

UKU National Championships

Update: August 2013

The goals of *UKU* National Championships are as follows:

1. Competition to crown the UK National Champions
2. Should be open and available to all, and only, UK clubs. "Open to all" should be achieved through a minimal number of qualification rounds - i.e. it is expected that there would be a National Finals with only a limited number of places available
3. Does not necessarily need to rank teams other than as required to decide the winners and any positions being used as qualification for later events (e.g. international events)
4. The *UKU*'s primary "showcase event" – we will aim to build a spectator base and spend more effort on publicising this event outside the ultimate community

In the Open division we have a Regional qualification round to support the "Open to all" criteria, and to promote local competitions. Details of this structure are provided later in this document.

The Women's division is not big enough to support a regional qualification round, and so for the time being invitation to Nationals is based on the Tour events held in the same year. Seedings are based on the same data.

In the Mixed division we are currently trialling the approach of hosting the division's national championships alongside the other divisions at *UKU* Nationals in August. Whilst this continues, we continue to take the approach of inviting teams based on the Tour events in the same year. Seedings are based on the same data.

In both Women's and Mixed divisions, *UKU* does not necessarily rely solely on the final Tour Rankings if some (strong) teams did not enter all three tour events.

In 2013 we will hold the first *UKU* Nationals in the Masters division.

Additional notes:

- The Women's and Mixed divisions do not fully meet criteria 2 above. It could be argued that both divisions are "open to all" as it is very rare that a team is turned away from a tour event in those divisions. Nonetheless, the use of tour event results to determine invitations means that this is not achieved by a minimal number of qualification rounds.
- It is not clear that UK has sufficient player base to run so many divisions at a single Nationals event; and this will be reviewed annually after the event.
- Nationals has been hosted at Wide Lane, Southampton for several years under a multi-year agreement. The current agreement runs until and including August 2014. No decision has been made on location or management of Nationals for 2015 and beyond.

Open Division

The Regions

The structure is based on 12 small regions although this does not mean we actually have 12 regional tournaments each year. The regions are as follows:

Home nations:

Scotland (Sc), Northern Ireland (NI), Wales (Wa)

England divided into nine further regions broadly in-line with the Regional Development Agencies, and a definition used by Sport England to group their County Sports Partnerships.

North-East England (NE)

North-West England (NW)

Yorkshire & Humberside (Y&H)

East of England (EE)

East Midlands (EM):

West Midlands (WM)

Greater London (GL):

South East (SE)

South West (SW)

See the map “National.pdf” on the website for details – the bold boundary lines mark the edges of our regions. If in doubt please contact us.

For the foreseeable future we will tend to combine some of these regions into a larger Regional Qualifiers. This will be done on an ad-hoc basis, to some extent driven by the number of people/clubs that want to run Regionals events, the number of teams in each region, and the number of bids (places at Nationals) being awarded to each region. But we are keen to make the tournaments available to players and teams that are not able, or do not want, to travel long distances – and that means small regions are attractive.

Regionals is intended to attract teams that do not expect to qualify for Nationals. There is a small risk that those teams might affect the qualification places at Nationals, but in practice this is relatively unlikely, and is also managed on an ad-hoc basis at individual regional qualifiers where known. We take this risk on the basis that the benefits of promoting local competitions exceed the risks of some teams not qualifying for nationals as a result.

The UKU Scheduling committee will be involved in the formats and schedules for each Regional Qualifier to ensure that the format follows an appropriate multiple-elimination approach for the positions around the qualification boundary.

The Bids

In this context we are using the word “bid” to mean a qualification place at Nationals.

Bids per region are calculated using Tour Rankings from the previous year, using the following formula.

Teams 1-12 (excluding non-UK or other non-club teams) score 1 point each.

Teams 13-16 score 0.5 points each.

Teams 17-19 score 0.333 points each.

Teams 20-24 score 0.2 points each.

The total of these points is 16: i.e. the total number of bids at Nationals.

The points for each club are then allocated to that club's region and then summed to get the total number of bids per region. This number is rounded to the nearest integer, unless unusual circumstances suggest a more subjective review and judgement might be warranted to better meet the goals of the competition.

These calculations for 2013 are shown in the Appendix.

Defining a Club's Region

Each club will be required to specify the region in which they are based. Clubs are expected to do this based on the home addresses of their players and/or their primary practice location. It is well understood that neither of these will work for all teams. In those cases the teams will be asked to apply to join the region they believe is most appropriate to them. Final decision will be with the Competitions Committee, and clubs should also note that they will not be able to change their region from year to year. Clubs will have the option of applying to the Competitions Committee to change region, but there will need to be a reasonable explanation, and the request may not be granted.

Exceptions

We want these tournaments to be accessible to all. It is inevitable when defining regional boundaries like this that some teams will find that their regional event is further away than the regional event in a neighbouring region. For this reason, teams that are not in the top ranked 24 teams (by previous and current year rankings) will be free to apply to attend their preferred event. The Competition Committee reserves the right to refuse this request to teams that appear strong enough to compete for a qualification place but do not have a ranking for some reason.

Seeding at Nationals

Seeding is based on the Tour Results of the current year combined with the results from Regionals. I.e. tour results earn a particular seeding position for a specific finishing position at each Regionals; and then the results of the Regionals determine which teams takes that seeding position.

The Competition Committee attempts to make small changes to seeding to minimize or avoid regional re-matches in Round 1 and to a lesser extent in Round 2; where we are confident that there is low impact to the competition and/or the teams involved.

Appendix

Open Division Regional Bids 2013

Team	Region	Regional	Points
1 Clapham Ultimate	GL	GL	1
2 Chevron Action Flash	NW	NW+NE+YH	1
3 Fire of London 1	GL	GL	1
4 Dog Eat Disc	SE	SE	1
5 Ranelagh 1			
6 Brighton 1	SE	SE	1
7 Cambridge Ultimate 1	EE	EE+EM+WM	1
8 Tooting Tigers	GL	GL	1
9 Ka-pow!	GL	GL	1
10 Fusion 1	Sc	Sc+NI	1
11 EMO 1	EM	EE+EM+WM	1
12 Devon 1	SW	SW+Wa	1
13 Wessex	SE	SE	1
14 LeedsLeedsLeeds	Y&H	NW+NE+YH	0.5
15 Fire of London 2	GL	GL	0.5
16 BAF	WM	EE+EM+WM	0.5
17 Jest Ridiculous 1	EM	EE+EM+WM	0.5
18 Cardiff Storm	Wa	SW+Wa	0.33
19 The Brown 1	NE	NW+NE+YH	0.33
20 Burro Electrico	GL	GL	0.33
21 Man Up	NW	NW+NE+YH	0.2
22 Gravity	Wa	SW+Wa	0.2
23 EMO 2	EM	EE+EM+WM	0.2
24 Lemmings 1	WM	EE+EM+WM	0.2
25 ABH	GL	GL	0.2
26 Fusion 2	Sc	Sc+NI	
27 Brighton 2	SE	SE	
28 Abstract 1	Sc	Sc+NI	
29 Vision	NW	NW+NE+YH	
30 Bristol Ultimate	SW	SW+Wa	
31 Ltd Release	SE	SE	
32 Yopen 1	Y&H	NW+NE+YH	

On summing the points per region this results in the following allocation:

GL = London = 5 bids

SE = South-East = 3 bids

NW+NE+YH = North = 2 bids

WM+EM+EE = Mids = 3 bids

SW+W = South-West & Wales = 2 bids

Sc+NI = Scotland & Northern Ireland = 1 bid

In 2013, this process saw one bid moved from North Regionals to Midland Regionals.

The total for SW&W was 1.53; and there was a case for moving one of those bids to Mids where the total was 3.4. However the decision was taken to leave the bid with SW&W.

Seeding 2013

This table shows the relevant tour rankings from 2013, alongside the results from the Regional Qualifiers.

Tour Ranking	Team	Regional Position	Nationals Seeding	Team
1	Clapham	GL1	1	Clapham
2	Chevron	N1	2	Manchester
3	EMO 1	M1	3	EMO 1
4	Brighton City	SE1	4	Brighton City
6	Ka-Pow!	GL2	5	Ka-Pow!
7	Fire 1	GL3	6	Fire 1
8	Fire 2	GL4	7	Flump
9	Devon 1	SW1	8	Devon 1
10	DED	SE2	9	Reading
11	Manchester	N2	10	Chevron
12	Glasgow	Sc1	11	Glasgow
14	BAF	M2	12	EMO 2
15	Cambridge	M3	13	Birmingham
17	Reading	SE3	14	Release
18	Tooting	GL5	15	Fire 2
24	Devon 2	SW2	16	Devon 2

Regional Re-matches

There are no regional re-matches in Round 1.

There are a number of potential regional re-matches in Round 2, but we are not satisfied that any of them can be resolved in a manner that meet the “low impact” criteria.

Note that a provisional draw was published on the Nationals website before the Regionals 2013 took place. That draw included some changes to reduce regional re-matches based on assumptions about results that turned out to wrong. For the final draw those changes were all reversed as they clearly did not meet the “low impact” criteria.

Open Division Regional Bids 2014

	Team	Region	Points
1	Clapham	GL	1
2	Chevron Action Flash	NW	1
3	EMO 1	EM	1
4	Brighton City	SE	1
5	Ranelagh		
6	Ka-pow!	GL	1
7	Fire of London 1	GL	1
8	Fire of London 2	GL	1
9	Devon 1	SW	1
10	DED	SE	1
11	Manchester Ultimate	NW	1
12	Glasgow Ultimate 1	Sc	1
13	LeedsLeedsLeeds	YH	1
14	BAF	WM	0.5
15	Cambridge Ultimate	EE	0.5
16	Jest Ridisculous 1	EM	0.5
17	Reading Ultimate	SE	0.5
18	Tooting Tigers	GL	0.33
19	Burro Electrico	GL	0.33
20	The Brown North	NE	0.33
21	Brighton Echo	SE	0.2
22	EMO 2	EM	0.2
23	Flump	GL	0.2
24	Devon 2	SW	0.2
25	Birmingham Ultimate 1	WM	0.2
26	Vision	NW	
27	ABH	GL	
28	Bristol Open	SW	
29	Saints (Brown Teeside)	NE	
30	Curve	GL	
31	St Albans 1	SE	
32	Cardiff Storm	Wa	

Comments:

- Final review and decisions on regional competitions and allocations will be made during the Winter when the committee has more time to review the details; it may also depend on bids we receive for Regionals 2014.
- Assuming North retains current configuration it will move back up to 3 bids.
- Cardiff only played two events and their average score was equal to that of Devon 2. There is a question to review about whether this should mean Wales receives the 0.2 points that are currently awarded in West Mids (Birmingham) in the table above.
- The SW&Wa regional was very poorly attended in 2013, and the question of whether these regions should be moved into bigger Regional events in 2014 needs to be reviewed.