



Future Competition structure consultation: headlines from Q1 2020 Game Survey

Respondents

Just under 6,000 responses in total in a little over 3 weeks. 48% were players, 28% Coach, DoR, Referee or Team Manager, 24% were club committee or other club volunteer.

Preferred number of matches in a season

62% of players and 66% of non-players think between 20-26 games is the right amount. A majority of 40% Level 3/4 players want 24-26 matches (a further 33% want 23 and under), A majority of 39% Level 5/6 & Level 7 and below players want 20-23 matches (a further 30% level 5 & 6 players, and 22% Level 7 and below players, would be happy with up to 26 matches).

In general non-players had a desire for more matches than players (66% v 62%), and this is more apparent the higher the level of club.

There are some small regional differences with more matches desired in the North & Midlands than LSE & South West, however in general the differences are minor.

Options for knockout Rugby

Greater than 90% of respondents want cup / knockout rugby, and this is slightly higher for players (96%) vs non-players (91%).

Of those that want cup rugby a majority want a regional competition progressing to a national final (55%), but also a significant minority (38%) would like cup / knockout rugby delivered differently e.g. as part of a league programme / end of season competition, regional competition only, or via qualification from league for next season competition.

There is no significant difference in the views by level (only L5 and below answered), with the only regional difference being a slightly stronger desire in the Midlands for a regional to national cup competition than elsewhere.

Preference for promotion

The Game strongly supports the principle of automatic promotion on winning league, 85% of respondents claimed this and it was consistent across role (player v non-player), region and level.

Lower XVs

Overall the Game supports the principle of lower XVs entering leagues higher than Level 8 and this is even stronger for players. 57% in total (66% players) feel lower XVs should enter the leagues higher than Level 8, however generally speaking support is lower at the lower levels e.g. Level 7 and below 51% support, Level 3/4 73% support. Of those that do support, 56% believe there should be no restriction, and players again believe this more strongly than non-players. 62% (65% players) feel there should be a consistent approach / method on Lower XVs across the country. Of those NOT supporting the above, the majority don't because they feel players will leave their club and go to another 'strong' lower XV.