JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Annual Review 2023-24
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Club engagement in National Junior Competitions:
- 2019-20: 38
- 2020-21: 91
- 2021-22: 93

Junior Player Memberships:
- 2022-23: 281
- 2023-24: 405

Total number of team entries:
- U15: 448
- U16: 548
- U18: 548

VE website page satisfaction:
- Satisfaction (%)

Junior Competition Feedback Satisfaction Scores:
- Overall Satisfaction: 83%
- Fixture Competition Organisation: 86%
- The Venue: 81%
- The Venue Organisation: 85%

Last 8 Representation:
- London: 27%
- West Midlands: 18%
- Yorkshire: 14%
- North West: 13%
- South East: 12%
- North East: 12%
- Wales: 2%
- Others: 2%

Tier 1 Team Entry growth from 2022-23 to 2023-24:
- U15: 40%
- U16: 12%
- U18: 36%
- Overall: 29%
Junior Club Growth

- Since the 2019-20 season junior club participation has grown by 59%
- 14 new clubs joined the Junior Grand Prix Series 2023-24
- 1473 teams competed in 2023-24 an increase of 32%
Junior Player Membership

- Junior membership has grown from 2241 to 2889—an increase of 22%
- 1500 Male junior members
- 1389 Female junior members
- Over 200 of these were U14
Junior Teams

- Overall participation of 1473 teams, an increase of 472.
- Overall growth of 32%.
- New team average in both genders for Tier 1:
  - U18 = 10 | U16 = 4 | U15 = 8.
- Teams committed to all 4 GPs in Tier 1.
- Introduction of Tier 1 Gold, Silver and Bronze Cups.
- Tier 2 numbers dropped slightly.
Volleyball England website

- 70% average overall satisfaction.
- 36% very satisfied with the website content.
- Grand Prix Pools were good, but people would like the results updated on the day of competition.
- Hosting information needed to be published earlier to support organisation of teams and travel.
Junior Competition Feedback Form

• 341 people completed the form.
• Parents, Players and Coaches contributed to 333 responses.
• Highest contributor were the U18 Open competition.
• Overall satisfaction score was 8.27/10 up 0.26
• 59% were very satisfied
• Venues had some issues: travel, space & heating.

Junior Competition Feedback Satisfaction Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Satisfaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Satisfaction</td>
<td>83%</td>
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</table>
21 clubs were represented at the Last 8’s from 8 regions.

8 clubs were represented in the Semi Finals from 6 regions.

5 clubs in the Cup Finals from 5 regions.

9 of the 12 semi-finals went to 3 sets.
Tier 1 Growth

- Junior clubs progressed from Tier 2 to Tier 1.
- U15 increased from 17 (G) / 18 (B) teams to 24 & 25.
- U18 increased from 25 (G) & 34 (B) teams to 34 & 46.
- Increase at U15 will hopefully increase the U16’s in 2024-25.
- We had no fall away of teams during the season in Tier 1.
- U14 Tier 2 was started
- U15 Tier 2 slightly decreased in numbers.
1. Organisation and Management:
   - Many comments praised the event's organisation, noting that it was well-run, with matches starting and ending on time. The clear match programmes and efficient scheduling were highlighted as positive aspects.

2. Atmosphere and Enjoyment:
   - The friendly and welcoming atmosphere was frequently mentioned, creating a positive environment for both players and spectators. The fun and relaxed nature of the competition, along with the enthusiastic support from parents and coaches, added to the overall enjoyment of the season.
What Went Well in 2023-24

3. **Level of Competition:**
   - Participants appreciated the high standard of play and the opportunity to compete against teams of similar or higher skill levels. The competitive spirit and sportsmanship displayed during the matches were also noted as significant positives.

4. **Venue and Facilities:** Many of the venues received positive feedback for being easily accessible with good parking and plenty of space for spectators. The quality of the courts and the availability of food and drinks were also frequently mentioned as contributing to the experience for attendees.
What Went Well in 2023-24

5. Opportunities for Players:
   • The event provided valuable opportunities for players to improve their skills, play against new and challenging opponents, and experience a high level of competition. The chance for less experienced players to participate in such a well-organised national competition through the tier 2 setup was particularly appreciated.
Whilst many respondents said nothing could be improved about their experience, there were a few themes that stood out from the responses:

1. **Venue Selection:**
   - Consider venues with adequate space, seating for spectators, and amenities like water fountains and food options.
   - Ensure venues have suitable flooring to play on, avoiding issues like hard floors that are difficult to dive on or uncomfortable for players.
What could be improved in 2024-25

2. **Referee Quality:**
   - Ensure referees are experienced, qualified, and impartial to ensure fair gameplay.
   - Provide training or support for inexperienced referees.

3. **Communication and Organisation:**
   - Provide timely and clear communication about tournament details, including venue, schedule, and rules.
   - Improve the ease of access to information, such as game orders and results, through the VolleyZone platform or other means.
   - Encourage hosts to update information promptly and communicate any changes in advance.
What could be improved in 2024-25

4. **Fairness and Sportsmanship:**
   - Address issues of bias, such as teams refereeing their own games or using tactics to distract opponents, to ensure fair competition.
   - Promote sportsmanship among players, coaches, and spectators, discouraging behaviour like aggressive coaching or disrespectful conduct.

5. **Player Experience:**
   - Consider the well-being of players, including providing breaks during long days of competition and ensuring comfortable playing conditions.
   - Encourage inclusivity and fair play, such as ensuring all teams have a chance to compete regardless of skill level or geographic location.
The 2024-25 Objectives

- Introduction of the U18 Super Series
  - Bringing the Top 8 teams together in Kettering each round
  - Increasing balanced competition.
  - Introduction of Hudl and National Statistics for teams and players.
  - Increased presence on our social media platforms.
  - Promotion and relegation from Super Series to the Gold Cup.
  - First referees appointed to Super Series games.

- Continued increase in U16 & U15 Tier 1 teams.
  - Promoting the benefits of Tier 1 competition.
  - Development of the Gold, Silver and Bronze Cups.
The 2024-25 Objectives

• Working group to discuss U15 Tier 2 development
  • Create a working group to continue the development of the Tier 2 U15 opportunities.
  • Encourage regional competition for U15 4v4 across the country.

• Working group to discuss the Inter Regional Championships.
  • To create a clear objective and direction for the IR
  • Provide a fair opportunity and balanced competition for all regions.

• Development of the U14 Tier 2
  • To continue to promote the development of the U14 competition opportunities.