

County Competition Survey – January 2024

Context : Since 2022/23 we have operated the county competitions on the basis of club champions competing in the following season rather than end of season playoffs. This was introduced to avoid the multiple issues with arranging a significant number of games in a very short period, challenges for clubs to free up rink space and clashes with both EIBA and Federation national finals.

Executive Council Summary

From the 27 responses received the majority of additional comments from 9 respondents propose reverting to the old system, or at least having the competitions completed within the same season.

There is a preference to retain the current approach of qualification as club champions with the playoffs in the following season, but also a significant number who would enter the county competitions directly and have suggested it would not necessarily mean they would then not also enter club competitions. The Executive will recall that direct entry into competitions was a proposal considered at our AGM in 2022.

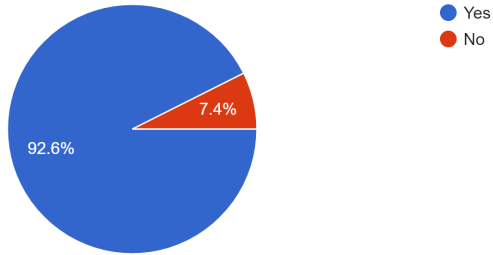
The fundamental challenge comes back to the reason why the change was introduced to overcome the end of season congestion and clashes with national finals and clubs having to allocate neutral venue rink space for playoffs which then prevented them from maximising their own internal matches / leagues and often rinks would be released back to club at short notice as the draws progressed.

A factor which is not mentioned but has perhaps had an impact this season is the increase in EIBA competitions and what seems to be additional area games and shortened round dates which has resulted in fixture congestion, compounded by the county fixtures even though there are very few matches to be played and the round dates are published early in the season.

There is perhaps action we could take is to profile the draws closer to the end of the season to alleviate the congestion, but incoming results have shown that most entrants despite having the draws leave matches until the last fortnight of a round to play. This does not address the comments of those who would like to see championships completed in the same season.

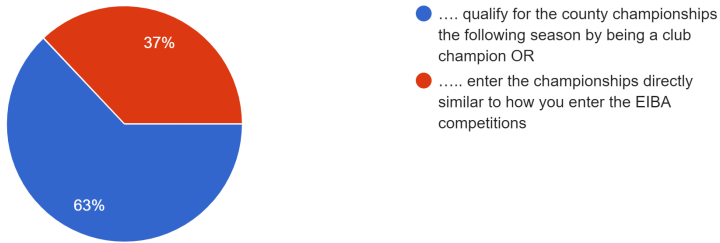
Do you enter your club competitions?

27 responses



Given the choice would you rather

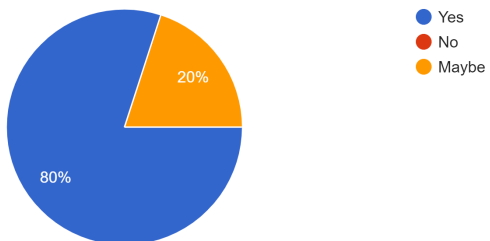
27 responses



For the 37% who indicated they would rather enter the comps directly

Having said you would rather enter the county championships directly would you enter your club competitions also?

10 responses



Comments

- Qualify for the following season but not start the comps until February as competitive players who have a good season struggle to fit everything in
- Prefer them to do back played at the end of current season. 2 from each club so club finals don't have to be played before hand.
- Only works if EIBA change nationals so county finalist qualify for finals.
- Playing the County playoffs a year after is a terrible idea in my opinion. When you have a good run in comps in a particular season you want to keep playing and not have to wait until the following season to play them. I'm sure with a bit of work we could all work this out.
- I feel it was better when the county championships were played at the end of the season rather than the next season as they are now.
- Understanding rink space can an issue for some clubs why not have multiple games at one venue even a couple of rounds at a time - it may take up a large part of the day but avoids excess travelling and offers rink use for the quieter clubs
- The end of round dates need adjusting to not clash with national competitions. The busy period for nationals is usually from mid December to mid February.
- Go back to playing the county comps same year like use to.
- A county title should be earnt. I feel allow entries rather than club champions would devalue the competiton and overall achievement
- Need to go back so county playoffs played at the end of current season March and April. Also should be 2 from each club.