

GHA - Schools Competitions Report - September 2023

TOURNAMENT ENTRIES

Entry forms for this seasons competitions were sent out during the summer term of the last academic year. With a few last minute changes, the numbers are as follows:

	U18 Tier 3	U16 Tier 3	U14 Tier 2	U13 Tier 1	U13 Tier 2	U12	U11
Girls entries	6 (5)	10 (7)	13 (10)	2 (2)	12 (11)	10 (8)	5 (5)
Boys entries	2 (2)	1 (1)	4 (3)	3 (4)	6 (3)	7 (4)	4 (4)

Last years entry numbers in brackets

So entries seem to be back to pre-Covid levels which is great. Entry fees were raised to offset some of the increases in fixed costs and with the exception of the entry fees into the WHA tournaments, we are not-far from breaking even. I have done a pre-season letter to all schools updating them on changes that England Hockey have made for the coming season (including Schools Indoor competitions now becoming direct entry to the West), keeping it separate to tournament specific information in the hope it will not get lost in the start of term paper mountains!

SURVEY TO SCHOOLS

Along with the entry forms that I sent out in the summer, I included a feedback questionnaire to give schools an opportunity to say how they would like to be further supported by GHA. Sadly I have only had two replies.

ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT

As part of the entry form this year I included a section for schools to express an interest in entering an U14 7 a-side tournament (Tier 4). Tied into England Hockey's push to increase state school participation, WHA will be running this new tournament (for girls and boys in March 2024) but it will ONLY be open to state schools. Of the schools that have expressed an interest in Gloucestershire, the breakdown is as follows:

Boys - 5 teams including 3 state schools

Girls - 7 teams including 4 state schools

My plan is to speak to schools to see if they would like an additional competition and run one if feasible.

REPLACEMENT

Let me know if you hear or know of anyone that is interested in taking over this role - I would be happy to chat to any interested person.

Lisa Lundie
September 2023