



England Handball Club Webex Meetings Competition Changes 2019.20

Club Attendance list

Reading Handball Club	Newcastle Vikings Handball Club	Warrington Wolves
London Angels HC	Poole Phoenix Handball	Bucks Bullets
Northampton HC	Cambridge	Nottingham handball
NEM Hawks	Loughborough HC	West London Eagles
Shropshire Handball	London GD	Chelsea HC
University of Leeds	Carshalton Titans	Liverpool HC
Olympia HC		

Topics

1. National Cup and Shield
2. Recreational Development tournaments
3. Play off System 2019.20
4. Fit for Purpose Criteria 2019.20
5. Youth League Registration and Competition Format
6. Future Senior League Structure

National Cup/Shield 2019.20

Changes:

1. Entry into the National Cup is no longer obligatory. The competition will now incur a minor entry fee
2. Removal of the National Shield Competition
3. Multiple Rounds drawn at once
4. Competition progresses from Regional to National Competition
5. PHL teams seeded in competition at later stages
6. Removal of fixed weekend, deadline dates will be introduced for rounds to be completed by
7. Teams wishing to enter the National Cup must enter the National Cup in July ready for competition dates in September. The National cup will incur a £10 entry fee.
8. National Cup Quarter and Semi-Finals will be hosted by England Handball

Why:

The National Shield has had minimal entries over the years, England Handball adapted by allowing NHL teams and RL teams knocked out of the first round to enter into the National Shield. This year there were only 4 entries by choice.

The competition will be drawn locally first, this is to reduce travel for teams

competing in the cup before entering the later National Rounds. This is to prevent potential great distances being travelled in the early stages i.e. Brighton vs Newcastle.

Team expressed that they would prefer to have more flexibility with the National Cup dates rather than fixed weekends. With an ever growing calendar, there are more clashes on the schedule than ever before between different competitions.

Recreational/Development tournaments

Changes

1. Introduction of a new open-entry monthly development tournaments
2. No itcs
3. No membership
4. Get a team and turn up to play
5. Designed for teams not currently wishing to enter the regional leagues
6. Opportunity to prepare to enter Youth/regional leagues

Why:

The travel and administration requirements of even low-level regional league competition can be quite strenuous with large travel requirements in certain areas as well as teams not having confirmed or suitable numbers to play. Recreational tournament (Rec-it weekends) will meet a need for more informal competition and provide greater playing opportunities for emerging/developing clubs and teams.

Play off system 2019.20

Changes:

1. Clubs will host first round of playoffs, the team with better goal difference will host the 1st round.
2. Playoffs will revert to home and away system for promotion into the PHL and NHL.

Why:

Change in format to provide greater flexibility in the end of season calendar and provide a more realistic taste of what fixtures in the higher divisions will be like.

Table officials course

Changes:

1. Clubs will now have access to a higher number of places on the course
2. The price of the course will be embedded into membership fees or set as a stand-alone rate for people to access.

Why:

The table official course is mandatory for anyone wishing to be table officials and incurs a small fee per person. The majority of clubs have not completed this course due to a multitude of reasons. Access to the course will now be made cheaper and easier as well as being policed by EHA and Admin office.

Fit For Purpose Criteria

Changes:

1. A clearer document has been produced and will be added to the rules for 2018.19 following consultation with clubs.
2. Information on minimum coaching and safeguarding standards has been updated
3. An FFP criterion has been added to the end of this document for clubs information.

Why:

Clubs were seeking clearer information and a simplification of the document to remove unnecessary items.

Fixture Change Form

Changes:

1. The Fixture change form will be updated for 2019.20 to make it easier and clearer to use. It will be required for any request to change a fixture from its scheduled date.

Why:

To often in previous seasons England Handball receives multi emails regarding changes to fixtures or is copied into long threads of emails of communication between teams. This leads to confusion and missed information.

Teams can communicate between themselves and then update England Handball with a request to change a fixture once agreed by teams. If no agreement is reached then a team may request a change directly to England Handball.

Changes to dates are not accepted for player availability and only accepted where there is a logistical issue i.e. Hall availability, EHF competition, National Team duty. Evidence must be provided in this instance for a change.

Youth League Registration and Competition Format

Changes:

1. Registration date will be pushed back to September
2. First rounds of competition will take place in October
3. Recreational tournaments will be open for youth teams to take part in
4. U16 + U19 Competition – Will remain in the playoff format.
5. U16 + U19 Competition – Will revert to regional leagues, South 1 and South 2 formats will be removed.
6. Areas with High density of teams will operate in tiered leagues.
7. Fines for forfeits will remain in place
8. Forfeiting two rounds of the competition will result in the team being removed from competition.

Why:

Some youth teams indicated that the season started too early for them, and they required more time to organise as they rely heavily upon school terms for players. This is evident from a large number of forfeits at the start of the season.

South 1 and South 2 system being abandoned is due to the extreme amount of organisation that is required to mitigate teams playing on designated weekends and travelling the width of the country. This is set to make league system simpler and reduce travel for teams.

Regional League Competition Dates

Changes:

1. Registration date will be pushed back to September
2. The first rounds of competition will take place in October with a later finished date as required.

Why

Regional Leagues are the lowest form of entry into official competition and a number of university teams enter the league at this level as well. Pushing this date back will improve the possibility of University teams entering official England Handball Leagues as well as hopefully allow teams to have clear outline of the coming season.

Future League Structure

Changes:

1. A consultation will be opened up on the Premier Handball and National League Structure for the top tier of England Handball across the Men's and Women's League.

Process

- **May**
Initial Proposal sent to teams for feedback via email
- **October**
WebEx meetings with clubs on proposal
- **December**
Final draft proposal
- **March**
Confirmation of League Structure for 2020.21 season

Why

There are 3 areas that England Handball feedback is consistent upon which have not changed since our surveys began.

1. Cost of venues
2. Availability of Venue
3. Travel to games and opposition

An initial proposal was put forward in 2016.17. However, with the introduction of the u19, u16 and u14 leagues the decision was made to put this on hold and focus on the new delivery models for 2017.18. Now after a couple years of monitoring the senior leagues there is a consensus that a full review and implementation of a new structure is appropriate.

The focus of any new league structure will be based on:

1. Reduction of cost, time and effort for teams
2. Producing a high level marketable league structure