



ENGLAND HOCKEY
SINGLE SYSTEM
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Single System Briefing Paper

Centralised Calendar and Competition Information for 2009/2010



May 2009, Version 1

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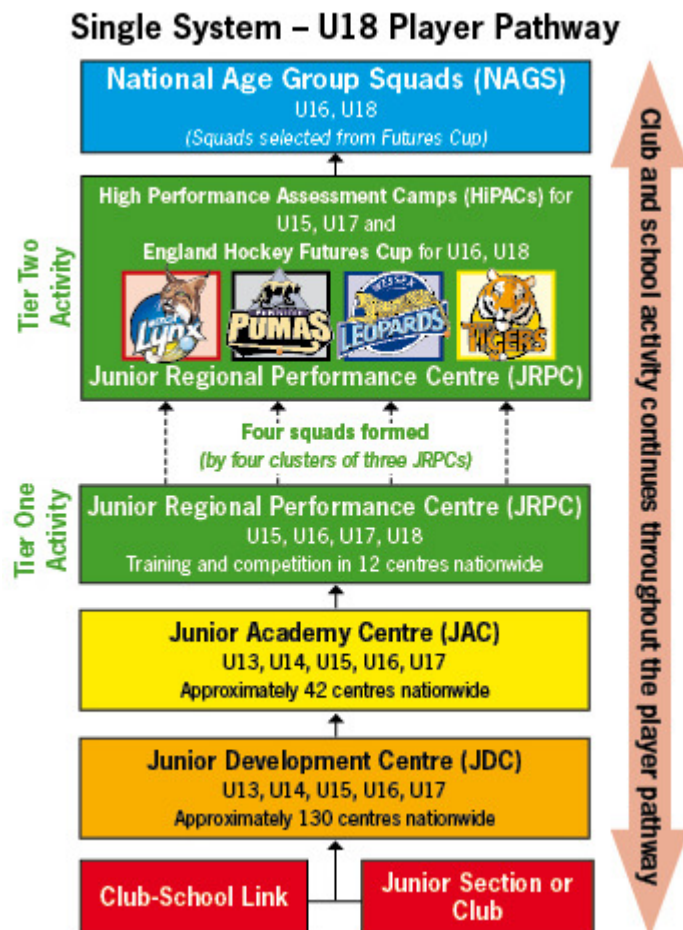


Centralised Calendar and Competitions Information

This paper is an explanation to the Single System competition programme for 2009/10, based on the Centralised Calendar published last year. It is meant as a guide for those involved with organising competitions, at all levels. It is important to understand that those who have traditionally organised county and regional competitions will continue to do so as the new competition framework is introduced.

The introduction of so many new competitions is a challenge for us all and we anticipate that full implementation will not be achieved in the first year. This guide gives clear recommendations for 2009/10 and details what competitions should be organised, who will be responsible for that organisation and what format the competition should follow.

The competition programme forms an integral part of the player pathway (see below) Club and School activity is crucial to the continued development of the players within the pathway and as such, a structured competition programme is essential.





The competition programme is planned to reflect the principle of double periodisation and allows for preparation, competition and rest. As such, the calendar sets out the competition dates for 2009/10 allowing for suitable preparation for the competition. This is particularly relevant to Junior Development Centre (JDC) and Junior Academy Centre (JAC) activity.

The calendar sets out the priority for the competition dates allowing organisers, managers and coaches to reduce the conflict of interest for players who may have school, club and county loyalties.

The calendar offers a progressive structure for youth competition that supports the long term development of players to help them reach their own potential, whether this is as a club or international player and to prevent over playing of talented players. Clear guidelines on eligibility for any competition, will be included in the rules and regulations issued with the entry forms.

It is important that organisers of events do not try and arrange their competitions in conflict with the published calendar.

Formats and match durations for all competitions are provided that will both maximise pitch time and ensure that qualification for further rounds is obtained by the most deserving teams. When planning your competition please refer to the prescribed competition formats. These can be found in the 'How to Guides' that accompany this briefing paper.



Competition		Organised by
Junior Development Centres (JDCs)	<p>Junior Development Centres are the first rung of the player pathway and as such the training and competition is designed to allow players to be assessed for progression to Junior Academy Centres. The emphasis is on skill development but also allows the players to experience competition at this level without it being the main driver for activity.</p> <p>The Single System advocates 'local' competition and therefore traditional county boundaries are not essential to delivery, in fact it is envisaged that as we develop the Single System local JDCs will compete against each other. It is accepted that this will take time to achieve and that in 2009/10 traditional boundaries are more likely to be used. However, this does not have to be the case.</p>	<p>County Hockey Association Designated Group, e.g. Hockey Development Groups (HDG)</p> <p>County Hockey Associations (CHA) Schools' and Youth Groups (SYG)</p>
Junior Academy Centres (JACs)	<p>Junior Academy Centres (JACs) are the next representative rung of the player pathway and, as such, the training and competition is designed to allow players to be assessed for progression to Junior Regional Performance Centres (JRPCs). The emphasis again is on skill development but the delivery of suitable competition takes on more importance.</p> <p>The Single System advocates 'local' competition and therefore traditional county boundaries are not essential to delivery, in fact it is envisaged that as we develop the Single System local JACs will compete against each other. It is accepted that this will take time to achieve and that in 2009/10 traditional boundaries are more likely to be used. However, this does not have to be the case.</p> <p>For 2009/10 we recommend that all age groups to be run, if possible.</p> <p>Please note that U17 concludes with a National Round, and as such should be seen as a priority if all competitions cannot be organised in 2009/10.</p>	<p>Regional Hockey Association RHA or designated group with U17s National competition organised by England Hockey Competitions Department</p>



Competition		Organised by
Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC)	<p>The JRPC is the stepping stone to international selection. EH has recently confirmed the twelve centres around the country. Competition will be held between the centres in clusters of 3. At U16 and U18 players are then selected for a cluster squad which will enter the Futures Cup. Players will be selected from the Futures Cup for the 2010 international squads.</p>	<p>Regional Hockey Association will organise Tier 1 cluster competition and England Hockey will organise the Futures Cup</p>
Club	<p>Club competition is essential to allow all players to be able to participate with their peers but more importantly club activity underpins the whole pathway. As such the club competition programme is seen as paramount in producing the players with the necessary skills to be selected for JDCs.</p> <p>National Club U18 Championships to be organised but not in the suggested competition format for 2009/10. Hopefully, we will be in a position to implement the new formats within the next two years. More information on this will be forthcoming next season. The competition will remain as a Knock Out Cup. There will be a Plate competition for early losers. Competition dates will be as published in the calendar.</p> <p>National Club U16 Championships – (replacing U15) To be organised as a new competition but it will not run in the suggested competition format for 2009/10. Hopefully, we will be in a position to implement the new formats within the next two years. More information on this will be forthcoming next season. The competition will be run as a Knock Out Cup. There will be a Plate competition for early losers. Competition dates will be as published in the calendar.</p> <p>Inter Club U14 Competition to be run as a pilot in the new format with England Hockey receiving entries directly and organising local tri/quadrangulars at local venues. Competition dates will be as published in the calendar.</p>	<p>England Hockey Competitions Department</p> <p>England Hockey Competitions Department</p> <p>England Hockey Competitions Department</p> <p>County Hockey Association then Regional Hockey Association then England Hockey Competitions</p>



Competition		Organised by
	<p>Inter Club U10 Competition – (replacing U11) This competition replaces the U11 competition and will culminate at Regional level</p>	County Hockey Association then Regional Hockey Association
Schools	<p>National Schools Championships for U18, U16 and U13 – County, Regional and National rounds as per calendar. These should be organised using the formats as outlined in the accompanying guidelines.</p> <p>Inter Schools Competition U14 and U11 – This competition will culminate at Regional level.</p>	<p>County Hockey Association then Regional Hockey Association then England Hockey Competitions Department</p> <p>County Hockey Association then Regional Hockey Association</p>
Emerging Schools	<p>The addition of emerging schools competition is intended to increase participation through provision of a more accessible entry level of competition for schools that are not already 'established' hockey schools.</p> <p>However, these will not be mandatory in 2009/10 but can be organised if there is local demand</p>	Local Organising Group as necessary
Club Leagues	<p>U16 & U18 Not to be mandatory for season 2009/10. Where possible, counties are encouraged to set up leagues or pilot leagues using the assigned dates. England Hockey will be undergoing a consultation with existing leagues on how best to develop Club Leagues and how they might fit into the competition structure. It is hoped that this will be concluded by the end of 2009/10 season with implementation planned for 2011/12.</p>	Local Organising Group as necessary



Competition		Organised by
Club Festivals	<p>U8, U10, U12 & U14</p> <p>Not to be mandatory for season 2009/10. Where possible, counties are encouraged to set up festivals using the assigned dates.</p> <p>It is important that the emphasis in these festivals is on development rather than 'win at all costs.'</p>	Local Organising Group as necessary.
Indoor	<p>U16 and U18 Schools U16 and U18 Clubs</p> <p>Separate competitions to be run.</p> <p>County, Regional and National rounds to be played as per revised calendar.</p> <p>There has been a change to the centralized calendar for 2009/10 as the schools regional rounds were scheduled during the school Christmas break. These have now moved to 5th/6th December.</p> <p>Similarly, the U16/U18 Indoor Schools have been put on the 16th/17th Jan and the U16/U18 Clubs on 23rd/24th January to avoid school and club clashes for players.</p> <p>These changes will be reflected on the centralized calendar immediately.</p>	County Hockey Association then England Hockey Competitions Department