



The BBDFL overview 2016

The league started in 1996 and has seen huge growth in team numbers year on year.

Website [www.bbdfl.org](http://www.bbdfl.org)

The BBDFL is a registered charity No. 1165943 with its charitable aims to advance the physical education of young people by providing youth football opportunities for young players in the Bolton, Bury and District area.

The league currently provides football for U7s through to U21s and in May 2016 had 108 clubs making up 649 teams registered, with 8500 players, 1200 qualified coaches and 155 referees

The BBDFL attained charitable status in April 2016 and this will make up a fundamental part of our long term strategy to grow all forms of the game, maximise income and re-invest that income back into the infrastructure and the people.

Charitable status and an independent trustee system will also ensure the long term future of this organisation, long after the current committee members have moved on. This has always been a long term vision of the BBDFL's forward thinking committee and now this is coming to fruition.

In September 2015 the BBDFL offered U7s to U21s football with a traditional season running from Sept to May and throughout the winter programme futsal competitions for the youngest age groups. This was the first year that the BBDFL had offered the U21s age group and this is an area the committee is driving for the short to medium term.

The U7s and U8s play at central venues on 3G in a round robin style with 3 teams on one pitch rotating in small games in order to maximise a festival feel atmosphere and give short bursts of intensity to the young players in order to maximise their potential for learning.

We have a team pricing policy which is as follows:

5v5 - £55 (Teams pay £5 per week for a 20 week 3G programme if they elect central venues)

7v7 - £75

9v9 - £85

11v11 - £95

These are the only fees per team to enter our league

There are no other fees

The BBDFL does not charge for player registrations and does not impose a transfer fee

The BBDFL does not have a closing date that teams have to enter the league by will continue to allow teams to join the league throughout the season (The only stipulation being that the BBDFL is able to accommodate them under our current structures)

The BBDFL allows teams to sign players any time of the year as the league does not have a transfer deadline. The only stipulation as per FA Standard Code of Rules (SCOR) no signed player can play in a championship, relegation or cup game unless they have played 3 league games prior

The BBDFL has a strict no fines policy and is proud to have been able to run its business and continuing to flourish, whilst never issuing a single fine in its 20 year history

The BBDFL therefore has a slightly different discipline procedure than the majority of leagues in the country due to this no fines policy

As per SCOR any match based incident and that can include going to the game and coming away from the game, is reported to the FA and they deal. Once they have dealt with it we review it and see if we need to invoke the league discipline policy if FA rules allow.

All other matters (admin issues etc and those outlined as offences under SCOR) the BBDFL has a 3 stage policy

**Stage 1.** The team responsible will receive a warning letter via their club secretary outlining what has occurred and the fact that if it occurs again a 3 point deduction will be imposed (if a competitive team) or fixtures will be withheld for 1 week (if a non-competitive team)

**Stage 2.** 3 point deduction or fixture withheld and a warning letter via club secretary that if further breaches occur they will be brought before the committee to explain why these issues are occurring.

**Stage 3.** A discipline hearing is called and the individual or individuals and club secretary are requested to attend with one question put to them. Please explain what you are going to do to ensure that these breaches don't occur or

the BBDFL committee would have to consider calling an SGM and seek their expulsion from the league.

In 20 years the BBDFL has expelled 3 teams. 2 teams went to other leagues, which were arranged by the BBDFL committee, who contacted the other leagues and asked if they would take them as expulsion doesn't necessarily mean the players stop playing. One team appealed to the FA and were allowed back into the league as they won their appeal and the other two teams returned to the BBDFL after period away and they have all been exemplary since. All 3 teams therefore are now again members of the BBDFL.

Another example being when a club Chairman and Secretary were asked to attend a meeting with the committee due to numerous issues we had with their club under Stage 3 of our discipline system and during that meeting the club, which is a Charter Standard Community Club after instructions by the BBDFL committee, agreed to have the County Welfare officer in, together with an FA Mentor to provide education and advice.

The BBDFL saw a marked improvement in behaviour from this club, with no further reports of ill-discipline or minor offences and this had a positive knock on affect with their club members who then saw successes on the field and increased membership.

Clubs do tend to come to that meeting as arranged at stage 3, apologise and agree to a number of options. These can be adult in junior football workshops, Youth Appropriate Modules, parent courses, welfare officer inputs, FA Coach mentor visits and other measures, depending on the offences which have been committed.

This process is proven to work as the league continues to grow at a phenomenal rate, as last year alone the league started with 534 teams and ended with 649 teams. An astonishing extra 115 teams entering in 12 months

Whilst doing this the FA have reported we have had a massive 65% drop in discipline cases in the last 5 years even though we have added around 300 extra teams to the league in that time period.

Our bank balance is also booming and at the 2015 AGM we reported we had £76,000 in the bank and wanted to reinvest in initiatives so we offered free futsal and free U21s as they were our priorities, we put on YAM`s and CPD

events for free, referee courses and we bought £5000 worth of respect equipment which we circulated to the clubs.

We also bought 36 sets of samba goals which we own but loan out to clubs for the season so they don't have to keep buying goals as they move up the age groups and it helps to remove the burden of having to purchase different sizes of goals each year.

We also purchased a set of steel Mark Harrod Futsal goals which we own but leave at one of our sports venues for them to use during the week and we use them at weekends as part of our futsal development programme.

We have an asset register with goals and other equipment which we offer to clubs and sports venues as we seek to not only grow the game, but enhance the facilities and the environment for the game.

The BBDFL has a formal partnership with Bolton Wanderers FC which allows our cup finals to be held at the Macron Stadium and at the BWFC Academy.

Each of our age groups have 2 Cup Finals and as such 4 teams from those age groups have the opportunity to play at these wonderful venues.

As we seek to grow the pathway into the adult game we offer our U21s league winners an ultimate football experience at St Georges Park with A licence coaches putting them through their paces, the full tour of SGP and overnight stay at B & B rate 22 persons, whilst league entry for U21s is free of charge.

We spent £35,000 on various initiatives in the 2015/16 season

Despite this, at this year's AGM in May 2016, we reported we now had £92,000 in our bank account as our numbers and income continues to grow

For 2016/17 we are offering the SGP event again for this coming years U21s which will be year 2 of our 3 year project to embed an Under 21s league in this area.

U21s and girls football teams will be FREE to enter and we have ordered 2 quality match balls for every single team in the league which we will be distributing prior to the season start.

We are heavily subsidising coaching and referee courses and are offering 50% back on new referees on their referee course fees once they complete 10 games in the BBDFL

We are heavily subsidising futsal and are committed to launching a 96 team Sunday futsal league in October 2016

This league will be open to 12 teams ONLY in each of the age groups from U7s to U14s. 8 age groups with 12 teams in each age group, making a 96 team set up.

Teams who enter must be committed to futsal development and affiliate as futsal teams. Their coaches will be expected to attend futsal courses which we will subsidise and we will look to train futsal referees and purchase more goals and balls for each of our futsal venues.

After year 1 we will add U15s, then U16s and so on, and if venues permit, expand the number of teams from the initial 12 teams only entry criteria

If we do this correctly we believe we will then have a solid futsal foundation moving forward which is not something that is just put on, but will be a separate futsal league for futsal enthusiasts with its own affiliation under the umbrella of the BBDFL charity.

We have ordered 5 more sets of futsal goals which will be deposited at sports venues in the region and used to grow the futsal league programme.

The girls programme is offered free of charge as we look to grow a dedicated girls structure to aid the development of the girls game in this region.

The BBDFL has met with officials of AFC Masters Football Club which is a disability football provider for over 100 members as we seek to support ability counts provision in this area.

We have also opened a suggestion book to our members to ask them what they would like us to invest in!

This is all funded by team entry fees, some sponsorship and funding for various things that we may apply for and receive from the FA and other parties

No fines are the bedrock of this solid foundation as it brings a togetherness and a support structure which makes every member feel part of.

Please find attached

1. Charitable Trust Development Plan
2. League Development Plan 2016 – 2018

Endorsed on behalf of the BBDFL committee

Warren Barlow  
Chairman

Gary Russell  
General Secretary