit to those taking part. Although they are BUCS dodgeball leagues they will still be refereed and coordinated on the day by British Dodgeball staff.

Being a part of BUCS we hope will open opportunities for more institutions around the UK to form dodgeball teams. We believe we're already seeing the early stages of this with new dodgeball societies at York, Teeside, John Moore's, Bangor, City College London, King's College London, Exeter & Plymouth taking part in the BUCS or British Dodgeball University Leagues for the first time.

The BUCS finals day event will be a new event for dodgeball and take place at the end of the BUCS league season. Qualifiers from the Men's National League and the 3 women's leagues will compete to find out who are the BUCS Dodgeball Champions for the year. Promotion and relegation matches between the Men's National League and the Men's regional leagues will also take place on the finals day.



LEAGUES & EVENTS

2021/22 SEASON

UNIVERSITY DODGEBALL

UNIVERSITY OPENS

As there are less BUCS Leagues rounds than there were previously we have scheduled more University Open Tournaments than ever before with events taking place across the UK. In some areas we expect this to be welcome opportunities for more dodgeball for our already established teams. In others such as Scotland we hope the attraction of BUCS will encourage more new universities than before to give dodgeball a go. Taking part in an open tournament and following the university route into dodgeball is a well established and proven pathway.

UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

As long as venue availability can be achieved and restrictions allow, we hope to be hosting a large scale University Championships on the 19th March 2022. Our current plans are for this event to include a men's, women's and mixed team championship. But the nature of what venue we can obtain and any restrictions will determine the feasibility of this.



LEAGUES & EVENTS

2021/22 SEASON

JUNIOR DODGEBALL

JUNIOR LEAGUES

We believe 2022 is the right time to expand our junior league offer into 2 new areas. Alongside our existing and established junior leagues in the North West in Bolton and the East Midlands in Leicester we are planning the launch of a new junior league in Scotland (possibly Dundee) and Cambridgeshire. It is unlikely that the new leagues will be able to attract enough teams to begin with to host all age categories but we are confident there will be enough interest for leagues to take place.

Our junior leagues represent the future of the sport, they not only give children a chance to play but also provide an opportunity for clubs to come together and play regular competition, something that sustains participation long term in the sport.

Our long term vision for our junior leagues is for more leagues to form across the UK and for regions to gradually become smaller. It is thanks to the dedication of our junior clubs, some of whom travel vast distances and organise multiple teams on event days, that junior club dodgeball continues to grow. A little over 4 years ago junior dodgeball events only consisted of 3 or 4 teams.

Junior dodgeballers who have taken part in the sport for the first time at British Dodgeball events are already now participating in adult leagues and even in some exceptional circumstances begin called up to represent their national team. It is these inspirational stories that make the pathway from junior to adult dodgeball so important.



LEAGUES & EVENTS

2021/22 SEASON

JUNIOR DODGEBALL

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Junior Championships will be taking place in June 2022 and consist of the best junior teams from 4 regions: North West, Midlands, East and Scotland.

SCHOOLS

★★★

CHAMPIONSHIPS

— 2021 - 2022 —

SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dodgeball is currently ranked the 4th most participated sport in primary schools. The School Games is now an inclusive festival event which we support. British Dodgeball Primary Schools Championships is 43 events taking place across England. The winners of which will qualify for the National Finals event in June 2022. In total we expect over 3,000 children to take part.

We are also currently assessing the level of secondary school dodgeball via a sign up page on the website. This page including its map of where and who plays dodgeball at secondary school will enable us to plan for the 2022/23 academic year.



COLLEGE DODGEBALL

Interest in dodgeball within colleges is on the rise. And no wonder, considering the sport has been so popular in schools for the past 10 years or so it is a natural progression for young people of college age to have a keen interest in dodgeball. To support this and grow the game in colleges British Dodgeball has developed an offer that focuses on 3 key areas:

PARTICIPATION

We're working with our college partners to identify key individuals to work as ambassadors that will take the lead in the development of new dodgeball sessions at college. Our Primary School Competitions supported by local colleges in each county are great opportunities for these ambassadors to stand out. We're also providing special equipment offers to support colleges to get started.

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

With our range of qualifications in dodgeball coaching and leadership we have an offer to suit all colleges. All our courses can be delivered online or face to face for the college and to groups of up to 20 students.

COMPETITIONS

We're working with our partners at the Association of College Sport (AOC Sport) to provide opportunities for college competition in areas of the country with particularly high demand. British Dodgeball will play a key role in the AOC's Introducing Project this Autumn. The project will enable us to not only advise colleges on how to get started with dodgeball but also provide us with the knowledge of which colleges are interested in competitive opportunities ahead of the launch of college dodgeball opens in regions of high demand next Spring.



REFEREES

At this point last year we introduced our specific developments for referees in dodgeball:

- Deliver an increased number of training courses for specific groups such as club members and universities -
 - This is something that has understandably been slow to get going over the past year due to the ongoing problems of the pandemic. However, now that we approach a new season we will be specifically targeting new groups and universities for referee training. We are also developing an online training course which will make the training as referees more accessible.
- Specific junior rules and referee training
 - As with the above point the online training course will have detailed sections on junior rules & refereeing.
- Work with our referees to create a more professional look by providing branded clothing and dress code
 - All referees are receiving clothing that will make them clearly identifiable as referees or staff on match days.
- Utilise additional referees at events to act as mentors to new referees
 - This was taking place pre-covid and will continue to do so. A particular focus going into the new season will be to mentor new referees in junior dodgeball and foam dodgeball.
- Employing an additional referee at larger events and league meets to assess match referees and be a point of contact for players.
 - Has been a successful addition so far and will continue when the larger events and league meets return this season.

As has been already mentioned within this report the surprising and disappointing conduct of a small minority within dodgeball during our summer return to play has led us to launch our #respecttheref campaign. We hope that this campaign can empower everyone in the dodgeball community to treat referees with respect both on and off court.



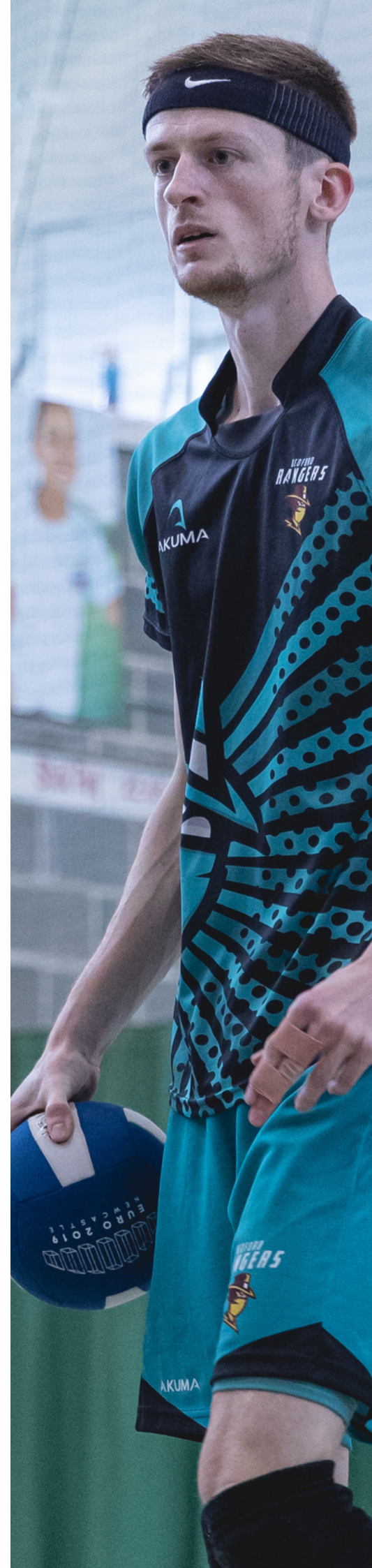
CLUBS

NEW CLUBS

Understandably during the 2020-21 season we haven't seen the formation of many new dodgeball clubs. However with the return to play well underway and demand for the sport growing we are supporting new dodgeball clubs to set up and develop through our Come Join In funding stream. Our aim is to support sustainable dodgeball clubs that promote the growth of the game. Each club has the opportunity in its own area to expand and develop an adult and junior section for varying ability groups. The map below shows the our member clubs for the 2020-21 season.

EXISTING CLUBS

- Adult & Junior sections competing in British Dodgeball Leagues
- Adult & Junior section
- Junior section only
- Adult section only



CLUBS

ADULT & JUNIOR COMMUNITY CLUBS

On the previous page we highlighted 19 dodgeball clubs that have both an adult and junior section. 9 of which compete in both our junior and adult leagues. In comparison there are 32 clubs that operate only an adult or junior section. 22 of these are adult only.

The more clubs that exist with both an adult and junior section in dodgeball the stronger the sport will become. This isn't just in the future but right now.

BENEFITS TO YOUR CLUB

Dodgeball is a sport where a large number of players can attend a session together. Putting on a junior session, particularly for the under 11's age group where dodgeball is hugely popular, will increase revenue at your club. This revenue can be used to support the adult section through many ways, such as subsidising tournament fees or purchasing new equipment.

Qualified coaches delivering junior sessions and even outreach sessions in local schools and the community can generate an income for the club and a salary for the coach.

Aside from the financial benefits to your club, starting a junior section will help protect the future of your club with new players moving up to the senior ranks each season. Young talent also provides great competition for places and keeps experienced players on their toes.

BENEFITS TO DODGEBALL

The more people playing the game the better and the more junior players playing the game the better the security of the future of the sport. Sports with an ageing population are in danger of reducing in size significantly. Thankfully dodgeball is a sport with a young demographic but to continue the growth the sport needs the clubs support.

You will have to invest time in growing a junior section but the rewards will be significant. Check out our Areas of Focus pages of the website for further information and guidance.



CLUBS



DODGEMARK ACCREDITATION

We have awarded DodgeMark accreditation to one club so far and we have three clubs that have begun or are midway through the process.

It is very important that clubs develop themselves as organisations in order to be equipped for long-term success.

Going through the DodgeMark accreditation journey will help to ensure that clubs are sustainable with the necessary training, skills and processes to have a much greater impact on their local communities.

We encourage all clubs to start their DodgeMark journey today. You can find out more about DodgeMark, including how this gives you access to an annual £500 club development grant on our [club support page](#).



COACH EDUCATION

COACH EDUCATION OVERHAUL

The pandemic gave us an opportunity to take a step back and reflect on our coach education offer; how many people we were reaching, what image of dodgeball we were putting forward to the wider community of coaches in the UK and to look towards the future as organisations such as CIMSPA and AFPE aim to standardise the delivery of coaching awards; as one of the most participated team sports in schools, it is imperative that our offer remains accessible and of the highest quality that we can produce for an organisation of our size.

From this period of reflection came two key pieces of work; the Player Development Framework which outlines what skills we should teach young people in the UK as they progress through different age categories and the Coach Progression Map, which outlines what content we should introduce coaches to as they progress through their coaching awards. These documents gave us a structure for updating our coach education content including the mapping out and designing of a range of new online courses which remove geography as a barrier for many. We now offer three introductory courses (aimed at young leaders/volunteers, players moving into coaching and teachers respectively) with a refereeing course in the works also. The courses have been received really well, particularly amongst those working in schools, and have had over 250 people access online introductory training in the last 6 months.

ONLINE COURSE SUITE

Introduction to Dodgeball

- Clubs could use this course to introduce new players to the sport and train volunteers to referee at sessions

Introduction to Coaching Dodgeball

- Clubs could use this to upskill experienced players who wish to begin their journey as a coach

Introduction to School Dodgeball

- Useful for anyone working in a school environment

Level 1 Award in Coaching Dodgeball

- Clubs should use this to prepare new coaches to assist at sessions and lead small groups

Dodgeball Officiation (in progress)



COACH EDUCATION

LEVEL 1 & 2 COACHING AWARDS

The main change to our coach education structure for this season was implementing the requirement that participants must complete the Level 1 Award in Coaching Dodgeball before they undertake the Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Dodgeball.

We made this decision in order to enhance the content of the Level 2 in order to help bridge the gap in knowledge between club dodgeball and school sessions. Instead of using the Level 2 to both introduce someone to the sport and prepare them to coach it, we will now see candidates who have pre-existing knowledge of rulesets and how to teach basic skills and tactics. As such, we can now teach a higher level of content on the Level 2 including a range of secondary skills such as faking and trapping, and delve into strategies such as double counters, covering and quick play. The end result? More dodgeball coaches who can act as true ambassadors for the sport, with increased technical, tactical and general coaching knowledge being fed into our school and club systems.

Number of new Level 1 coaches in the 19-20 season: 13

Number of new Level 1 coaches in the 20-21 season: 162

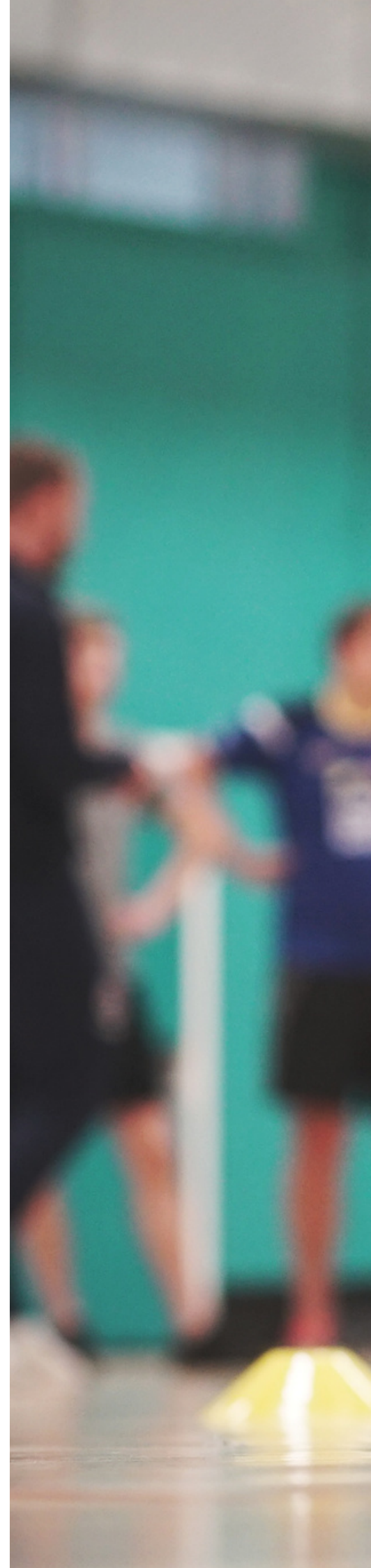
Number of new Level 2 coaches in the 19-20 season: 256

Number of new Level 2 coaches in the 20-21 season: 408

CLUB WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We have always focused on developing the sport using a club model, empowering and supporting clubs to engage people in their local areas. There are many reasons for needing trained coaches such as fulfilling insurance requirements and ensuring that your club runs inclusive and safe sessions, which is why we require all clubs to have at least 1 qualified Level 2 coach. Larger clubs should even look at having a Level 2 coach for each team with a Level 3-qualified head coach.

A large and stable workforce of coaches is required around the country to grow participation and accelerate player development. We recognise that our coaching workforce at club level is extremely low compared to other sports, mainly because the sport is so new and has no history of people acting solely as coaches as is the case with cricket/rugby/hockey etc. This is one of the reasons for the creation of the 'Get Into Coaching' priority area - it is very important that clubs help to forge the players of today into the coaches of tomorrow.



THE SEASON AHEAD

Above all we hope for an uninterrupted return to dodgeball this season with no breaks for lockdowns or added restrictions. We can't promise that this will be the case, however if things are taken out of our control we hope you trust us to continue to guide the sport through any challenging times that may lie ahead and continue to further develop dodgeball.

As well as returning to play there is a lot to look forward to this season. Due to 2020-21 being such a limited season the majority of the season ahead has already been discussed within this report. But there is one area we haven't touched on yet. Our priority has been to get players, clubs and opportunities to compete at this level back in place first. The National Teams however are eager to return to training and competition ahead of what should be an exciting 2022.

The European Championships in the Netherlands have already been announced to take place from 14-17 July 2022 and we expect an announcement regarding the 2022 World Championships from the WDBF in the coming weeks.

Our Director of National Teams Johnathan Rudland will be working with the 4 home nations as well as the GB management teams to determine how best British Dodgeball can help them prepare their players for a successful year.

Finally, a little word on membership. As promised back when it was announced that compulsory membership was going to enable British Dodgeball to further develop the sport we have been true to our word already. Growing dodgeball effectively can only come through increased staffing and revenue as we know almost all things cost money. We have already highlighted our intent to invest membership income in this area by:

- a) recruiting 2 new part time regional development officers in the South West and South East of England (areas of particular demand for dodgeball where we know new staff on the ground can make an impact immediately) and
- b) investing in our Come Join In funding program to help new clubs form in key areas of the UK.

We hope you have a great season. See you on the court!

