

West Junior Competitions Transition Group – Notes & Actions
Meeting: 3 March 2021

Present: Jan Baker (JB), Paul Westgate (PW), Barbara Reynolds (BR), Jo McDermid (JM), Liz Powell (LP) Clare Poad (CP) Cornwall, Jill Dupain (JD) Devon, Ros Tyson (RT) Somerset, Val Shipsey (VS) Avon, Angie Pearce (AP) Gloucestershire, Ian Harvey (IH) Gloucestershire, Gavin Rusling (GR) Dorset, Jackie Stanley (JS) Wiltshire, David Chard (West Director/Devon HA), George Conner (West Director/Somerset HA)

Apologies: Jackie Lawrence, Sarah Heelis – Jersey, Steve Eulencamp – Guernsey, Andy Rogers – Herefordshire.

AREA	NOTES & ACTIONS	WHO
Introductions	JB as Chair of the West Junior Competition Transition Group thanked, Barbara, Jo and Paul for their hard work in pulling all the data for the presentation tonight.	
	BR stated that the West is in a strong position because the counties already deliver a full and varied junior programme for their clubs. Only real change will be for the West to offer more Area competitions. Counties should continue to deliver their programmes as demanded by their clubs.	
	BR stated that the County Reps invited to this meeting will from now on be part of the West Junior Competition Transition Group to help take the club competitions forward and after the West AGM once the new committees for each group are elected will sit on the committee. However, with AGMs coming up in the next few months if anyone is stepping down from their role please let BR know of the new person when known.	County Reps
West Transition Update	Governance – The West Area Articles are nearly finalised and will be approved at the West AGM . England Hockey Articles will be adopted at AGM on 16 March.	
	England Hockey have released their new website.	
	England Hockey will be introducing a new Central Management System (CMS) to run all the leagues and competitions, which will be up and running by September.	
	The Adults League Transition Group lead by Dave Chard have had several meetings to discuss bringing the current men and ladies leagues under one umbrella for a West League.	
	Officiating Transition Group led by George Conner, which has subsequently been split into two working groups, one focusing on Level 2 appointments and progressing umpires and the other on player umpires and club level support.	
	Junior Competitions Transition Group – all counties had been audited in respect to club led junior activity. Jersey and Guernsey will be meeting soon to decide if they stay in the West or move to South Central. The school's competitions in the West will remain as they currently stand until the 2022/23 season.	

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	The National Disciplinary Transition Group has met and reviewing the Code of Discipline to align to the new Areas.	
	The Masters Transition Group is meeting tomorrow for the first time.	
	There has been confusion over the reference to counties as sub-areas in documentation, counties will be known as counties going forward!	
	BR re-iterated that across the West we are in a strong starting position to deliver all the new Governance as counties already offer so much.	
	JS asked for clarification that schools' competitions will run the same this forthcoming season, which BR confirmed.	
Junior Competitions Framework	All County Reps had received the proposed framework document prior to the meeting.	
	Clarification on when the Centralised Calendar would be available for 2021/22 season.	PS / BR
West Junior Competition Feedback & Proposed Plan	Paul presented the proposal for the West competition in line with the England Hockey Junior Competition Framework.	
	A PDF version will be sent out to all on 4 March.	BR
	Once everyone has had time to digest the proposal and read through please do email Barbara, Paul or Jo with any feedback comments by 8 March.	All
	The aim is to implement the new Area competitions in demand from clubs for the 2021/2022 season. Set dates on Sundays on the Centralised Calendar.	
	LP raised a point for counties on the fact that volunteers are a problem sometimes that schools' competitions will need to be factored in as well however the new West competitions will not affect the counties programmes that they run.	
	GR stated that most Dorset Clubs would be given the choice of playing in West or South-Central leagues and some clubs would probably opt for South Central due to their location so travel may not have to include the whole of Dorset.	
	IH asked if there was a definition of part-areas - determined on the location and number of clubs that entered and could not be determined until entries are known. The aim of the part area leagues is to reduce travel as much as is possible and this would be considered.	
	CP asked if a club entered but no other clubs nearby, which meant distances to travel were further than expected could they drop out after entering with no penalty of cost. This would need to be checked.	BR
	George asked if there were any flexibility on dates to play. This is a no as it could lead to clashes of other activity stated on the centralised	

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	calendar.	
	IH was concerned that the calendar is already congested, and pitches are regularly already booked so it is harder to find venues and can only see this escalating with new competitions and dates. In addition, the new Talent Centres could add to more clashes of dates and pitches.	
	BR again re-iterated the proposal is to fill in the gap of competitions available at Area level and counties should carry on delivering what is demanded at county level by their clubs.	
Club Survey		
Club Survey & Next Steps	Plan to send out a survey to all clubs in the West, asking them which competitions they think they might be interested in entering at Area level. This will give a good indication of demand. This does not commit the clubs to the competitions in any way. Survey to be circulated on 12 March. County reps can help ensure the right contacts in the clubs are reached.	BR / County Reps
	George asked if on the survey there is an option for clubs to comment on the proposed competitions re issue they feel might arise like travel. The answer is no it is a simple survey to gauge interest.	
	Survey deadline - 31 st March, however in the interim period BR will send updates to County Reps on their clubs who have replied so they can advise of those who have not and help chase outstanding responses. Interim report 22 March.	BR / County Reps
Sharing Good Practice	The group has involved County Reps very early on in the consultation process to include their knowledge of their counties which is invaluable.	
	A major plus side of doing this is that counties can now see what other counties run which may benefit them and can work together to share good practice.	
AOB	IH explained that in Gloucestershire they have had lots of junior umpires officiate at festivals and this has been co-ordinated for them so one less thing to worry about. He asked if this could be implemented at West level for counties. George will raise at the next Officiating Transition group.	George
	PW asked if anyone has any thoughts on Junior Rules in particular areas of U10/U12 GK being used, reverse stick at U8/U10 level, or guest players rules please could they email him by 9 March.	All
Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 14 April 2021		

Key Dates:

- o **8 March 2021 – Feedback on West Area Competition Proposal**
- o 9 March 2021 – West Adult Competition Meeting
- o **12 March 2021 – Club Junior Competition Survey circulated**
- o 16 March 2021 – England Hockey AGM
- o 17 March 2021 – West Officiating Meeting tbc

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- o 19 March 2021 – West Transition Group Meeting
- o **22 March 2021 – Interim report on Club survey responses to Counties**
- o 23 March 2021 – West Council Meeting
- o **31 March 2021 – Club Junior Competition Survey closes**
- o **14 April 2021 – West Junior Competition Meeting**