



Introduction to British League

[British League](#) is Table Tennis England’s premier club team competition, and is open to entrants from across the Home Countries (England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man)

The JBL (junior), WBL (women’s) and VBL (veterans’) leagues each take place at two large weekend events - one apiece in Autumn and one apiece in Spring - where all teams gather together at a single national venue and play their league fixtures in two blocks.

The SBL (senior men and women) leagues have a different format. At the top level, the Premiership teams play on a home and away basis, travelling on 10-12 dates to each other’s venues. Below Premiership level, each of the divisions meets collectively to play their fixtures on a broadly geographical basis across 4 or 5 weekends.

British League activity is reliant on a sizeable cohort of skilled volunteers, with a Referee for each section, and a [Committee](#) supporting the operational delivery alongside Table Tennis England staff. Delivery of over 60 annual events are each supported by umpires, volunteers and local organisers/ hosts. Functional aspects of British League are underpinned by the relevant Table Tennis England departments, including Competitions & Events, Finance and MarComms.

British League started in 1979 with 8 senior teams, and expanded firstly with a women’s league in 1989, followed shortly by the junior and veteran sections. The primary objective at the point of formation was to assist the development of clubs and officials, to provide high-quality domestic competition for the top players, and as a vehicle to promote table tennis at a local level.

In ‘19/20, the British League ‘vital statistics’ were:

	Teams	Players	Divisions	Events
SBL	115*	690	14	Premier: 9x Home or Away fixtures (30 total) Others: 55 divisional weekends
WBL	38	155	6	2 national weekends
VBL	58 men’s 22 women’s	350	9 men’s 3 women’s	2 national weekends
JBL	54 boy’s 26 girl’s	310	8 boy’s 4 girl’s	2 national weekends
	313	1,505		

* SBL teams are mixed gender, c.6% female

In '22/23, the British League 'vital statistics' were:

	Teams	Players	Divisions	Events
SBL	122*	823	15	Premier: 8-9x Home or Away fixtures (30 total) + Team Cup event Others: 57 divisional weekends
WBL	40	169	6	2 national weekends
VBL	66 men's 27 women's	389	11 men's 4 women's	2 national weekends, plus satellite venue
JBL	61 boy's 30 girl's	386	10 boy's 5 girl's	2 national weekends, plus satellite venue
	346	1,767		

* SBL teams are mixed gender, c.4% female