

New Junior Competition - Tuesday nights

At a meeting of Junior Club representatives from the Yardley League on 21st July 2015, and to address the issue of some girls being able to play together in their age group and not be affected by the rule regarding playing in adult leagues; it was agreed that Derbyshire would run a competitive league for Under 16's and Under 14's using the same venues as the Yardley League, so effectively we will have Junior competitive sections running alongside the current grassroots section.

This change will also enable teams to play together more, so that if they progress to regional and national competitions they will be more cohesive as a team, and understand other requirements of playing at a higher level.

Key points to note:

- The competitive section will have its own set of rules, based on Regional League rules
- Teams will have to provide a C Award umpire or above for these matches, either before or after the team has played
- Clubs will also need to provide a scorer, the scoresheet will be similar to that used in other leagues.
- Players will only be allowed to play in either the competitive section or the grassroots section, but to allow for players who show that they have developed and should be playing in the competitive section, there will be opportunity to move them into the competitive section after all teams have played each other once – actual week will be made clear once the fixtures have been finalised. They cannot then play in the grassroots section.
- As some teams will not be able to enter these competitive sections, because of distance to travel etc., then the league cannot be used as a qualifier for regional rounds of the National U16 and U14 competitions. However, it may be that the top two play the top two from the High Peak League to decide who goes forward
- Teams finishing in the top two will not have to take part in these play-offs if they do not wish to enter the National competition, the option will go to the next placed team

Clubs will therefore need to decide where to place their teams, in the U16 and U14 competitive sections or the grassroots section.

It does also mean that by taking some teams out of the grassroots section that we may need to group the rest of the teams slightly differently, but until we get all the entries in, we won't know.

Entries for both sections will need to be in by 28th August 2015 – late entries will not be accepted.