



**DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF THE 2020/21 NLS SEASON  
AT STEPS 3 TO 6  
CLUB SURVEY RESULTS**

# INTRODUCTION



On Friday 15 January 2021, at the request of The FA's Alliance and Leagues Committees, a survey was circulated to all Clubs at Steps 3 to 6 of the National League System (NLS), which asked Clubs how they wish to proceed with the 2020/21 season. The options set out in the survey followed discussions by both Committees about what were the most feasible options available to determine the season given the difficult circumstances that Clubs found themselves in following the national lockdown announced on 4 January 2021.

This paper sets out the results of the survey in two sections - Steps 3 & 4 and Steps 5 & 6.

The Committees were pleased that 224 out of the 226 Clubs at Steps 3 & 4 and 621 out of the 648 Clubs at Steps 5 & 6 completed this survey and would like to once again thank the clubs for submitting their views and the time taken in providing responses during what we appreciate is an incredibly challenging period for everyone.

Whilst a number of different views were provided by clubs, ultimately, the results of the survey showed that 76 percent of all clubs across Steps 3-6 indicated a preference to curtail the current season if could not be restarted before 1 April 2021 with limited spectators and hospitality.

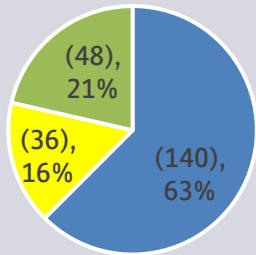


## **STEP 3 & 4 RESULTS**

# Q7. Does your Club hold an immediate view as to what should happen to the 2020/21 season?

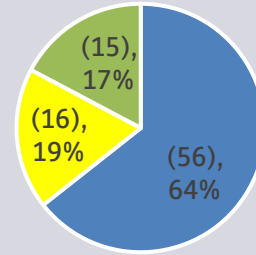


## OVERALL [Total: 224]



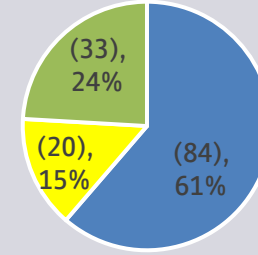
■ Null & Void ■ Aug restart ■ Other

## STEP 3 [87]



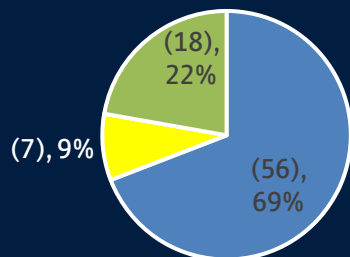
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## STEP 4 [137]



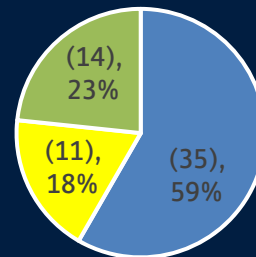
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## ISTHMIAN LEAGUE [81]



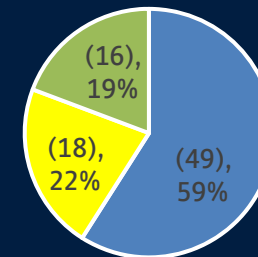
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## NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE [60]



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## SOUTHERN LEAGUE [83]

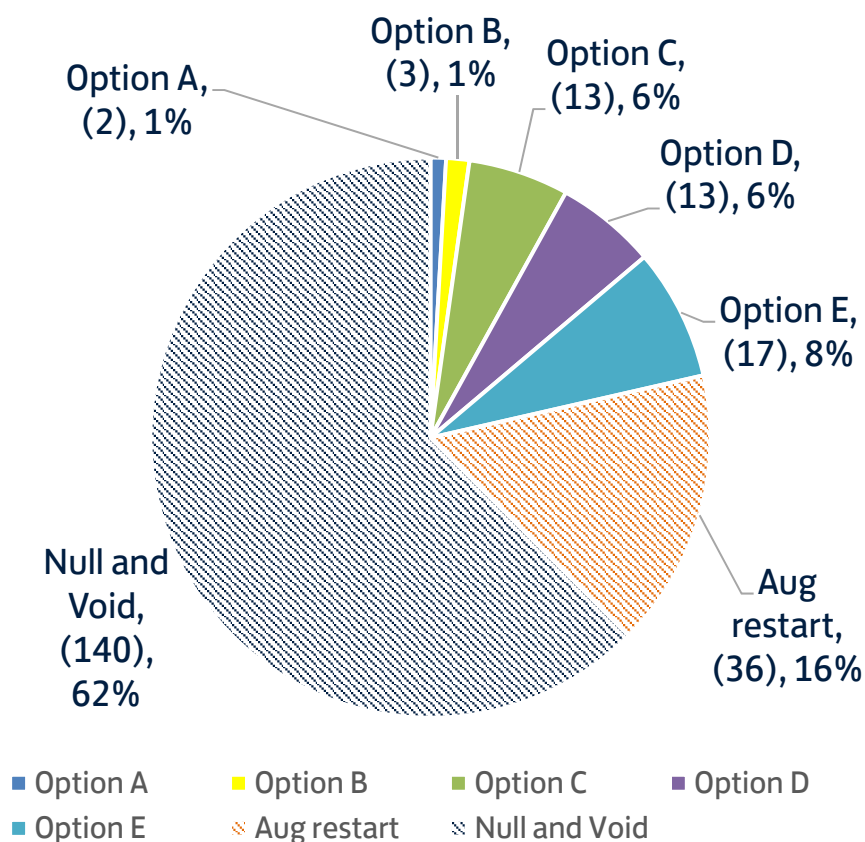


■ Null & Void ■ Aug restart ■ Other

Q8. If **all** Step 3 & 4 Clubs are able to resume competitive fixtures by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, would your Club wish to...



Out of 48 responses (Option, Clubs, %)



Option A:

Complete the season as normal, extending to 31st May 2021; ending with play-offs, promotion & relegation.

Option B:

Complete the season as normal, extending to 31st May 2021; ending with promotion & relegation but promoting the top 2 Clubs instead of Champion Club and play-off winner.

Option C:

Complete as much of the season as possible, with season to end by no later than 31st May 2021; ending with play-offs, promotion & relegation if PPG threshold is met (see Question 11 below).

Option D:

Complete as much of the season as possible, with season to end by no later than 31st May 2021; ending with promotion & relegation if PPG threshold is met; but promoting the top 2 Clubs instead of Champion Club and play-off winner.

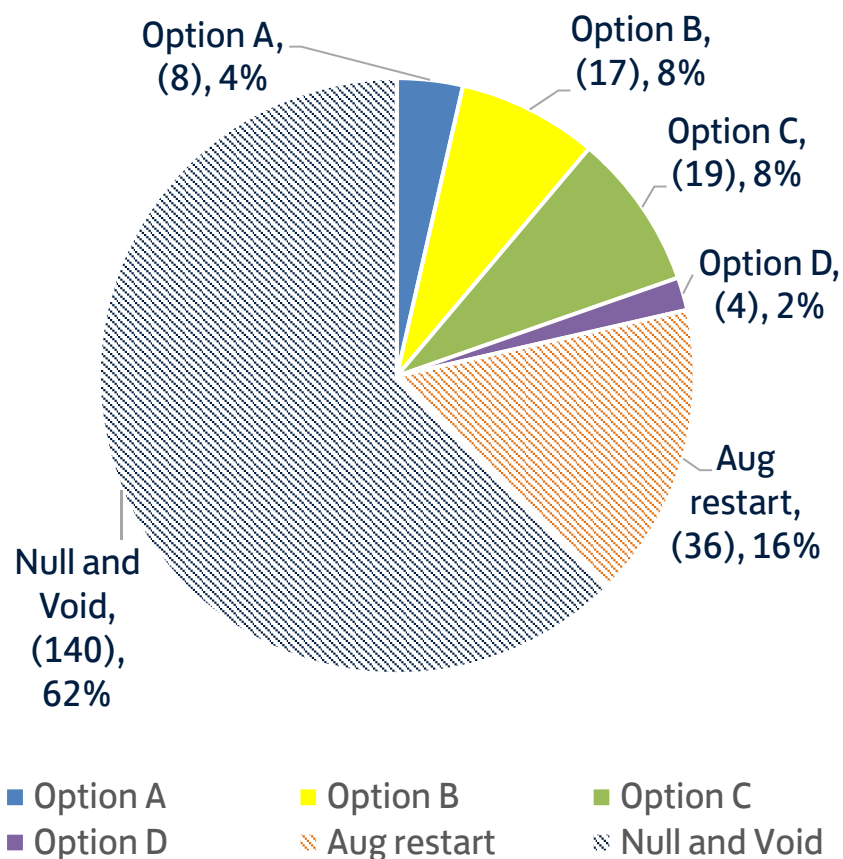
Option E:

Adopt alternate competition format & achieve promotion/relegation.

Q9. If **all** Step 3 & 4 Clubs are able to resume competitive fixtures between 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, would your Club wish to...



Out of 48 responses (Option, Clubs, %)



Option A:

Terminate the season when it becomes clear that clubs will not be able to resume competitive fixtures before 2nd March 2021.

Option B:

Complete as much of the season as possible, with season to end by no later than 31st May 2021; ending with play-offs, promotion & relegation if PPG threshold is met.

Option C:

Complete as much of the season as possible, with season to end by no later than 31st May 2021; ending with promotion & relegation if PPG threshold is met; but promoting the top 2 clubs instead of Champion Club and play-off winner.

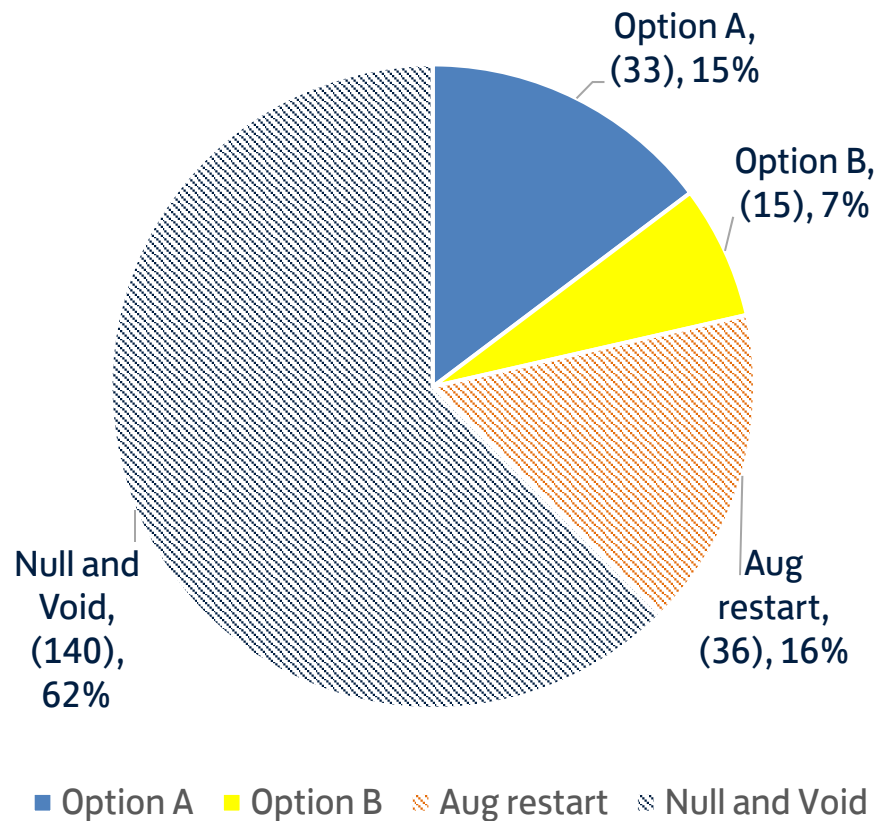
Option D:

Complete the season, however long it takes, delaying the start of the 2021/22 season.

Q10. If **all** Step 3 & 4 Clubs are able to resume competitive fixtures after the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, would your Club wish to...



Out of 48 responses (Option, Clubs, %)



Option A:

Terminate the season when it becomes clear that clubs will not be able to resume competitive fixtures before 1st April 2021.

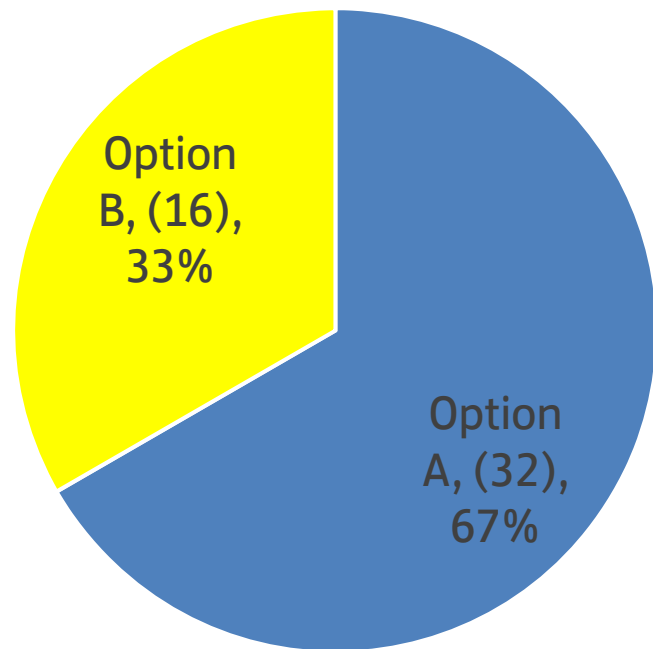
Option B:

Complete the season, however long it takes, delaying the start of the 2021/22 season.

Q11. What minimum threshold of completed fixtures would need to be reached to trigger the application of the PPG formula?



Out of 48 responses (Option, Clubs, %)



■ Option A

■ Option B

Option A:

An average of **66%** of matches would have to be completed across a given Step level (with both Step levels needing to achieve this threshold) for promotion and relegation to take place.

Option B:

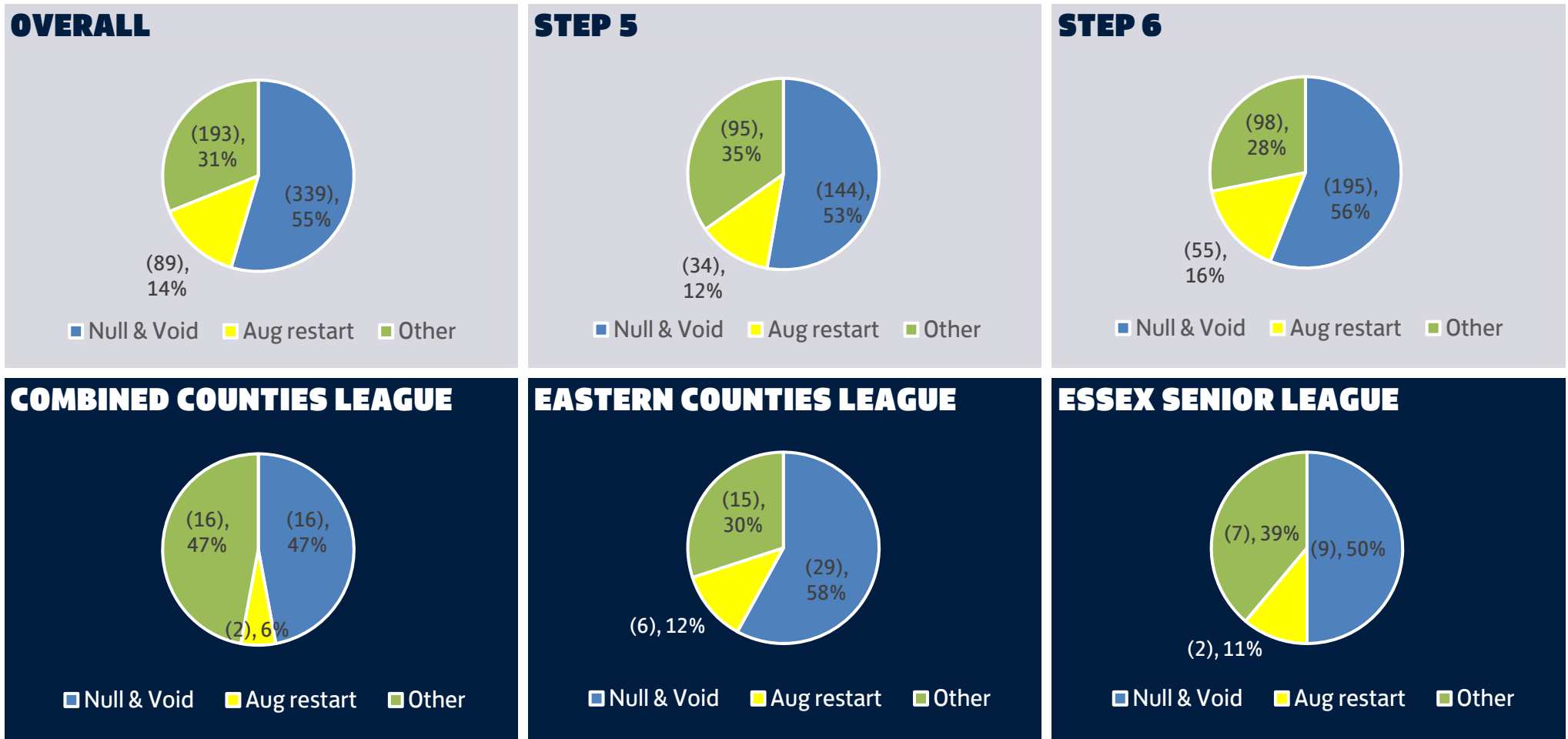
An average of **75%** of matches would have to be completed across a given Step level (with both Step levels needing to achieve this threshold) for promotion and relegation to take place.



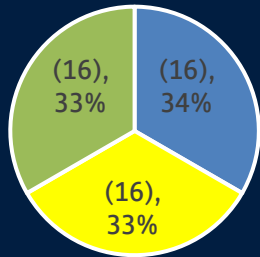


## **STEP 5 & 6 RESULTS**

# Q7. Does your Club hold an immediate view as to what should happen to the 2020/21 season?

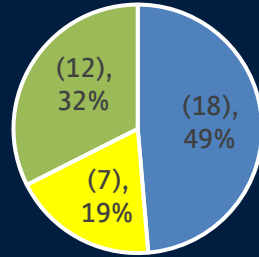


### HELLENIC LEAGUE



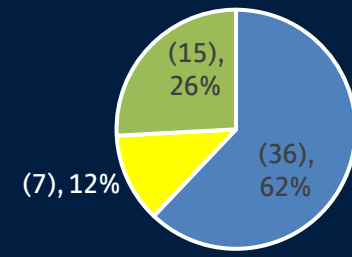
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### MIDLAND LEAGUE



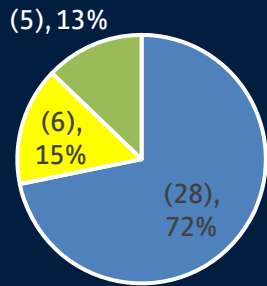
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE



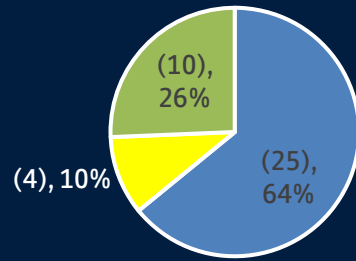
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### NORTHERN LEAGUE



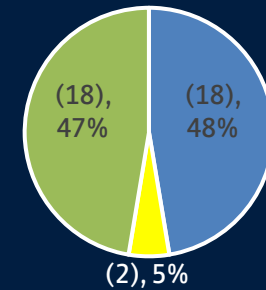
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### NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE



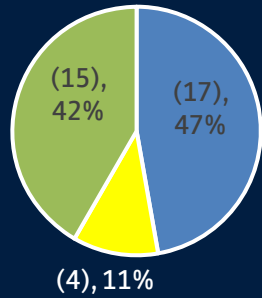
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### SOUTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE



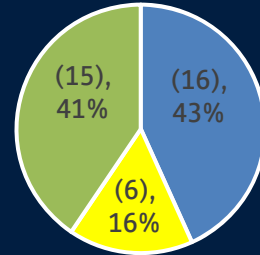
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### SOUTHERN COMBINATION



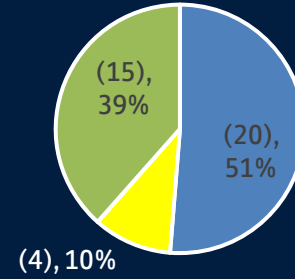
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE



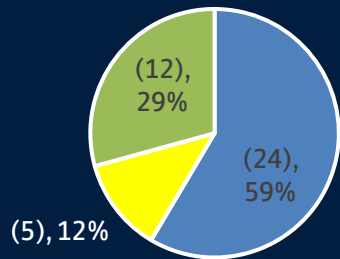
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE



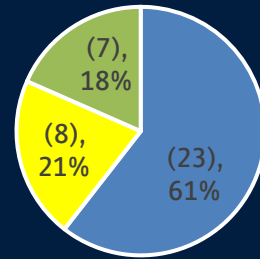
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### WESSEX LEAGUE



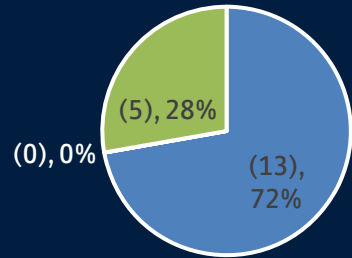
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### WESTERN LEAGUE



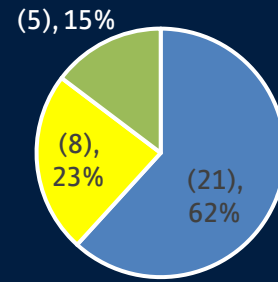
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### EAST MIDLANDS COUNTIES LEAGUE



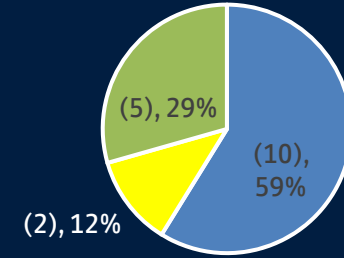
Null & Void Aug restart Other

### SOUTH WEST PENINSULA LEAGUE



Null & Void Aug restart Other

### WEST MIDLANDS (REGIONAL) LEAGUE

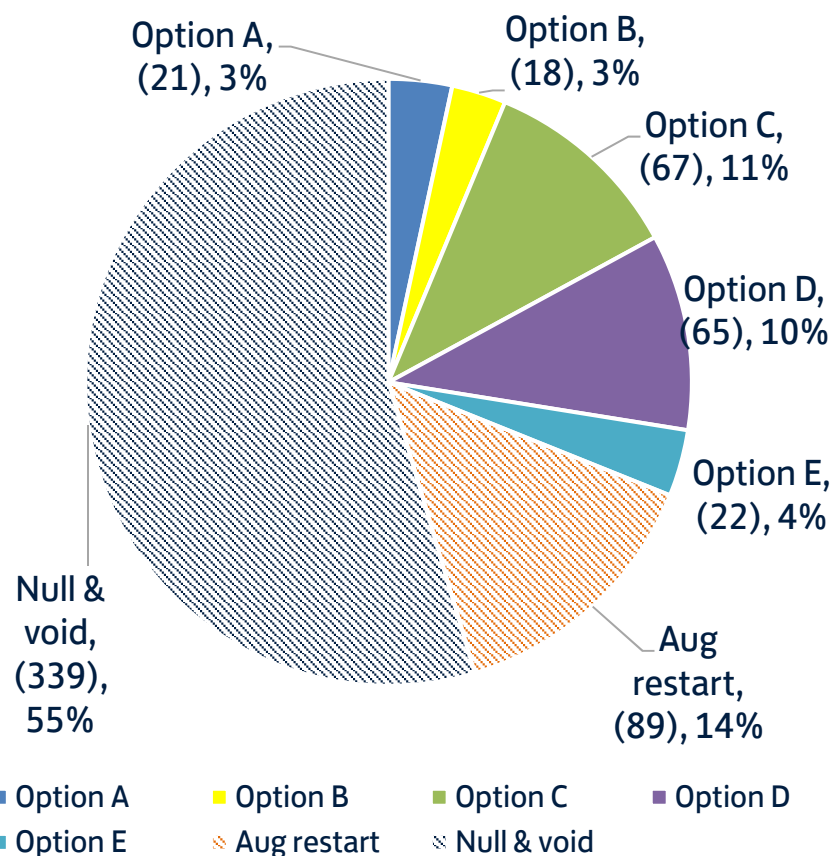


Null & Void Aug restart Other

Q8. If **all** Step 5 & 6 Clubs are able to resume competitive fixtures by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, would your Club wish to...



Out of 193 responses (Option, Clubs, %)



Option A:

Complete the season as normal, extending to 31st May 2021; ending with play-offs, promotion & relegation.

Option B:

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Option C:

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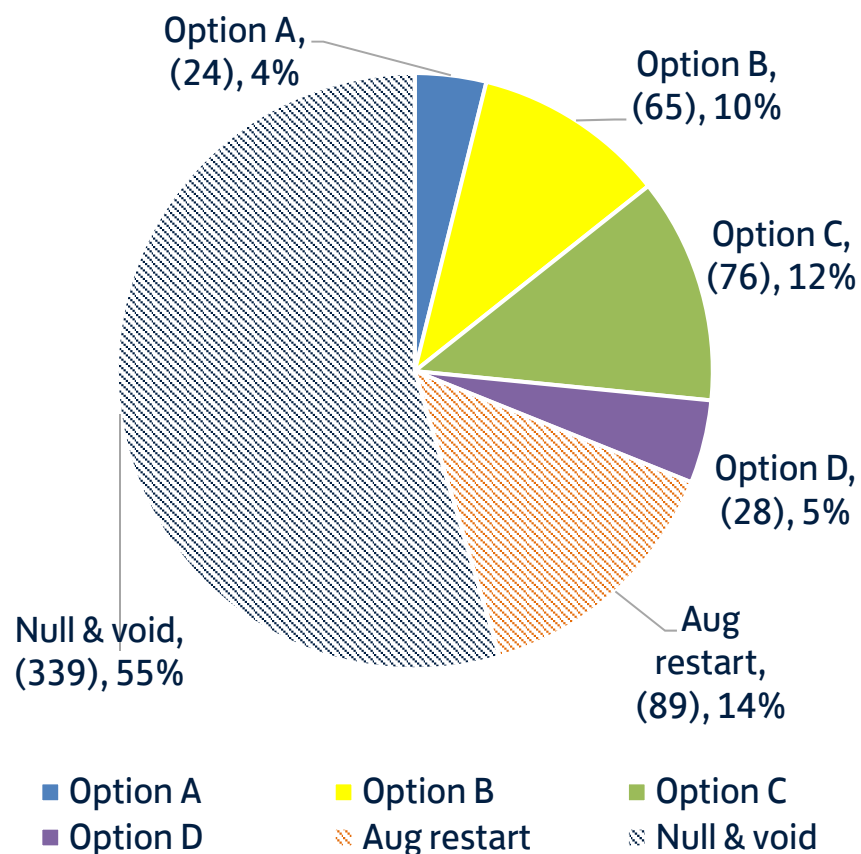
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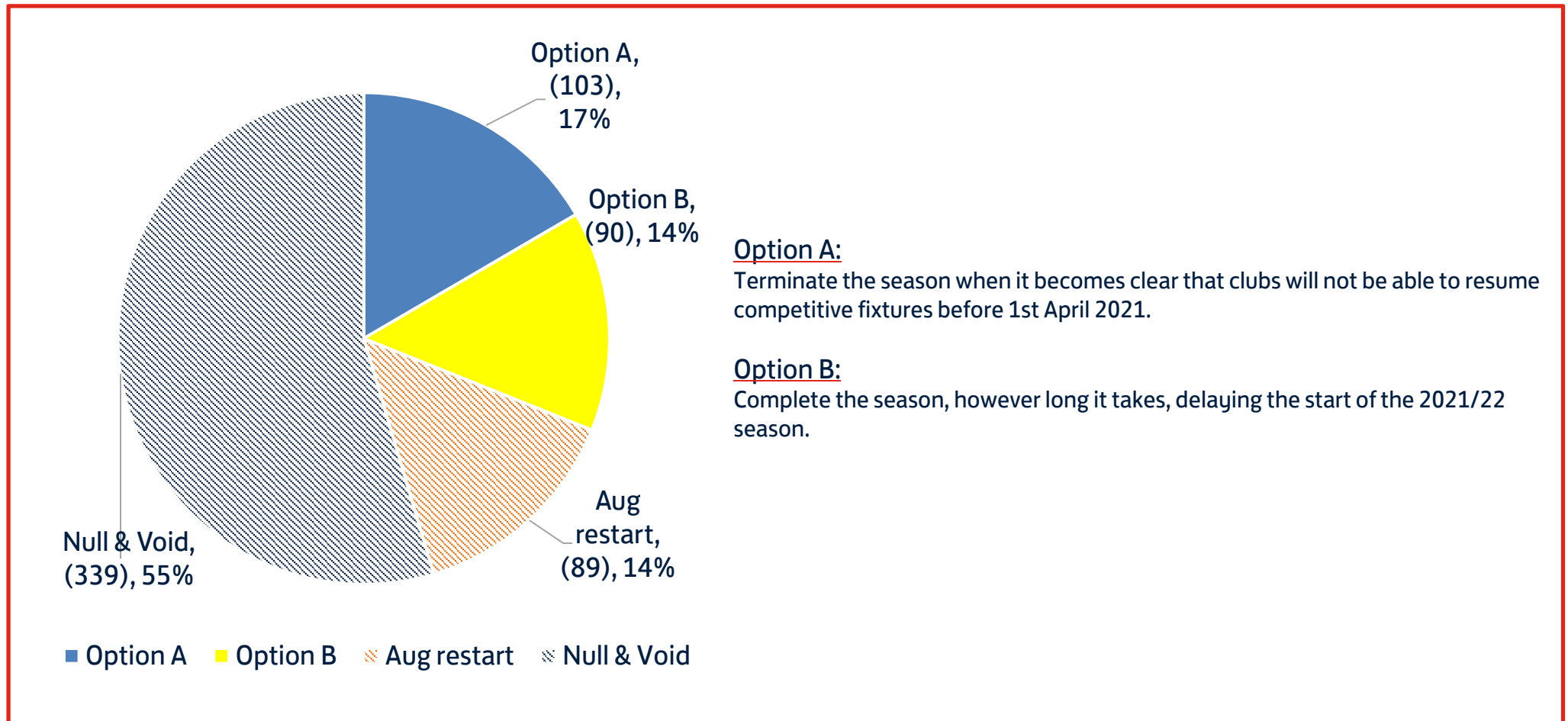
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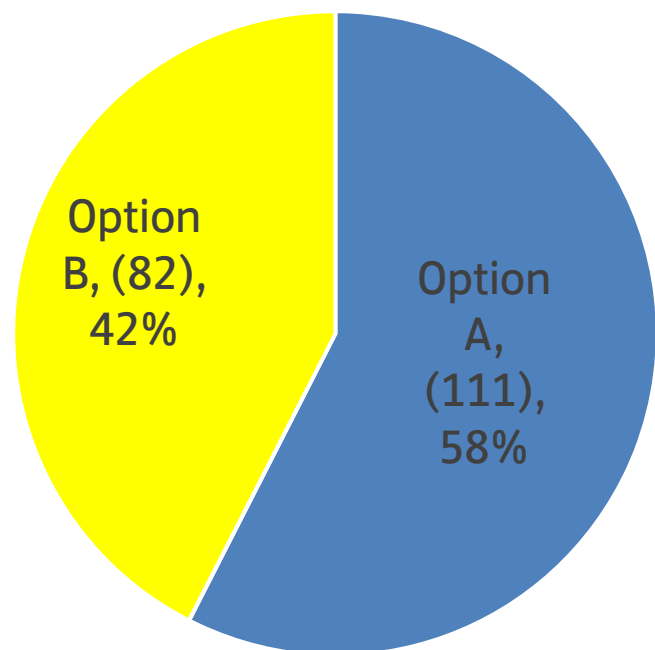
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An average of **75%** of matches would have to be completed across a given Step level (with both Step levels needing to achieve this threshold) for promotion and relegation to take place.