



British League Consultation

[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 Coordinator/Administrator and Referee for each section, and a [Committee](#) comprising a General Secretary and Calendar Secretary alongside Table Tennis England staff and board representation. 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 Marketing & Communications.

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' are:

	Teams	Players	Divisions	Events
SBL	115	640	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 boys' 26 girls'	310	8 boys' 4 girls'	2 national weekends
	313	1,455		

Now is the time to look again to the future, and Table Tennis England are consulting stakeholders to help establish a new strategy for British League. This will have the following benefits:

- define direction and ambition

- detail BL's place in the wider [Table Tennis England competition programme](#)
- detail BL's role in helping deliver [Table Tennis England's Mission 2025 strategy](#)
- identify priorities to enable decision-making, and monitoring/ review/ assessment

Fundamental to this is understanding:

- what Clubs want from BL (ie. long-term development, bringing activity into the club-space etc)
- what Players want from BL (ie. activity, competition at appropriate level, ranking events etc)

We invite and welcome feedback from all members, stakeholders and officials (referees, umpires, tournament organisers, regular event volunteers). We will also consult directly with the [Members Advisory Group](#) and [National Council, Technical Officials Committee and Tournament Approval Panel](#), the leads for [National Cadet and Junior Leagues](#) and [County Championships](#), and the TT associations in other Home Countries.

The consultation will run from January – March 2020, with the expectation that TTE Board will consider a strategy document in June for implementation in Season '20/21.

Thank you in advance for your valuable feedback!