

League Survey: Ready to Return
September 2020

Introduction

With limited club activity now able to take place indoors across the Country and a move to stage 4 of the Ready to Return Roadmap planned for September 1st 2020, Table Tennis England conducted a League survey to understand more about the current landscape and support needed by Leagues to restart.

The intentions of the survey were to establish;

- Local League target dates for resumption of competitive play
- The challenges surrounding restarting league play
- Ongoing support required from Leagues as we progress into stage 4 of Ready to Return.

This document provides an overview of the key findings from the survey and recommendations for next steps.

The survey was open for 10 days and received 106 responses.

Table Tennis England would like to thank all of Leagues who took the time to complete the survey.

Headlines

Restarting League Activity

- 34% of respondents plan to restart League activity between September and December 2020
- 44.3% Leagues are currently unsure when they will be able to restart

Format considerations

- 49% of respondents would consider an alternative league format if it made it easier to comply with COVID guidelines.

Facility Access

- Similarly to the findings of the Club survey, venue access presents a significant challenge to restarting local Leagues.
 - 39% of those looking to restart in September stated venue closure / not allowing external hirers as their main challenge
 - 29% of those who have delayed play until the New Year stated venue closure / not allowing external hirers as the main reason for the delay
 - 30% of Leagues without a start date stated venue closure / not allowing external hirers as their current main concern in returning

Table Tennis England support

- Leagues have highlighted the importance of clear and concise guidance that is easy to follow. There is also a call for Table Tennis England to support the reopening of venues, provide financial assistance and practical information on alternative league format options.

Summary of Responses

- Total Responses**

106 responses

- Usual League format**

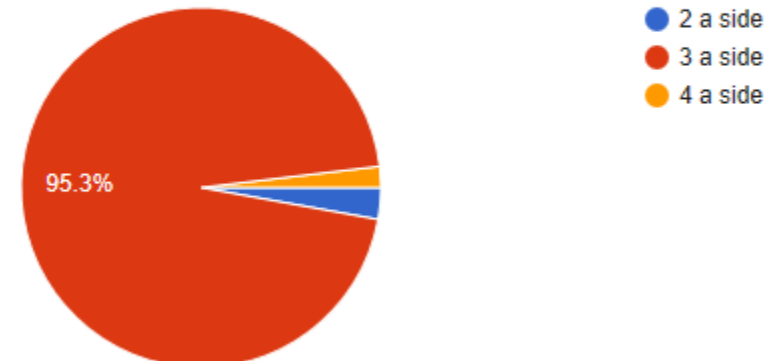
3 a side – 95.3% (101 Leagues)

2 a side – 2.8% (3 Leagues)

4 a side – 1.9% (2 Leagues)

Which of the following best describes your usual League format?

106 responses



- Venues used**

Variety of big and small venues – 95.3% (101 Leagues)

One central venue – 3.8% (4 Leagues)

Variety of big venues (3+ tables) – 0.9% (1 League)

Thoughts on 2020-21 League Activity

- **Restarting League Activity**

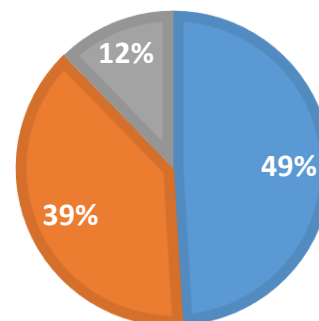
- 34% of respondents plan to restart League activity between September and December 2020
- 21.7% of respondents plan to restart League activity in the New Year
- 44.3% of respondents are not yet sure when they will be able to restart League play

- **Format considerations**

- 49% of respondents would consider an alternative league format if it made it easier to comply with COVID guidelines.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE LEAGUE FORMAT IF IT MADE IT EASIER TO COMPLY WITH COVID GUIDELINES?

■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No



September to December Return: Challenges

34% of Leagues are aiming to resume League activity between September and December 2020

The following were most cited challenges for Leagues looking to restart in 2020;

- Venue closure / not allowing external hirers (83%)
- Players may not wish to return to competitive play (64%)
- Clubs are not yet back up and running (61%)
- Adhering to social distancing guidelines in league venues (53%)

Of the above, the following challenges are presenting the **greatest** concern;

- Venue closure / not allowing external hirers (39%)
- Clubs are not yet back up and running (19%)
- Adhering to social distancing guidelines in league venues (14%)
- Players may not wish to return to competitive play (11%)

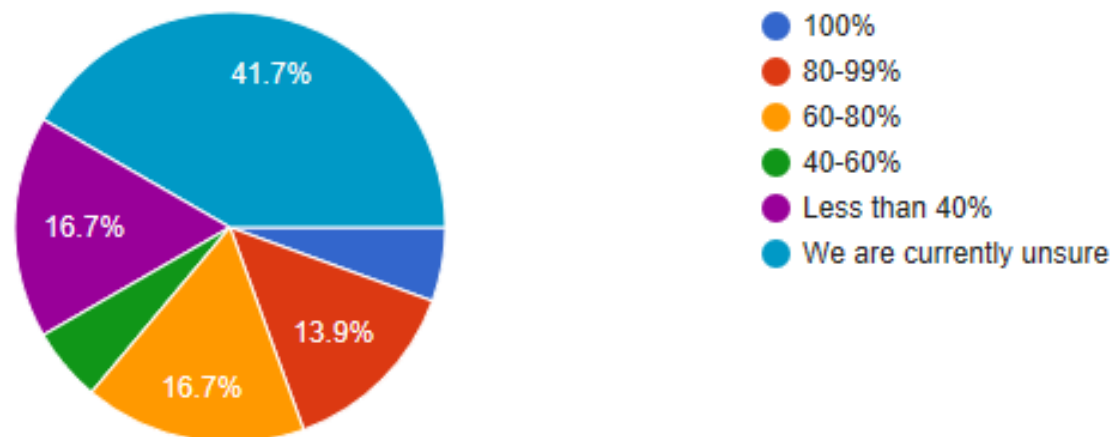
September to December Return: Venue Access

Of the Leagues looking to restart in 2020, venue access presents a significant challenge.

In only 2 leagues are 100% of venues used open for table tennis

Approximately what percentage of venues needed for your League to start are currently open for table tennis?

36 responses



2021 Return: Reasons for Delaying

21.7% of Leagues are aiming to resume League activity in the New Year

The following were most cited reasons for Leagues delaying;

- Our players do not yet wish to return to competitive play (78%)
- Our venues are closed / not allowing external hirers (65%)
- We do not yet feel it is safe to return (61%)
- We cannot adhere to social distancing guidelines in league venues (52%)
- Clubs/Teams do not wish to enter the League (30%)

Of the above, the following reasons were listed as the **main reason** for delaying;

- We do not yet feel it is safe to return (33%)
- Our venues are closed / not allowing external hirers (29%)
- Our players do not yet wish to return to competitive play (19%)

Unsure on Return Date: Challenges

44.3% of Leagues are unsure about when League play will be able to restart.

The following are the most common challenges anticipated by Leagues unsure about when they will restart;

- Players may not wish to return to competitive play (87%)
- Clubs are not yet back up and running (83%)
- Venue closure / not allowing external hirers (74.5%)
- Adhering to social distancing in league venues (49%)

Of the above, the following were listed as the **main concerns** for restarting;

- Clubs are not yet back up and running (32%)
- Venue closure / not allowing external hirers (30%)
- Players may not wish to return to competitive play (19%)

Support Required by Leagues

- Clear, concise and informative guidance that is easy to follow
- Support for venues to reopen, including lobbying with Government
- Financial assistance
- Information on alternative formats
- Information on TT Leagues and alternative formats
- One to one assistance
- Timely information on the latest Government guidelines eg. Local lockdowns
- Reassurance for players

Table Tennis England Support

Which of the following online content has your League engaged with during lockdown?

38% Club Webinars

21% Coaching webinars

17.5% Play at Home content

6% League one to one sessions

How would rate Table Tennis England's League support throughout the Coronavirus pandemic?

5 / 5 = 11.5%

4 / 5 = 35.6%

3 / 5 = 45.2%

2 / 5 = 7.7%

1 / 5 = 0

Next Steps

Table Tennis England will consider the findings of this survey, and particularly where we can have most impact for Leagues in England. We will publish further information outlining the current support offer and any plans for future support regarding a return to play for Leagues based on the findings of this survey.

Within the survey, 10 Leagues requested a call back. We will be working to contact those who have requested a call back before the end of September.

All of the current Ready to Return guidance can be found here;

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/major-events/ready-to-return/>

For any questions relating to this survey and associated findings, please contact

claire.brockwell@tabletennisengland.co.uk