

Revised League Structure for 2014/15

As you all know, the league structure was changed two years ago with the aim of improving the leagues in some well publicised ways.

Further to feedback we have received and particularly the response to the recent survey, we have decided to return to what is essentially the original format, particularly with respect to the top divisions.

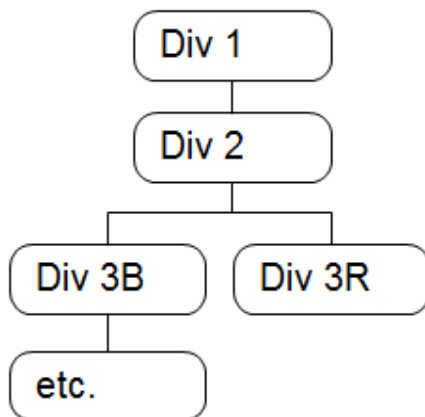
However, there are a few areas where the original system was not perfect, so we have taken the opportunity to address these at the same time.

The original system was:

- 1) Single divisions from 1 to 4
- 2) Split divisions from 5 downwards
- 3) 9 teams per division
- 4) 2 up 2 down in each division except Division 4 which was 4 down

The new structure will be:

- 1) Single divisions from 1 to 2 with split divisions from 3 downwards



This allows playoffs for almost all divisions, which has certainly proved successful over the last few years, and also creates the same format for both the Summer and Winter leagues.

- 2) The number of teams in each division will be reduced to 8 because the schedule has been very tight every year and has left little room for legitimately rescheduled matches and weeks lost through snow. In fact the situation has been made even worse as each year we have had to accommodate some divisions with 10 teams.

The promotion and relegation system will also be slightly modified, partly as a reflection of the strength of Division 1 but also to solve the relegation “cliff” between the old divisions 4 and 5, which has always been a problem and highlighted in the survey results.

a) The winner of Division 2 automatically goes up, with the bottom team in Division 1 going down.

b) The second place in Division 2 will playoff against the second from bottom team in Division 1, the winner stays in or is promoted to Division 1.

c) The bottom two teams in Division 2 automatically go down.

d) The winners of Divisions 3B and 3R automatically go up. The second placed in these divisions remain in Division 3.

e) The bottom two teams in Division 3B and 3R automatically go down, with the top two teams in Divisions 4B and 4R going up. This is the normal system and applies to all lower divisions as it has always done.

The intention is to have playoffs for Divisions 3 and below as previously, with the playoff for Division 1 promotion being as mentioned above.

There will be no Division 1 challenge between the top two teams, and as has always been the case (with the exception of the trial two years ago), the winner of the Surrey Cup is the top team in Division 1 at the end of the season.