

Domestic competitions report

Latest positions, results and scheduled matches are all available on:

<https://scotwpl.leaguerepublic.com>

1. U16 mixed

Competition played in first half of the year. Equal goal difference between Dunfermline and Stirling requires a play-off match. Team managers and SWPC are looking for a date for the play-off.

Issue:

- a) There was an incorrect implementation of rules determining final positions at the end of the league. As a result of a review it was determined a play-off is required.

2. U19 girls

1st half of the year was played with sets of 5 short games. Second half of year is being played with longer games in home and away style like the U19 boys. Final matches scheduled for December.

Issues:

- a) A change in league coordinator in the second half of the year meant that the one weekend of matches did not get played because teams were not aware of the dates until a short while before. There is a vacancy for a coordinator for this league in 2019.

3. U19 Boys

Final matches scheduled within November. There are currently two matches un-scheduled. These will be abandoned if they remain un-scheduled and do not affect the result of the league.

Issues:

- a) Late notification of the teams entered and the dates available meant that only a few games were played in the first half-of the year. This has a knock-on effect in the second-half of the year because there of the greater demand for pool sessions. The late notification of sessions for NSA from July to December made this problem worse. We have just about caught up with the matches but it would be more efficient to play at least a few matches in January and February to ease the pressure later in the year. This requires advance notice of the available dates and agreement by the clubs, ideally within December 2018. This applies to all the junior leagues.

4. U15 boys and girls - development

These matches are being played in the second half of the year. The leagues are development leagues with the aim to run U16 girls and U16 boys leagues in 2019. The leagues are not run as home and away because they require too many pool sessions, so every team may not play every other team.

5. Women 17/18

This league was won by Edinburgh University.

6. Men 17/18

This league was won by Dunfermline. The final two matches were significantly delayed, initially because of the 'beast from the east'. The senior leagues are scheduled by the clubs during their own pool time however the league coordinator needs to check that the clubs have the matches scheduled within the time frame for the league to be completed.

General issues with Junior Leagues

Referees

The availability of referees continues to be a problem. The SWPC is looking for a technical officials coordinator to help the clubs with arranging referees for each match. A firm advance schedule of matches would help if it allows referees to plan ahead.

Match schedule

A firm advance schedule would help clubs, players and parents plan their attendance at games and help to alleviate the last minute scrambling for teams, officials and referees. This requires the dates for central pool sessions for each league to be available within December 2018. The coordinators for each league can then set up a schedule and agree it with the clubs. All the leagues can then start playing matches in January. An agreed schedule would also prevent re-scheduling of matches for anything other than unusual circumstances. Club secretaries and team managers need to be prepared to answer emails promptly or arrange a meeting/conference call to confirm the schedule once the dates are available.

Mike Forster

8th November 2018