

## Illustrative Operational Process for Formation of Divisions in British League

This process is supplementary to the British League Regulations (comprising BL-LG, BL-LJ, BL-SG, BL-LV & BL-LW), and exists for the purposes of guidance and transparency. British League utilises the [TT Leagues online fixtures/ results platform](#)



Junior British League (JBL)	Senior British League (SBL)	Veterans British League (VBL)	Women's British League (WBL)
<p><b>Structure</b>  <u>Boy's</u>: Linear  <u>Girl's</u>: Linear</p> <p>Fixtures take place over 2 national weekend events</p> <p><b>Standard Divisions</b>                      The standard divisional size will be 6 teams, playing 10 fixtures. Divisions of 8, playing 10 fixtures, may be created at the discretion of the BL Committee, based on entry numbers.</p> <p><b>Population of League</b>                      Divisions and the draw matrix will be populated contiguously based on the aggregated Junior rating of the highest-rated 3 players (see BL-LJ 2.1) There shall be no more than one team from the same club in any division</p> <p><b>Fixtures - divisions of 6 teams</b>  <u>Weekend #1 Fixtures (Matches 1-5)</u>                      Drawn using matrix (see Appendix A).</p> <p>Weekend #2 is also provisionally drawn at this stage, with H/A reversed from Weekend #1 fixtures.</p> <p><u>Weekend #2 Fixtures (Matches 6-10)</u>                      Order of provisionally drawn fixtures to be revised using matrix, based on</p>	<p><b>Structure</b>                      Pyramid - Premier &gt; Championship &gt; Tier A (2 divisions) &gt; Tier B (4 divisions) &gt; Tier C (c.4-8 divisions)</p> <p>The Premier division shall take place on a Home and Away basis. All other divisions shall take place over a number of hosted divisional weekend events, typically consisting of one or two divisions each.</p> <p><b>Standard Divisions</b>                      The Premier division shall typically be 8 teams, with a 1<sup>st</sup> phase playing round-robin, followed by a 2<sup>nd</sup> phase split top and bottom mini-leagues. The Championship shall be 10 teams playing 18 fixtures over 4.5 weekends. The standard divisional size for Tiers A-C will be 8 teams, playing 14 fixtures over 3.5 weekends.</p> <p>A Premier division of 6 or 7 teams, and divisions of 6 teams in Tier C, may be created at the discretion of the BL Committee, based on entry numbers.</p> <p><b>Population of League</b>                      Promotion/ relegation shall be applied as per the SBL regulations, noting that promotion to the Premier division – and consequently the respective relegation from the Premier division - shall not necessarily be enforced.</p> <p>The SBL Committee will allocate places to teams in Divisions A-C at its discretion on an overall best-fit</p>	<p><b>Structure</b>  <u>Men's</u>: Parallel twin linear, with single Premier  <u>Women's</u>: Linear</p> <p>Fixtures take place over 2 national weekend events</p> <p><b>Standard Divisions</b>                      The standard divisional size will be 6 teams, playing 10 fixtures. Divisions of 8, playing 10 fixtures, may be created at the discretion of the BL Committee, based on entry numbers.</p> <p><b>Population of League</b>                      Promotion/ relegation shall be applied as per the VBL regulations. In the men's structure, this will be applied linearly with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Premier to 1<sup>st</sup> in 1A or 1B on a random basis</li> <li>* 1<sup>st</sup> in 1A and 1B to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Premier on a random basis</li> <li>* 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1A to 1B; 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1B to 1A</li> <li>* 6<sup>th</sup> in 1A to 2B; 6<sup>th</sup> in 1B to 2A</li> <li>* 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2A to 1B; 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2B to 1A</li> <li>* 4<sup>th</sup> in 2A to 2B; 4<sup>th</sup> in 2B to 2A</li> <li>* 6<sup>th</sup> in 2A to 3B; 6<sup>th</sup> in 2B to 3A</li> <li>* 2<sup>nd</sup> in 3A to 2B; 2<sup>nd</sup> in 3B to 2A</li> <li>* 4<sup>th</sup> in 3A to 3B; 4<sup>th</sup> in 3B to 3A</li> <li>* 6<sup>th</sup> in 3A to 4B; 6<sup>th</sup> in 3B to 4A</li> <li>* 2<sup>nd</sup> in 4A to 3B; 2<sup>nd</sup> in 4B to 3A</li> </ul>	<p><b>Structure</b>                      Linear</p> <p>Fixtures take place over 2 national weekend events</p> <p><b>Standard Divisions</b>                      The standard divisional size will be 6 teams, playing 10 fixtures. Divisions of 8, playing 10 fixtures, may be created at the discretion of the BL Committee, based on entry numbers.</p> <p><b>Population of League</b>                      Promotion/ relegation shall be applied as per the WBL regulations.</p> <p>Teams relegated from Divisions above shall occupy the highest position(s) in the Divisional draw matrix. Teams promoted from Divisions below shall occupy the lowest position(s), excepting those teams finishing in a relegation position who retained their positions due to withdrawals (see <i>Withdrawals</i>). Teams neither promoted or relegated shall be ordered as per their finishing positions in the previous season.</p> <p><b>Withdrawals from previous season</b>                      Notwithstanding the above, vacancies created by withdrawals from previous</p>

<p>league positions following Weekend #1.</p> <p>This process shall be undertaken and updated on the fixtures website within 4 weeks of Weekend #1.</p> <p><b>Fixtures - divisions of 8 teams</b>  <u>Weekend #1 Fixtures (1-5)</u>  Drawn using matrix (see Appendix B1). Matches 6 &amp; 7 are also drawn at this stage.</p> <p><u>Weekend #2 Fixtures (6-10)</u>  Match 6 &amp; 7 drawn as above. Matches 8-10 drawn following Match 7 (see Appendix B1), with H/A reversed as required.</p> <p><b>Table Allocations</b>  Divisions of 6 teams shall play across 3 designated tables for the duration of each weekend (or 4 tables for divisions of 8 teams). Tables will be allocated at referees discretion based on a variety of factors (venue layout, size of tables for certain divisions, lighting, impact of foot traffic, spectating positions etc) No team will play consecutive matches on the same table; teams will generally play across as many tables within the designated table group as possible.</p>	<p>geographical basis, dependent on host venues. Specific requests cannot be accommodated.</p> <p>Teams relegated from Divisions above shall occupy the highest position(s) in the Divisional draw matrix. Teams promoted from Divisions below shall occupy the lowest position(s). Teams neither promoted or relegated shall be ordered as per their finishing positions in the previous season.</p> <p><b>Vacant positions and Withdrawals from previous season</b>  Notwithstanding the above, vacancies created by unequal numbers of promoted and relegated teams, and withdrawals from previous seasons, will typically be filled on a merit basis by additional teams promoted on a points/ game ratio. The Committee reserves the right to promote new or existing teams into vacated positions if they would otherwise be playing at a significantly lower level than their demonstrable strength.</p> <p><b>Fixtures - Premier Division</b>  The SBL Committee shall devise an appropriate structure and fixture schedule, based on the number of teams and scheduled fixture dates. Fixtures in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase will be randomised; fixtures in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will adhere to the principles shown in Appendix B2</p> <p><b>Fixtures - divisions of 8 teams</b>  A full season of H and A fixtures will be drawn using matrix (Appendix B1)</p> <p><b>Fixtures - divisions of 10 teams</b>  A full season of H and A fixtures will be drawn using matrix (Appendix C)</p> <p><b>Fixtures - divisions of 6 teams</b></p>	<p>* 4<sup>th</sup> in 4A to 4B; 4<sup>th</sup> in 4B to 4A  * where two or more teams from the same club appear in any division, such steps will be taken to keep them separate insofar as possible</p> <p>Teams relegated from Divisions above shall occupy the highest position(s) in the Divisional draw matrix. Teams promoted from Divisions below shall occupy the lowest position(s). Teams neither promoted or relegated shall be ordered as per their finishing positions in the previous season.</p> <p><b>Withdrawals from previous season</b>  Notwithstanding the above, vacancies created by withdrawals from previous seasons will typically be filled on a merit basis by additional teams promoted on a points/ game ratio. The Committee reserves the right to promote new or existing teams into a vacated position if they would otherwise be playing at a significantly lower level than their demonstrable strength.</p> <p><b>Fixtures - divisions of 6 teams</b>  See JBL. Additionally, where there are two teams from the same club in the same division they shall play each other in the first round of each weekend</p> <p><b>Fixtures - divisions of 8 teams</b>  See JBL. Additionally, where there are two teams from the same club in the same division they shall play each other in the first applicable round of each weekend</p> <p><b>Table Allocations</b>  As per JBL</p> <p><b>Waiting List/ New Entries</b>  A Waiting List of teams registering an interest in entering WBL will be maintained. Teams will be added to the waiting list in the order in which interest is registered.</p> <p>Teams at the top of the waiting list will be invited to enter the lowest tier of the League based on availability. If a team on the Waiting List declines an</p>	<p>seasons will typically be filled in the first instance by suspending relegation of teams from that division, and thereafter on a merit basis by additional teams promoted on a points/ game ratio. The Committee reserves the right to promote new or existing teams into vacated positions if they would otherwise be playing at a significantly lower level than their demonstrable strength.</p> <p><b>Fixtures - divisions of 6 teams</b>  See JBL. Additionally, where there are two teams from the same club in the same division they shall play each other in the first round of each weekend</p> <p><b>Fixtures - divisions of 8 teams</b>  See JBL. Additionally, where there are two teams from the same club in the same division they shall play each other in the first applicable round of each weekend</p> <p><b>Table Allocations</b>  As per JBL</p> <p><b>Waiting List/ New Entries</b>  A Waiting List of teams registering an interest in entering WBL will be maintained. Teams will be added to the waiting list in the order in which interest is registered.</p> <p>Teams at the top of the waiting list will be invited to enter the lowest tier of the League based on availability. 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	<p>A full season of H and A fixtures will be drawn using matrix (Appendix A)</p> <p><b>Table Allocation</b> For divisions below the Premier division, divisions of 8 teams shall play across 4 designated tables for the duration of each weekend (or 5 tables for divisions of 10 teams). No team will play consecutive matches on the same table; teams will generally play across as many tables within the designated table group as possible</p> <p><b>Waiting List/ New Entries</b> A Waiting List of teams registering an interest in entering SBL will be maintained. Teams will be added to the waiting list in the order in which interest is registered.</p> <p>Teams at the top of the waiting list will be invited to enter the lowest tier of the League based on availability. If a team on the Waiting List declines an invitation, they will be removed from the Waiting List and can re-register if they wish.</p> <p>New entries and Teams relegated from the League may be added to the Waiting List in the order their request is received.</p> <p><b>Migrating teams</b> Teams wishing to migrate from one parent club to another pre-season, and in so doing maintain their existing league position, must apply for permission from the BL Committee/ SBL sub-Committee, which shall be granted at their discretion. As a minimum, the team must have the agreement of both clubs involved, demonstrate appropriate reasoning, and maintain at least two of the same registered players.</p>	<p><b>Waiting List/ New Entries</b> A Waiting List of teams registering an interest in entering VBL will be maintained. Teams will be added to the waiting list in the order in which interest is registered.</p> <p>Teams at the top of the waiting list will be invited to enter the lowest tier of the League based on availability. If a team on the Waiting List declines an invitation, they will be removed from the Waiting List and can re-register if they wish.</p> <p>New entries and Teams relegated from the League may be added to the Waiting List in the order their request is received.</p> <p><b>Migrating teams</b> Teams wishing to migrate from one parent club to another pre-season, and in so doing maintain their existing league position, must apply for permission from the BL Committee/ VBL sub-Committee, which shall be granted at their discretion. As a minimum, the team must have the agreement of both clubs involved, demonstrate appropriate reasoning, and maintain at least two of the same registered players.</p>	<p>invitation, they will be removed from the Waiting List and can re-register if they wish.</p> <p>New entries and Teams relegated from the League may be added to the Waiting List in the order their request is received.</p> <p><b>Migrating teams</b> Teams wishing to migrate from one parent club to another pre-season, and in so doing maintain their existing league position, must apply for permission from the BL Committee/ WBL sub-Committee, which shall be granted at their discretion. As a minimum, the team must have the agreement of both clubs involved, demonstrate appropriate reasoning, and maintain at least two of the same registered players.</p>
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Please note that these processes do not constitute regulations and are offered as an illustration only

Dated: 27/01/21

**Appendix A: Draw Matrix for 6-team Divisions**

<u>Team</u>	<u>Match 1/6</u>	<u>Match 2/7</u>	<u>Match 3/8</u>	<u>Match 4/9</u>	<u>Match 5/10</u>
1 plays	6(H)	5(A)	4(H)	3(A)	2(H)
2 plays	5(H)	4(A)	3(H)	6(H)	1(A)
3 plays	4(H)	6(A)	2(A)	1(H)	5(A)
4 plays	3(A)	2(H)	1(A)	5(H)	6(A)
5 plays	2(A)	1(H)	6(A)	4(A)	3(H)
6 plays	1(A)	3(H)	5(H)	2(A)	4(H)

Matches 6-10 have H/A reversed

**Appendix B1: Draw Matrix for 8-team Division**

For SBL only: matches 8-14 have H/A reversed

For JBL/ VBL/ WBL only: teams play each other once, with matches 1-5 taking place on the first weekend and the remaining two (match 6 and 7) on the second weekend, after which, according to the league tables, each division is divided into top 4 and bottom 4, and in each mini-division teams will play each other once (matches 8-10), thus completing 5 matches for the second weekend. All scores will be carried forward from the main division to the mini divisions.

Team	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3	Match 4	Match 5	Match 6	Match 7
1 plays	8(H)	7(A)	6(H)	5(A)	4(H)	3(A)	2(H)
2 plays	7(H)	6(A)	5(H)	4(A)	3(H)	8(H)	1(A)
3 plays	6(H)	5(A)	4(H)	8(H)	2(A)	1(H)	7(A)
4 plays	5(H)	8(A)	3(A)	2(H)	1(A)	7(H)	6(A)
5 plays	4(A)	3(H)	2(A)	1(H)	7(A)	6(H)	8(A)
6 plays	3(A)	2(H)	1(A)	7(H)	8(A)	5(A)	4(H)
7 plays	2(A)	1(H)	8(A)	6(A)	5(H)	4(A)	3(H)
8 plays	1(A)	4(H)	7(H)	3(A)	6(H)	2(A)	5(H)

**Appendix B2: Draw Matrix for Top/ Bottom split in 8-team Division (JBL/ VBL/ WBL only)**

Team	Match 8	Match 9	Match 10
1 plays	3	4	2
2 plays	4	3	1
3 plays	1	2	4
4 plays	2	1	3

Home or Away will depend on previous fixtures (see Appendix B1)

Please note: where a game in round 8 would be a duplicate of round 6 or 7, a manual amendment will be used to prevent Teams playing each other twice on the same day, if mathematically possible whilst still keeping 1v2 as key principle and final game.

**Appendix C: Draw Matrix for 10-team Division (SBL only)**

Team	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3	Match 4	Match 5	Match 6	Match 7	Match 8	Match 9
1 plays	10(H)	9(A)	8(H)	7(A)	6(H)	5(A)	4(H)	3(A)	2(H)
2 plays	9(H)	8(A)	7(H)	6(A)	5(H)	4(A)	3(H)	10(H)	1(A)
3 plays	8(H)	7(A)	6(H)	5(A)	4(H)	10(H)	2(A)	1(H)	9(A)
4 plays	7(H)	6(A)	5(H)	10(H)	3(A)	2(H)	1(A)	9(H)	8(A)
5 plays	6(H)	10(A)	4(A)	3(H)	2(A)	1(H)	9(A)	8(H)	7(A)
6 plays	5(A)	4(H)	3(A)	2(H)	1(A)	9(H)	8(A)	7(H)	10(A)
7 plays	4(A)	3(H)	2(A)	1(H)	9(A)	8(H)	10(A)	6(A)	5(H)
8 plays	3(A)	2(H)	1(A)	9(H)	10(A)	7(A)	6(H)	5(A)	4(H)
9 plays	2(A)	1(H)	10(A)	8(A)	7(H)	6(A)	5(H)	4(A)	3(H)
10 plays	1(A)	5(H)	9(H)	4(A)	8(H)	3(A)	7(H)	2(A)	6(H)

Matches 10-18 have H/A reversed