

SEMLA League Restructure Proposal

As actioned by the SEMLA committee, we have discussed a number of options and have taken feedback from Brucie, Chris White, Paddy Atkinson and Nik Roberts to format a league that benefits as many teams involved. Thanks to everyone involved and likewise the active input from those on facebook to help us form a finished product to propose.

Why is a restructure needed?

- Within the lower divisions, teams are struggling to fulfil all of their fixtures
- In the higher divisions (Prem, East1, West1) there is a lack of consistency between level of play
- Both Intermediate and Minor Flags finals were very one sided, alike to a significant number of fixtures in the earlier stages. This shows there is a significant gap between the East and West divisions

What is the aim of this proposal?

- To make league sizes smaller in the lower division to make it easier for teams to fulfil all fixtures
- Make the southern premierships include the highest standard of play possible, to close the gap between NEMLA and SEMLA premierships
- In summary- to ensure as many teams and players receive as many high level competitive matches as possible, within a league that can sustain the vast majority of its fixtures
- Better integrate the West & East to close the gap between standard

Summary of Changes

- 1) Condense the Premiership to include the top 7 teams. This reduction in the league size will allow all teams to play each other 3 times with a total of 18 games (equal to current league size 10 playing each other twice) this will enable more teams to play competitive matches
- 2) De-regionalisation of the tier 2 divisions into a 'Championship' division of 9 teams. This should have a similar effect to the premierships change, creating a highly competitive secondary division.
- 3) Making up a total of 16 teams, Premiership and 'Championship' teams will be competing in senior Flags. All teams that win will continue onto the Senior Flags, all teams that lose will compete in the intermediate flags with a quarter final, semi and final
- 4) Slight reduction in league sizes of Tier 3 leagues to help reduce games conceded
- 5) Minor Flags to be de-regionalised earlier to ensure the standard of competition is at its best.

		Senior Flags			
South Premiership		R o 16	Q	Semi	Final
1	A	A vs P			
2	B	B vs O			
3	C	C vs N			
4	D	D vs M			
5	E	E vs L			
6	F	K vs F			
7	G	G vs J			
	18 league fixtures per team	H vs I			

Please note that A,C,E,G etc. will sit on the opposite side of the league to B, D, F, H etc.

1 up 1 down with playoff

South Championship		Intermediate Flags (Losers from 1 st round of Senior Flags)		
		Q	Semi	Final
1	H			
2	I			
3	J			
4	K			
5	L			
6	M			
7	N			
8	O			
9	P			
	16 League fixtures per team			

Promotion/Relegation: 3-way playoff to all parties involved over either 1 day of 40 minute matches or 3 weeks of separate matches depending on how long the season draws out and team preference

West Div 2	East Div 2
A	B
C	D
E	F
G	H
I	J
K	L
12 fixtures	M

	12 Fixtures
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Promotion/Relegation: 1 up 1 down (no playoff?)

West Div 3	East Div 3
N	O
P	Q
R	S
T	U
V	W
X	12 fixtures per team
10 fixtures per team	

East Div 4
Y
Z
1
2
3
8/12 fixtures?

So teams are appointed fairly to leagues...

3 considerations will be taken for the league teams will be placed in-

- 1) Performance in the league- the 8th, 9th and 10th placed teams in Southern Premiership will be automatically relegated into the Championship. League performance of teams in East 1 and West 1 will provide an initial representation of league structure. If the winner of East 1 or West 1 are their clubs first team, they are eligible to enter a playoff against the 7th place Premiership team.
- 2) Cup performance- We propose that all teams from East 1, West 1 and Premiership compete initially for Senior Flags, all that lose in the 1st round get entered into intermediate flags. This will give a good comparison of level of play across the south of England as well as teams commitments to travelling to away matches.
- 3) Ability to fulfil consistent fixtures- teams that concede matches in the next season will be taken under consideration to the league they'll be placed in.

Senior & Intermediate Flags 2018/19

This is of the premise that all 26 teams involved are ranked in order, the top 6 get a BYE and are spread evenly across the championship structure to keep the standard of play as consistently high as possible as the rounds continue:

Round of 32				Round of 16				Quarter Final	Semi	Final
1	Hampstead	vs	BYE	A	1	vs	2	1 A vs B	1vs2	
2	East Grinstead	vs	Southampton	B	3	vs	4	2 C vs D	3vs4	
3	Bristol Bombers	vs	Cheltenham	C	5	vs	6	3 E vs F		
4	Cambridge	vs	Spencer 3s	D	7	vs	8	4 G vs H		
5	Reading	vs	BYE	E	9	vs	10			
6	Hillcroft A	vs	Birmingham	F	11	vs	12			
7	Spencer 2		2	G	13	vs	14			
8	Blues	vs	BYE	H	15	vs	16			
9	Spencer	vs	BYE							
10	Bath	vs	Oxford Uni							
11	Welwyn	vs	Purley							
12	Hitchin	vs	Bucks							
13	Cardiff	vs	BYE							
14	Bath 2	vs	Hillcroft B							
15	Plymouth	vs	Maidstone							
16	Hillcroft	vs	BYE							

Things to consider:

- 1) Do we allow 3rd teams into the 'Championship' division?
- 2) Keeping an odd number of teams to a league means 1 team is sitting out this week. This could be easily amended by making the premierships a 6 team and the championship a 10 team, though it would be good to give more teams the opportunity to play at the highest level and continue 18 fixtures for each team in the Premiership. Perhaps the 7th placed team could choose which division they'd like to be in?
- 3) Do we accelerate the process on demand and implement for 2018/19 season or do we delay until 2019/20 season?
- 4) Do we nationalise the Minor flags in earlier stages? It would make the latter stages of competition a higher standard but can risk more teams conceding games due to travel.

We propose the following to be voted on by the committee:

- 1) The ideas presented to be actioned ready to be implemented
- 2) Whether this is implemented for September 2018, or September 2019