

## SOUTH HOCKEY LEAGUE

To all teams/clubs

### **re : League Fixture Dates**

The League Committee has received some comments and suggestions relating to League playing dates. It would therefore seek to hear from clubs on this.

League dates are and have been for many years, fairly simple.

In general terms fixtures are played in two equal blocks in each half season with a four week Xmas/New Year break .

More specifically this means that they start on week 5 of the hockey season being the first Saturday in October, or in two out of seven years, the last Saturday in September.

The mid-season break encompasses the Xmas and New Year weekends and also weekends either side.

The second half ends around the end of March. Easter is a moving feast.

Both halves have a compulsory league spare league date following their last fixture.

The most common suggestion is that the season should start a week earlier.

In detail this would mean always starting in September and sometimes having two league fixtures in that month.

In one scenario the first half would have twelve fixtures with the normal Xmas break following and a second half of ten fixtures.

The league season would then end a week earlier, which occasionally could be mid March, potentially too early when Easter, as next season is on April 20th.

Another scenario could insert a free Saturday at school half term in either or both league fixture blocks which would essentially mean playing the league in four quarters and starting a week earlier and ending a week later.

There are of course other possible combinations of changes to dates and the league committee makes no specific recommendation.

The League is of course aware of the wide ranging EH governance review now in progress which intends to include such matters with a view to standardisation.

The committee would only ask that you advise your league secretary of any thoughts or recommendations which you might have which will then be discussed further.

The League Committee

September 2018