

DODGEBALL SPORT REVIEW PROPOSAL

PREPARED BY British Dodgeball | October 2019



CYCLE TWO

SUMMARY

Adoption of the British Dodgeball university league pathway is highly sought after by both the university and wider dodgeball community. Benefits to this include increased awareness and more opportunities for student-athletes of Types 1-3 and a growing number of type 4 athletes in the sport.

The league operates regionally for males and females over 7-9 league meets throughout the season where two matches per team are played at each meet at an approximate cost of £3/player/match. BUCS would administrate the leagues whilst British Dodgeball deliver the leagues as a licenced franchisee by supplying referees, coordinators and all necessary equipment.

Dodgeball is an inclusive sport which has been shown to be one of the most [highly participated team sports in schools](#), particularly amongst young people who will attend university in the near future.

No additional administration time is required for many institutions who already support their dodgeball clubs. British Dodgeball's values closely align to the [BUCS Strategy 2017-2021](#) and we possess the experience, workforce and partnerships in order to successfully coordinate regionalised university leagues without adding burden to member institutions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Dodgeball is an extremely popular student sport, with 6.7% of all students in the UK playing dodgeball at least once in the last year (Sport England, 2018).

There are currently an estimated [1,500 active players](#) who attend sessions with British Dodgeball-affiliated university clubs (British Dodgeball, 2019). 35 university clubs are affiliated to British Dodgeball and field over 80 teams at our leagues and open competitions throughout the season. On average, each university club has 44 members ranging from casual, social players (student-athlete Type 1) through to international representatives (student-athlete Types 4). 57 teams participated in our university league pathway in the 2018-2019 season.

British Dodgeball have a strong track record of delivering successful university competition to a range of student-athletes. University leagues have been costed to ensure financial sustainability, and we believe that BUCS-affiliation is the next step in providing further recognition for the sport.

Resource implications for BUCS would be moderate; providing medals and trophies, registering teams, marketing the leagues and adding scores onto the BUCS Play system. British Dodgeball provide everything required for the university league system to take place including venue booking, insurance, sourcing of trained match officials, medical provision by way of a first aid trained event coordinator, scoring updates and photography.

History: [University dodgeball](#) has taken place since 2005; the first competition was a one-off University Championship event which ran annually and had 5 teams entered. As more university teams were set up, this expanded into multiple open competitions per year in 2009. There was an appetite for more regular fixtures, so a national league was set up in 2011. Finally, the system was regionalised to reduce travel distance in 2015.

University & Community Club Spread: We have 35 member institutions who sent over 100 unique teams to competitions last year. We are working to develop the university sport in low density regions and support new university clubs starting up each year. The University of Leeds Dodgeball Society are an example of a club we are currently supporting as they become established this academic year. We also have 65 community clubs in the UK, sending over 250 unique teams to competitions last year.



Figure 1. British Dodgeball-affiliated University Clubs in the UK (left), and affiliated Community Clubs in the UK (right).

University League Pathway Details: In our 2019-2020 season, we will coordinate 9 leagues:

Men's Premier League	
Men's North	Women's North
Men's Midlands	Women's Midlands
Men's South East	Women's South East
Men's South West	Women's South West

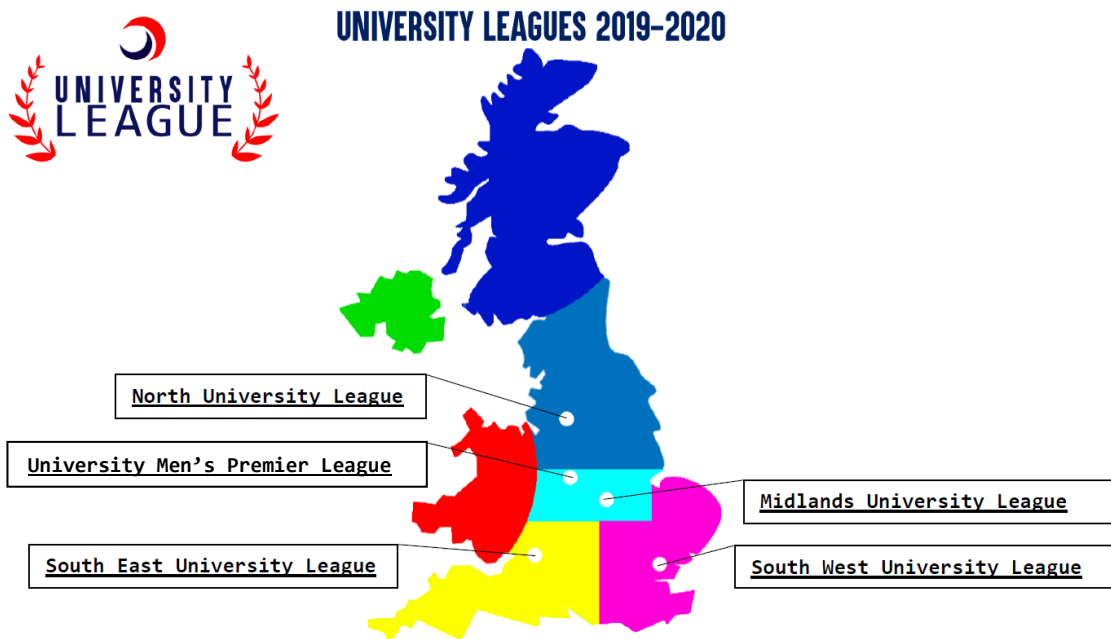


Figure 2: Regional university leagues & locations for the 19-20 season.

These will operate from October to March. We estimate that 65 teams will participate in the leagues, approximating 650 student-athletes. Teams will play 2 fixtures at each of the league meets organised between the end of October and March. The number of league meets will vary depending on the number of teams per league but will be approximately 7 meets per season, playing 14 matches in total. Winners will earn 2 points per fixture and draws will earn teams 1 point in line with the [British Dodgeball rules and regulations](#).

We will work in partnership with BUCS institutions to ensure that each league is run at a university venue in each region to keep costs down. The strength of our set-up is that the league runs on weekend and not on Wednesday afternoons, which increases the chance of BUCS member institutions having venue availability. If we cannot find an institution willing to host a particular regional league, then British Dodgeball would source a suitable venue which meets minimum delivery requirements. One indoor sports hall the size of 4 badminton courts is needed to run a league.

The top 2 teams from each league will be invited to compete in a league finals day event, where men’s teams play to earn a place in the Men’s University Premier League, and women’s teams play for the title of National University League Champions. These competitions could be renamed to align with BUCS if required.

In the recent [British Dodgeball University Club survey](#), the majority of respondents stated that they wanted a high performance national university league (recognised by the term ‘super league’ in dodgeball) to take place alongside a regional league system and league finals day. We will introduce a men’s premier league this coming season and look to do similar for the women’s competition once the number of women’s university teams increases to a stage where we can hold a super league alongside regional leagues.

Operations: British Dodgeball are uniquely suited to deliver these leagues as our organisation successfully delivers 25 leagues per year alongside multiple open dodgeball events. We work to develop referees and event co-ordinators who are competent and have all the necessary processes and procedures in place to facilitate successful delivery.

Dodgeball is relatively low cost in terms of equipment resourcing, and British Dodgeball already have effective partnerships in place for the supply of insurance, netting, floor marking tape, officiation materials and dodgeballs in order to play the sport at a suitable level. Medical provision is currently covered by each event co-ordinator who is first aid trained.

Demand for BUCS Affiliation: In our recent [University Club Survey 2019](#), we asked respondents to comment on whether they thought British Dodgeball should apply for BUCS recognition for the university league pathway. We had a strong response to the survey, where 89.4% of respondents answered in the positive. 90% of current university students stated that they wished for dodgeball leagues to become recognised by BUCS, and 100% of respondents who worked for universities as sports officers or other staff members stated that we should apply for BUCS recognition.

We also envisage increased future demand; current data suggests that over 613,000 young people are playing dodgeball in schools, making it the 2nd most participated team sport in the UK (Sport England, 2019). Adoption of the league pathway into BUCS now will ensure that those young people who are enrolling into university and wish to continue playing dodgeball at university level have a recognised competition framework.

Competition options outside of the university league: BUCS adoption of the university league pathway would not be detrimental to university establishments where the critical mass is too low for a university league, or where teams are not able to commit to a league. This is because there are lots of other university and community competitions for their teams to compete in, outlined in Figure 3 overleaf.

Using Northern Ireland as a case study, a university such as Queens University Belfast have no opportunity to enter the BUCS-sanctioned regional league yet unless they travel to England for the 7 meets. They have access to a variety of other competitive opportunities however, such as entering teams into the Northern Irish National League, entering various university opens and entering a Belfast local league to give newer players experience of competition.

British Dodgeball will support any universities wishing to set up a university dodgeball club with development advice and provision of equipment. British Dodgeball will also offer discounted coach education prices of approx. £80pp for the Level 2 dodgeball coaching qualification (one of the cheapest Level 2 coaching qualifications on the market), at-cost refereeing courses and look to organise joint courses incorporating participants from multiple institutions that are wishing to set up new clubs.

<p>National Leagues Teams in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales have the opportunity to compete in the national leagues alongside community clubs. These national leagues run</p>	<p>University Opens British Dodgeball host 6 University Opens throughout the season. University clubs can enter these for a cost of £70/team for a full day of competition (4 matches</p>
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<p>monthly on a weekend date throughout the season, and cost £420/team for 7 rounds (£60/meet or £30/match).</p>	<p>guaranteed). Each university open sees 20-40 different teams enter. These are ideal for newer establishments as they require less commitment than a league.</p>
<p>Local Leagues Teams where there is high density of community clubs can coordinate their own local league with non-strict eligibility rules aimed at getting as many new players competing as possible. Local university club members are encouraged to join in. An example of this is Manchester Metropolitan University winning the Manchester City Spring League in 2019. This is a low-cost option for clubs, costing clubs approximately £120/team for 5 rounds (£24/meet or £12/match), held over 2 hours during an evening each month.</p> 	<p>Regional Leagues University clubs are welcome to join our community clubs and compete in our regional leagues. These happen on weekends monthly, and there are 2 league ran per season (Sep-Dec, Jan-Apr). The cost is £220/team (£55/meet or £27.50/match).</p> 

Figure 3. Non-university league competitions which universities can enter. For more information on competitions which university teams are eligible to enter, please refer to our [competition guide](#).

Individual Eligibility: British Dodgeball has a very similar individual eligibility criteria to BUCS. The British Dodgeball Rules Committee has voted to implement the [BUCS Regulation 4: individual eligibility rules](#) for our university league pathway next season to allow for a smooth transition into BUCS.

Student-Athlete Types: Our data suggests that there is a range of student-athlete types within dodgeball. Type 1 student-athletes tend to attend one league meeting or open competition for their club per year, whereas Type 2-3 student-athletes usually represent their club on multiple occasions throughout a season at both league events and open competitions. Some type 3 student-athletes tend to represent their club at all league meets and competitions available to them and are perhaps involved with an international team or high-level community club (we estimate approximately 40 student athletes to be involved with international teams); these are verging on becoming Type 4 student athletes as dodgeball performance pathways develop.

Type 2-3 student types would benefit most from this proposal, but Type 1 students would benefit from the increased exposure of dodgeball. Some universities have had great success offering dodgeball as part of their inclusion programmes. Manchester University’s Sporticipate programme or Warwick’s Warwick Active programme (overleaf) are examples of this.

Case Study: Warwick University & Dodgeball

Dodgeball has been integrated closely into their university sports culture.

"We typically have 3 regular sessions a week, with an hour of our Friday training being a Warwick Active session. Warwick Active is the university's inclusive recreational sport scheme, and most clubs lead a session a week that is open to all students and staff for free, instead of just club members. Dodgeball being a social sport means that typically the club gets quite a few people turning up that aren't club members, with some retention.

I personally believe the benefit of such a session is that it helps to promote an active lifestyle in an easy, accessible and commitment-free way. Specifically, we tailor our dodgeball session so that even if you have never played before, you can come and join in. We play variations on the normal styles of play so that the rules and gameplay is more accessible, and it promotes teamwork and being active. It also presents a great opportunity for socialising, a way for people to meet other people and even get involved in the club more. The benefits of an active lifestyle cannot be overstated; BUCS themselves did some research into this with the BASS survey.

Additionally, for the last two years the club has run a charity tournament open to all other clubs on campus as well. These have been hugely successful with 16 teams entering each year, from all sports, such as Ultimate Frisbee, to Women's Football, Women's Rugby and Swimming and Waterpolo to name but a few.

Warwick enter multiple teams into the British Dodgeball university dodgeball leagues each year and have won in the past. The club also entered teams into the inaugural British Dodgeball Mixed National league last year where they competed against community clubs."

Balraj Dhingra, Warwick University Sports Officer



Figure 4: Photos from the British Dodgeball University Leagues, 2018-2019 season.

2. PURPOSE

Opportunity: As demonstrated in the survey results in [Figure 5](#), an overwhelming 89.6% of respondents from our recent University Club Survey stated that they wished for our University leagues to become recognised by BUCS. This has been a theme throughout the university side of the sport since the national university leagues first began. According to the Sport England Active Lives Survey (Children and Young People), dodgeball is the second most participated sport in schools (Sport England, 2019). The adult version of the survey states that 99,600 students (6.3%) participated in dodgeball once in the last year, and 11,100 (0.7%) played at least twice in the last 28 days (Sport England, 2018).

British Dodgeball feel that it is of paramount importance to work with highly recognised organisations in order to ensure that the sport is offered at university level for those already playing. Many people recognise BUCS as the pinnacle of university sport and adding a popular student sport to the playing programme would offer another avenue in which student-athletes could participate. Full adoption of the league pathway into the BUCS playing programme would be greatly beneficial for British Dodgeball, our stakeholders and for the student sporting experience.

Benefits: When asked about the key benefits of BUCS recognition, a key word analysis showed that students perceived the main benefit to be increased recognition from their respective universities and from the UK as a whole. Respondents also stated that some universities would potentially be eligible for an increased level of support from their university sport departments which would help the sport to grow. Finally, respondents stated that participation would likely increase as BUCS recognition would improve awareness and the profile around the sport. This may lead to increased opportunities such as the provision of a Women's Premier League to satisfy Type 3-4 student-athletes.

British Dodgeball consider adoption into BUCS a priority as it would strengthen dodgeball in the UK in a range of ways. It would offer increased prestige to the university league system, increase the potential value for sponsors and stakeholders, potentially facilitate the creation of new university clubs and increase students' and staff members' awareness of a dynamic new sport which has been shown by various sources to be gaining in popularity at a rapid pace (for more information, see our [Dodgeball Status Report 2019](#)). It could also act as a driver to improve performance of student-athletes in dodgeball as a potentially increasing amount of trained coaches would run sessions in a more effective and professional manner.

Data shows that dodgeball is a major sport in schools (over 600,000 pupils playing weekly). University dodgeball will grow exponentially as these young people leave school or college and begin to enrol in university. A BUCS-recognised dodgeball league will strengthen university dodgeball clubs and give these young people the best chance to maintain their involvement in dodgeball which will strengthen the student sporting experience.

Our vision is to "Inspire generations and communities to experience the benefits of playing dodgeball." BUCS adoption would assist this vision in the long term by increasing awareness of our sport and increasing participation at university level which would in turn increase participation and the performance level in community dodgeball.

We believe that adoption of the British Dodgeball League Pathway into the BUCS playing programme would be a relatively straight forward process which represents relatively little resource cost to BUCS. Sports such as korfbal, ultimate and dodgeball all improve the university sporting experience by offering a wide range of sports which students can engage in. Adopting the sport into BUCS playing programme would introduce hundreds of university dodgeball players of varying student-athlete types into the BUCS family.

3. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Physical Activity and Health: British Dodgeball is committed to broadening the range of opportunities for all to become more physically active by developing the sport of dodgeball. This aligns with BUCS' physical activity and health strategy. We assist our existing member-base to create worthwhile partnerships, offer increased provision and break down barriers which prevent individuals from participating in physical activity. We also work closely with many Active Partnerships to set up new clubs and corporate partners to improve funding streams for clubs and improve awareness. The university leagues offer a competitive opportunity which university clubs can use as a driver for recruitment and session development.

Social and Recreational Sport: British Dodgeball aims to create and maintain an inclusive, fun culture within our sport. The national and regional league structure gives the opportunity for a range of student-athlete types to compete at a suitable level. The leagues also encourage regular social sport by offering a competitive output for training sessions. From the [British Dodgeball University Club Survey 2019](#), we found out that the majority of university clubs hold sessions twice per week during term time. This creates the opportunity for Type 1 student-athletes to regularly participate in a sport due to the traditionally inclusive nature of the sessions.

Inter-University Sport: British Dodgeball offers sport-specific delivery of the most advanced university dodgeball league in the world. We also coordinate 25 community leagues and hold upwards of 50 open competitions annually. We held two major international events in 2019: the Atlantic Cup and the European Dodgeball Championships 2019. This puts us at the forefront of developing a growing sport and understanding the issues when dealing with the highest level of world competition right down to casual student-athletes and the barriers they face.

Performance Sport: British Dodgeball are committed to raising the profile of the sport. To that purpose, supporting the home nations teams alongside the Great Britain dodgeball team is a key priority. The UK currently enjoys a wealth of success on the world stage, and England is currently ranked as the best team in the world in the men's and mixed categories.

[14.7% of our 266 survey respondents](#) are currently involved with an international team or were involved with a national team whilst they attended university in the case of alumni respondents. Major events are regularly held on British soil, with the upcoming World Championships being held in Glasgow.

Professional and Workforce Development: British Dodgeball's coach education programme has upskilled over 600 Level 2 dodgeball coaches since September 2018. We actively seek to work with universities in order to provide training to upskill staff members, active dodgeball players and students who are undertaking sports-related degrees. Specifically, we would look to work with member institutions to provide discounted coach education courses to sporting degree students alongside those wishing to set up a new university dodgeball club or maintain an established club.

We believe in the holistic benefits of sport and look to upskill volunteers at our events. Having further contact with BUCS member institutions means the lines of communication would be clearer for us to offer volunteering opportunities to students who will benefit from the experience e.g. Opportunities volunteering in Glasgow in September 2020 at the WDBF Dodgeball World Championships event. One sport-specific aspect of dodgeball is how valued honesty and fair play is within the sport's culture. Part of this means that teams are asked to act as assistant referees to the main referee on each court to help provide supported – this helps to keep costs down and gives more players the opportunity to gain experience officiating.

The way league meets are arranged is that two referees are sourced for a whole day of fixtures (up to twenty fixtures per day), saving on referee travel costs.

Inclusion: Much of British Dodgeball's sports development work is aimed at breaking down barriers which prevent people from participating in physical activity. This may be by means of funding bids which eliminate cost as a barrier, targeted sessions in socio-economically deprived areas or by developing initiatives aimed at increasing female participation (such as our [Women's British Open Highlight Film](#)). Our code of conduct is the basis for maintaining a supportive culture within the sport, and we have robust [procedures in place](#) in order to deal with grievances.

We are a member-focused organisation and take time to consult with our member base in order to make informed decisions when driving the sport forwards. The [British Dodgeball club survey](#), [British Dodgeball university club survey](#) and [British Dodgeball primary school survey](#) are examples of this.

Profile and Influence: Dodgeball is gaining more mainstream media attention. The GB dodgeball team was featured on BBC's The One Show, BBC North West Tonight, ITV's Sara Cox show and the Telegraph in the build up to the Atlantic Cup in April 2019. Dodgeball was singularly mentioned as a powerful and effective tool to combat obesity by the head of Ofsted in her speech at the Youth Sports Trust annual conference in February 2019. The British Dodgeball social media channels had over 2 million views in the last 12 months.

4. CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT

NGB Status & Support: British Dodgeball is the only National Governing Body for Dodgeball in the UK which is recognised by the [European Dodgeball Federation](#) and [World Dodgeball Federation](#). There are no other 'rival' organisations in the UK which govern the sport or seek to develop the sport of dodgeball. We plan to apply for Sport England NGB recognition in Autumn 2019. As such, we have no contradicting bodies to consult. British Dodgeball work with a number of Active Partnerships and corporate entities to develop the sport. Representatives from our various [partners and stakeholders](#) have expressed their pleasure at becoming connected to the BUCS brand via the university dodgeball leagues.

Scope and Scale: British Dodgeball currently have 35 affiliated university clubs which organise sessions for approximately 1,500 students. Of these, approximately 650 compete in the British Dodgeball university league pathway per year. The remaining 850 either participate in a recreational capacity, or engage in our other competitions (university opens, community leagues etc.).

Future Growth: University dodgeball has grown at a steady rate since its inception 14 years ago. In the feedback from the [University Club Survey 2019](#), the set-up of super leagues was the most popular option with 38.5% of respondents stating they wanted it ([Figure 6](#)). We will be implementing a men's super league which will sit above the regional leagues for the 2019-2020 season, and the top competitors from each region will be offered the opportunity to enter it. Despite demand, we have taken the decision to postpone the set-up of a women's university super league until a high enough number of teams enter in order to ensure that the regional university leagues below a new super league would remain competitive and sustainable.

Priority regions are Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; we plan to set up leagues in these areas as soon as they become viable. We will look to work with university establishments in these regions to supply coach education and competitive opportunities until a BUCS league is ready to be coordinated.

Member Consultation: Current and ex-university members were consulted at our AGM. This led to university club surveys which established evidence of BUCS being highly sought after. In our most recent university club survey, 89.4% of respondents voted yes 7.3% were unsure and 2.3% voted no ([Figure 5](#)). 90% of current students that responded voted yes for BUCS, and 100% of staff members/university sports officers voted yes. The consensus is that the British Dodgeball community is hungry for the university leagues to become adopted by BUCS.

Driving Force: The driving force behind this application is current students and alumni members of university dodgeball clubs who have wished for BUCS recognition since university dodgeball began. British Dodgeball has considered the financial implications and we believe that our league can be run in a cost-effective manner once BUCS have adopted the leagues.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

BUCS Resource Implications: The resource implications for BUCS would be moderate; we would require the supply of trophies and medals and agreed administration for handling entries and enquiries and marketing the league through the existing BUCS' networks. Additional BUCS staff resources may be required to facilitate this. British Dodgeball will coordinate the leagues as a franchised provider, resourcing them with suitable equipment and staff, providing medical cover and relevant insurance and providing fixtures and results which can be entered onto the BUCS Play system.

Institution Resource Implications: Follow-up questions to our main survey revealed that approximately 75% of our university dodgeball club secretaries are recognised as sports clubs by their institutions and are supported in some way already e.g. allocated training times or a competition entry budget. Many of these institutions already enter dodgeball leagues through their institution's sports officer.

There are some British Dodgeball-affiliated university clubs who currently function outside of their respective athletic union, and these institutions may wish to integrate and support these clubs. This is not vital however, as these clubs have proved to be sustainable in their current form. No action need be taken by these institutions except the entry of leagues and collection of payment from the clubs. We have mapped out operating costs of a standard university dodgeball club overleaf on [Figure 7](#):

Costs to operate a university dodgeball club	
Venue: Allocated session times	Equipment: 20 dodgeballs @ £8.50 per ball = £170
Club Membership: £60 (or £30 for annual club membership without public liability insurance; most educational institutions will already have this).	University League Entry: £420 for 7 meets (14 matches) per team + travel costs (average journey time = 1 hour)
Coach Education: £120pp for a Level 2 Dodgeball Coaching Qualification (£80pp discounted courses available for closed courses) – <i>one of the cheapest Level 2 qualifications on the market.</i>	Player registration: Free (via BUCS Play)

Fig 7. Costs to operate a university dodgeball club entering into the league pathway.

There is a high possibility that league costs would be lowered once we become BUCS-recognised as we would have more institution-based contacts with which to arrange an institution to host each regional league at no cost rather than British Dodgeball paying for use of a sports hall. Our leagues run on weekends rather than a Wednesday which would possibly increase the chance of institution venue availability.

As British Dodgeball will deliver all leagues, there will be no need for BUCS member institutions to source referees or procure any equipment, saving time and resources compared to other leagues. The majority of male and female teams will compete on the same day at the same venue, reducing transport costs. Individuals interested in refereeing would be able to travel with teams to the leagues to gain experience officiating, keeping costs down whilst developing a more experienced workforce.

Student-Athlete Resource Implications: Student-athlete resource implications will not change. The regional university leagues have existed for multiple years independently of BUCS, and the adoption of BUCS will not change the base league operations. This means that student-athletes will still only pay approximately £6 per league meet considering a squad of 10 (£3 per match). Travel time and costs will remain the same as previous seasons (an approximate average journey time of 1 hour excluding premier league teams).

6. WIDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

External Competitions: There will be no impact on external competitions from a BUCS-recognised university dodgeball league pathway. There will still be university opens, community opens and regional community leagues which both BUCS and non-BUCS affiliated university clubs can participate in; these are planned so that there are no date clashes. Dodgeball is not currently involved with the EUSA. BUCS would get 'ahead of the curve' by being the first university sport governing body in Europe to adopt dodgeball and pave the way for potential future EUSA involvement.

Medical Cover: Medical cover is currently supplied by the event coordinator who is first aid trained and attends each league meet. It is also recommended in our league event risk assessments that club committee members are first aid trained for further support. From our conversations with BUCS, it is possible that extra medical cover may need supplying at each league fixture depending upon decisions made during the implementation phase.

Individual Eligibility: The current British Dodgeball [individual eligibility rules](#) are very similar to the [BUCS Regulation 4: individual eligibility](#) regulations. The main difference is due to reasoning behind inclusion: students need not get membership with their respective athletic union to represent their university in British Dodgeball university leagues. This is because some university dodgeball clubs currently operate externally to their respective athletic unions.

The British Dodgeball Rules Committee voted in June 2019 to implement the [BUCS Regulation 4: individual eligibility](#) rules for the university dodgeball league pathway if an application is accepted. The committee made this decision because clubs that contain players that cannot afford to pay for athletic union membership can still enter over fifteen competitions per year which operate externally to the university league pathway.

Dual career: Dodgeball is not yet at a level where it is a professional sport. We envisage minimal impact on dual career athletes as the leagues have been established externally from BUCS for a number of years. Some universities may review their dodgeball provision and decide to include more dodgeball-specific scholarship athletes in their awards schemes, but this will not increase any academic workload.

Development Work: The university league pathways will link up with development work currently being undertaken. In response to community player feedback, British Dodgeball are establishing a regional community league system for next season. This will increase the opportunities for university dodgeball players to integrate with local community clubs, which should raise retention rates of players after graduation.

Sustainability: The regional league system has been costed and shown to be sustainable in its current format. Any profits made from the university pathway will be used to pay staff time in delivering the league.

British Dodgeball have a strong financial history, growing as an organisation annually without fail. We successfully coordinated over 25 leagues this season to high satisfaction rates from members. British Dodgeball are a non-profit business limited by guarantee and are transparent towards members in all fiscal matters. Accounts are presented annually at our AGM.

Established Workforce: British Dodgeball have a willing workforce in each area of the country. We used over 50 referees and over 120 volunteers during the 2018-2019 season. British Dodgeball offer referee training courses to member clubs for a discounted rate in order to encourage more individuals to become confident when officiating the sport.

7. CONCLUSION

British Dodgeball's vision is "Inspire generations and communities to experience the benefits of playing dodgeball". We believe that adoption of the British Dodgeball university league pathway would benefit the sport by giving university clubs, many of whom train twice or more per week, great recognition of their efforts and inspire many others in the dodgeball community. The resource implications for BUCS would be manageable. BUCS would be choosing to support an inclusive, growing sport in order to improve the student sporting experience and planning for the future by setting a competition framework in place for the 613,000 young people who play dodgeball in schools each week.

Should you have any questions around this proposal, please email aden@britishdodgeball.com.

8. REFERENCES

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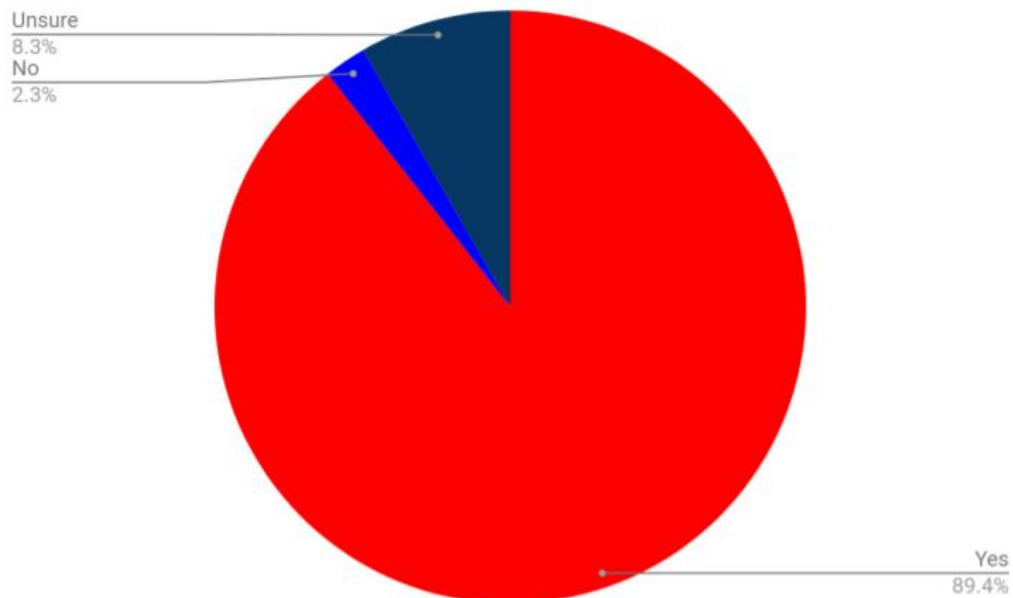
Appendix:

Figure 5:

BUCS Affiliation

An overwhelming 89.4% of respondents indicated that they thought it would be a positive move for the UK student experience if the British Dodgeball University League Pathway were to become affiliated with BUCS.

"DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH DODGEBALL UNIVERSITY LEAGUE SYSTEM SHOULD BECOME BUCS-AFFILIATED?"



Breaking this down further, 90% of current university league players believe the university league pathway should become BUCS-affiliated, 2.5% believe they should not, and 7.5% were unsure. 100% of university staff members/sports officers stated that they believe the league pathway should become recognised by BUCS.

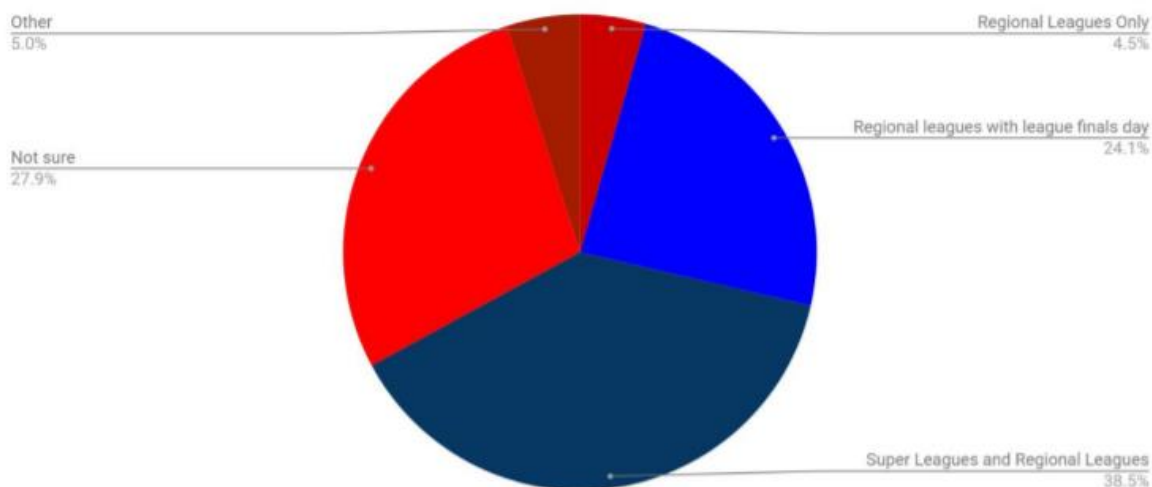
Figure 5: BUCS Affiliation. Excerpt taken from the [British Dodgeball University Club Survey Report 2019 \(June 2019\)](#).

Figure 6:

FUTURE LEAGUE STRUCTURE

Future League Structure

The final question of the survey was regarding the set up of future university league pathways, more specifically regarding the setting up of university super leagues.



If British Dodgeball set up a super league in the 2019-2020 season for the men’s competition with regional leagues below it, with the addition of a league finals day which determines promotion into the super league competition, then this satisfies 62.6% of respondents.

British Dodgeball will look to create a similar pathway for the women’s competition in the near future, once enough women’s teams enter to maintain the sustainability of competitiveness of the regional leagues.

Figure 6: Future League Structure. Excerpt taken from the [British Dodgeball University Club Survey Report 2019 \(June 2019\)](#).

Figure 8:

QUESTIONS RESPONSES 265

Section 1 of 3

British Dodgeball University Club Survey 2019

This questionnaire is aimed at all present university students and alumni, and also university sports officers. It is primarily aimed around gathering details about demand for a BUCS-affiliated league system and has secondary aims of helping British Dodgeball to better understand the landscape around university sport.

Email address *

Valid email address

This form is collecting email addresses. [Change settings](#)

Name *

Short answer text

University (most recent university if you have attended multiple institutions) *

Short answer text

Status *

- University Undergraduate
- University postgraduate
- University Alumni
- University Sports Officer/Staff Member

After section 1 Continue to next section

Section 2 of 3

Your University Dodgeball Experience

What is/was your experience of university dodgeball? (If you are an alumni, please only check the boxes which describe you when you actually attended university) *

- None - not offered at my university
- None - offered but didn't participate
- Casual player - played in at least one session, but university club didn't enter competitions
- Casual player - played in at least one session, didn't/couldn't enter competitions even though my club did
- Participated in at least one university open
- Participated in the university league system
- Involved with an international team
- Involved with a super league / top level club
- Other...

Describe your university club's weekly session attendance (how many sessions per week, attendance figures (average per session and during the club's busiest period)) *

Long answer text

After section 2 [Continue to next section](#)

Section 3 of 3

Dodgeball & BUCS

Do you believe that the British Dodgeball university league system should become BUCS-affiliated? *

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

What benefits do you believe BUCS affiliation would have on the university sports experience; your specific university or as a whole? *

Long answer text

What benefits do you believe BUCS affiliation would have on the university sports experience; your specific university or as a whole? *

Long answer text

In 2016/17, we had a men's and women's university superleague to provide competitive opportunities for the top teams which sat above the regional leagues. We did not have this in 2017/18, instead holding a league finals day. Which approach would you like to see next year?

- Regional leagues with a national superleague
- Regional leagues only
- Not sure
- Other...

Figure 8: British Dodgeball University Club Survey Form. 265 people responded to the questionnaire.