

National Select Committee For Competition paper on new announcement ref girls playing both Youth BCL (JBL) and Junior BCL (national cadet league) and a copy of the email sent out for all to read.

As you will have seen in previous papers at the previous meetings

We have been campaigning for our women and girls to play against more Women and girls. Asking for the girls to be able to play in both Junior and cadet BCL (Known as national League) and the Youth BCL (Known as Junior British league)

It is pleasing that after 14 months of campaigning an announcement came out on Wednesday 25th June. However, what is not pleasing is that it has given no time for feedback as Youth BCL have to be registered by this Monday 30th June and in our opinion does not give what has been asked for. There has been no consultation for this despite your committee asking over a year ago to have something sorted. Giving ample time for a zoom discussion.

The email sent out

Email received 25th June 2025

Various solutions have been explored for BCL on how we can enable more playing opportunities for girls, particularly against other girls, and to help them develop and progress as players. A revised approach for 'playing down between YouthBCL and JuniorBCL has been agreed at Competition Committee for Season 25/26 with the aim of achieving increased playing opportunities for women and girls.

Consequently, girl's players in Junior BCL may continue to play-up to Youth BCL, and will become restricted to Youth BCL for the remainder of the season only at the point that they compete in 5x Youth BCL team matches (accumulatively for any club/team on any date in the season), rather than just once. Youth BCL players registered for Youth BCL teams will not be able to play down, as per the current approach. This will also apply to the boys to ensure we apply an equitable approach and enable these opportunities for the boys.

This will be a 1-year pilot for the 25/26 season and will be reviewed in Spring 2026 for the 26/27 Season.

A Girls' CadetBCL competition will also be piloted in Season 25/26.

See below a summary below of the points plus implications to the girls

- 1) If a girl player is registered 1st or at all for Youth BCL (JBL as we know it) they will not be able to play in any Junior or cadet BCL (national league as we know it) – absolutely against what was asked for.

Implications

Why would a girl register in the Youth BCL (JBL) as they cannot play in both competitions if they are registered for the higher one. and we know they want to play in both – what about the new girls cadet BCL (which is a girls national cadet league not a mixed cadet national league as current) the email indicates they can not play in that either if registered in the Youthbcl (JBL).

- 2) If a girl player does not register for the Youth BCL (JBL) the email only states that they can play in Junior BCL (national junior league) what about Cadet BCL (national cadet League)

Implications

Often the girls will play in both Junior and Cadet BCL (National leagues) so again a restriction to playing in the leagues.

- 3) A player Registered in the Junior BCL (national league) is able to play up but loses there ability to play in Junior BCL (national League) after playing in 5 team matches.

Implications

Youth BCL (JBL) is played on two weekend. So a player “playing up” could play in all 5 matches on the 1st weekend, the calendar states the Youth BCL (JBL) is on the 11th and 12th Oct with the first Junior British clubs (national League) weekend on the 18th and 19th Oct therefore they will not be able to play in the Junior BCL or Cadet BCL (national leagues) as shown by the dates on the calendar.

Also even if they do not play in 5 matches the first weekend the next set of Youth BCL (JBL) is on the 21st and 22nd Feb the weekend before the final Junior BCL (national League) so would have a major impact on playing in that final weekend of Junior BCL (national league) when the final league places are determined.

Again, it gives no mention to girls playing in cadet BCL (Cadet national League)

We believe this has not been thought through properly. It has not given the opportunity for the clubs registering the players to have a full discussion and have an influence on the decisions made. Also, clearly as a year’s trial it is not giving it a fair opportunity to succeed In fact the rule previously was you could play in cadet and Junior BCL (national league and then play in Youth BCL (JBL) but after one match was tied – that in my opinion has only moved to 5 matches and still stops registered Youth BCL players playing in Junior or cadet BCL (JBL) and is the only change which as stated is not what has been asked for with not reasons why or opportunity to challenge.

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National Council Select Committee on Competitions
25th June 2025