



**SURREY
CRICKET
FOUNDATION**



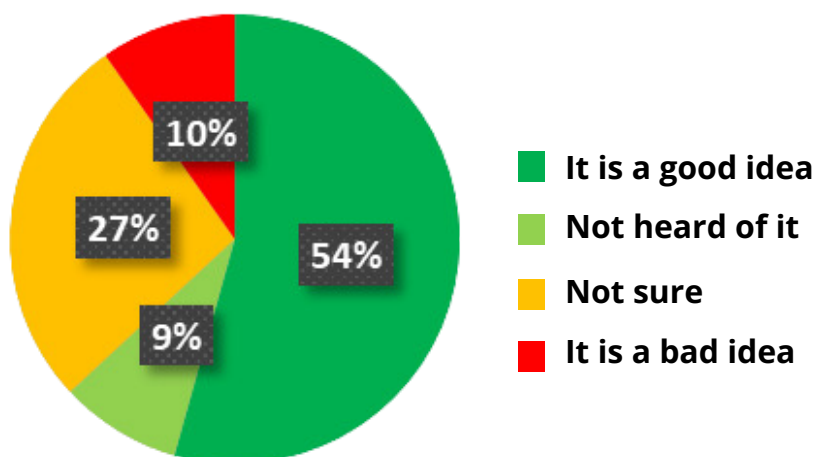
Senior Leagues Merger - Survey Update

Following the consultation at the end of 2023 it became clear that further player feedback would be important as part of the project to work towards a new merged senior league. The aim of the survey was to get a view from players on their feelings on whether the merger is a good idea as well as also testing the proposed playing conditions at each tier. The survey was designed in such a way that players were asked to provide feedback on the Tier their current team would be playing in based on the proposed divisional structure. For example, a player playing in a current Surrey Championship Division 2 team would be placed in Tier 2 when it came to the questions about playing formats. An updated prospectus, providing detailed updates on the project accompanied the survey link.

The survey was open to players playing in the Surrey Championship, Surrey County League and Surrey Cricket League as these are the leagues that are coming together to create the merged league. It was felt that teams from other leagues would be entering the new structure based on the offer provided for the 2025 season and therefore need not be surveyed. The survey was promoted and publicised in a number of ways – direct emails to key club decision makers, those players who had completed previous player surveys, promotion on social media and via the leagues directly to their relevant club contacts. The Surrey Cricket Foundation Cricket Participation Officer Team also followed up directly with specific clubs where response levels were lower than expected. In all 1669 players responded to the survey.

Merger of the Leagues

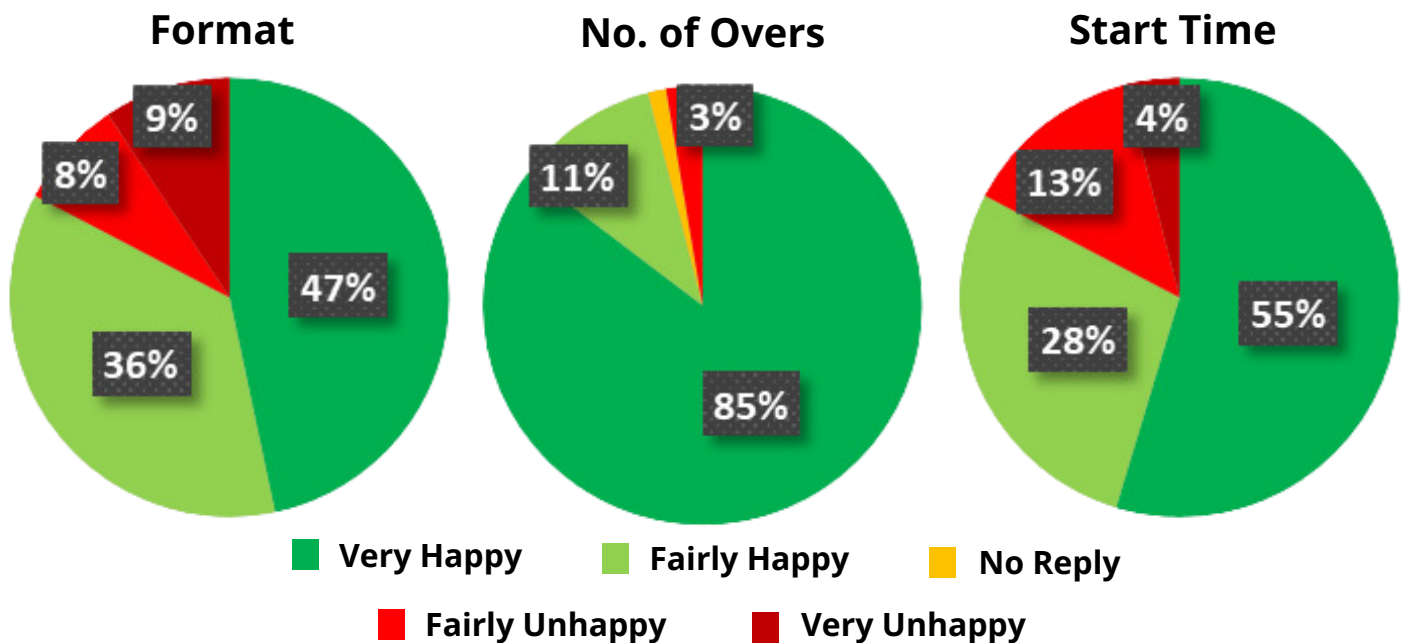
This question was asked in order to check how the players felt about the prospect of the league merger taking place.



The insight shows that 54% of players are in favour of the merger. Importantly, only 10% felt it was a bad idea. The steering group believe this provides a mandate to proceed with the project to merge the leagues as planned.

The following graphs show the views of players playing at each of the different Tiers as they would be in the new structure, with questions asked about playing format, game length and start times.

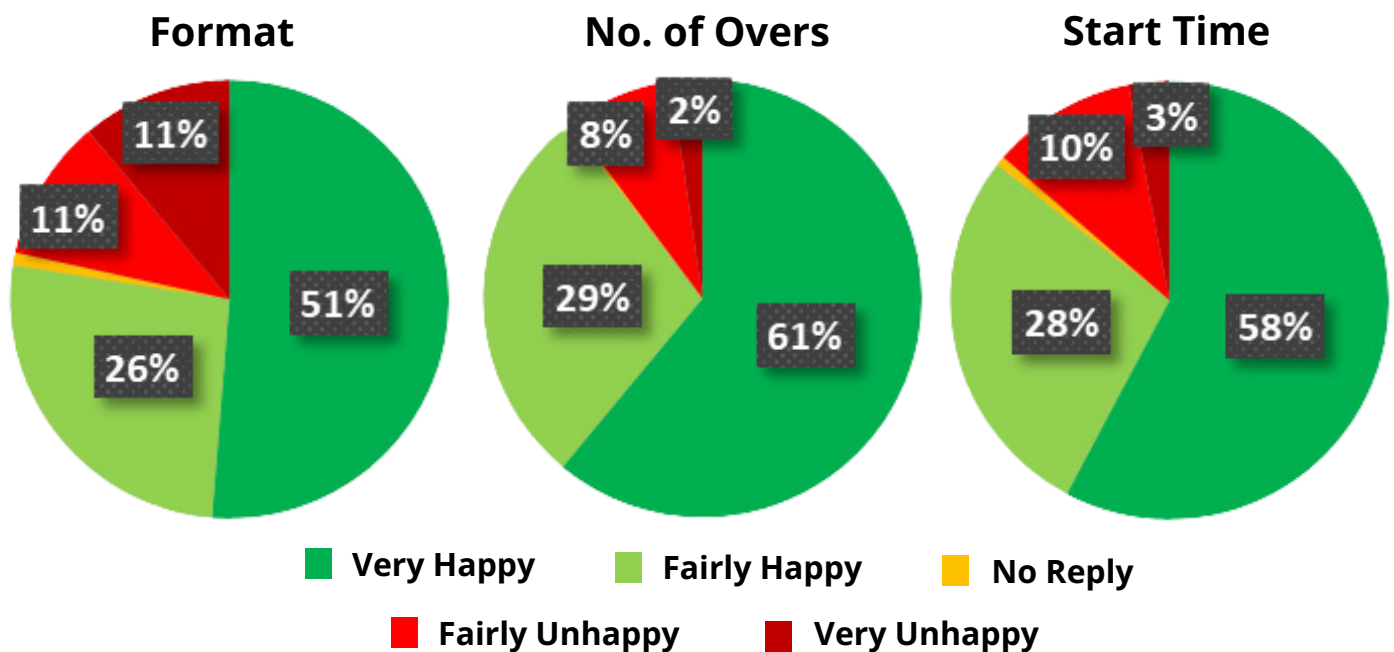
Tier 1 - split season of 120 overs or 50 overs per team; 12pm start



The insight shows strong support for the proposed playing conditions with 83% of players fairly or very happy regarding the proposed split season format, 96% fairly or very happy with the number of overs (120 overs in declaration matches, 100 overs in limited over matches) and 83% fairly or very happy with start times (11.30am for declaration matches, 12noon for limited overs matches).

This insight suggests that the proposed playing conditions for Tier 1 meet the needs of the players.

Tier 2 - 50 overs per team, 12pm start

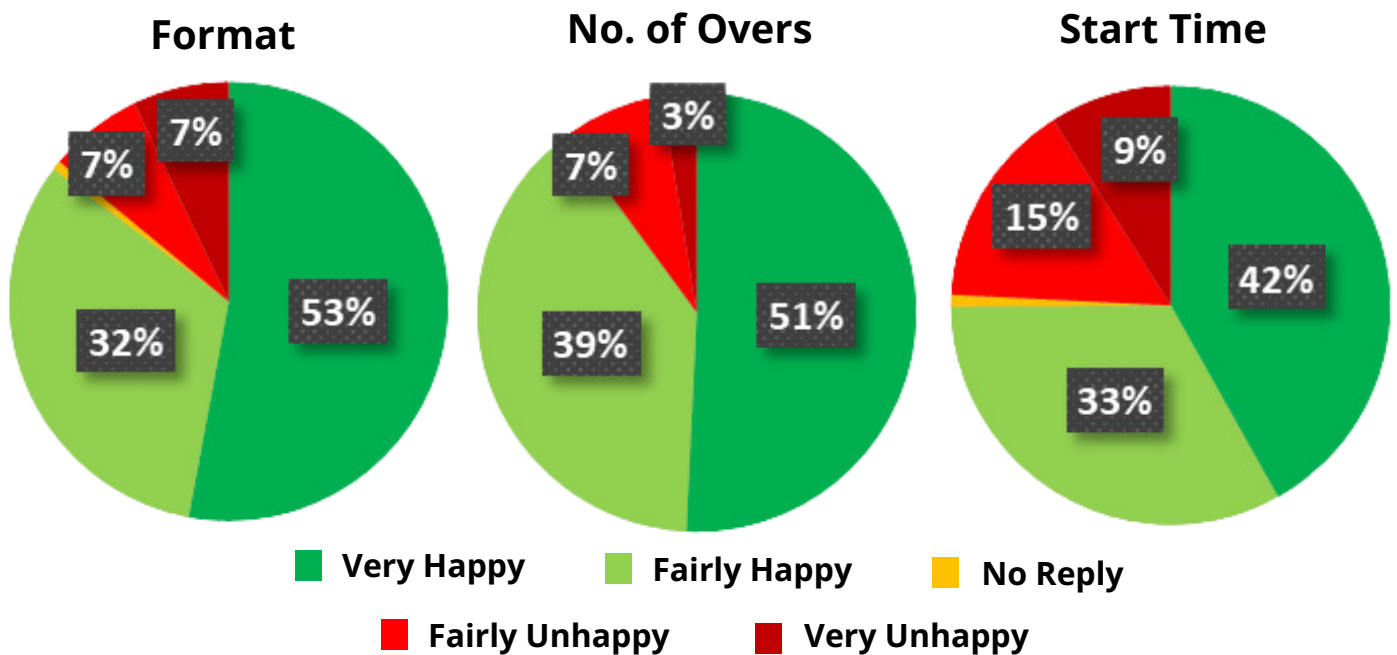


The insight again shows strong support for the proposed playing conditions with 77% fairly or very happy with the proposed limited over format throughout the season, 90% fairly or very happy with the number of overs (100 overs) and 86% of players fairly or very happy with the start time of 12noon.

Where players stated they were fairly or very unhappy with the proposed playing conditions they were able to provide additional feedback within the survey and some comments referred to a desire to maintain a split season at this tier, given this format currently exists within certain levels of the current leagues. There is a clear majority of players that are happy to play limited overs cricket which is how the playing conditions will be proposed for the new league, but clubs will be able to propose amendments to be discussed and voted on at the inaugural AGM of the new competition.

This insight suggests that the proposed playing conditions for Tier 2 meet the needs of the players.

Tier 3 - 45 overs per team, 1pm start (but may be moved forward to 12pm)

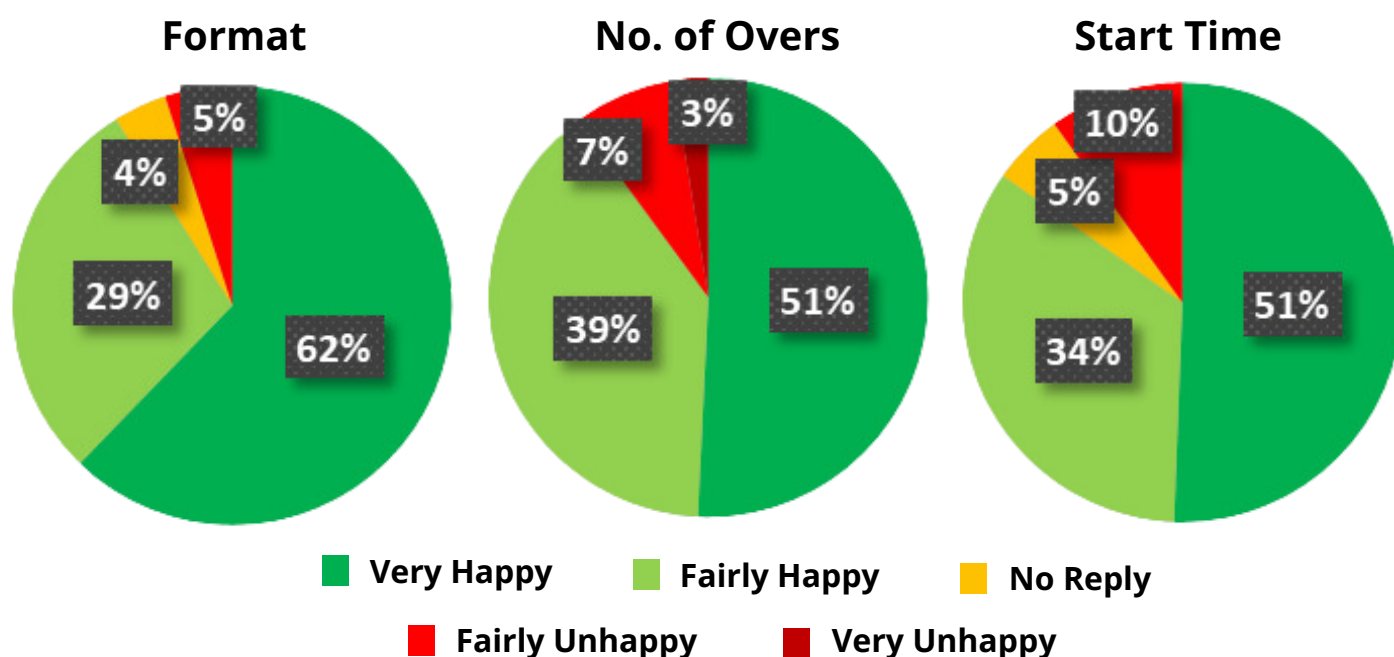


The insight shows strong support for the proposed playing conditions with 85% fairly or very happy with the proposed limited over format throughout the season, 90% fairly or very happy with the number of overs (90 overs) and 75% of players fairly or very happy with the start time of 1pm.

Around 25% of the responses at this level were fairly or very unhappy with the proposed start times, with the comments received suggesting an earlier start time would be preferred at this Tier. However, there is a clear majority of players that are happy to start at 1pm at this level which means the 1pm start time (with flexibility included to move the start time if agreed by both sides) being proposed. Once again, clubs will be able to propose amendments to be discussed and voted on at the inaugural AGM.

This insight suggests that the proposed playing conditions for Tier 3 meet the needs of the players.

Tier 4 - 40 overs per team, 1pm start (but may be moved forward to 12pm)



The insight shows strong support for the proposed playing conditions with 91% fairly or very happy with the proposed limited over format throughout the season, 90% fairly or very happy with the number of overs (80 overs) and 85% of players fairly or very happy with the start time of 1pm.

This insight suggests that the proposed playing conditions for Tier 4 meet the needs of the players.

Next Steps

SCF will be sending the survey details for each club to their chair and league representative. Please speak to your representatives if you are interested in reviewing the survey information for your club.

In the background, the Senior Leagues Merger Steering Group are moving forward with preparation for next season. A ball tender document has been issued to the suppliers of the existing league and other major manufacturers, while a draft constitution and other governance documents for the next league are being worked on.

If you have any comments regarding the merger, please talk to your club representatives or write to shards@surreycricket.com.