

Sport Unlimited Case Study

League of Dodgeball

A schools dodgeball league has been organised during the autumn term of Sport Unlimited across the whole of the West Berkshire School Sport Partnership (SSP). The league involved all secondary schools and was targeted towards school years 8 and 9. The dodgeball league runs weekly and sessions begin with a warm up and practice game before the start of league games.

How does the league work?

Dodgeball is delivered at a different school each week and takes place after school time. This gives all competing teams enough time to travel to the school where the league is held. Dodgeball has been attended by an equal mix of both semi sporty male and female participants. Many of the young people involved had participated in this activity within school time. This meant that all teams knew how to play the game and were even able to practice for matches during school lunch hours.

Organising the league

The dodgeball league games are delivered by School Sport Co-ordinators (SSCO) with one key SSCO responsible for administrating the league. All schools within the West Berkshire SSP area were strongly encouraged by their Partnership Development Manager (PDM) to enter at least one team, which every school did.

Consulting with Young People

PDM's consulted with schools to find out what activities they felt would suit semi sporty young people. Young people indicated an interest in dodgeball because of the fun social aspect of the game, and the fact that the semi sporty do not see the game as a 'scary' traditional sport. Consultation has also shown that being part of a team and the creation of team spirit amongst the semi sporty participants has contributed to the success of the league.

League Success

The league has proved successful in many different respects. Chris Dickinson, Sport Unlimited Officer for Berkshire Sport said: "The response was fantastic. The young people loved every aspect of the league, right from choosing a team name which they had printed on shirts. The young people loved the fun competitive atmosphere."

Future Plans

The dodgeball league is set to continue throughout the year. Other year groups are keen to be involved in future leagues and have requested that their school cater for older age groups.

Costs

The league has also proved extremely cheap to deliver. Facility use was free within the schools and dodgeball equipment has been funded through Sport Unlimited. Ongoing costs are now minimal with new shirts being the only priority to encourage team unity.



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