



2023-24

Parkour UK Participant Survey

RESEARCH REPORT

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Introduction

In late 2023, Parkour UK's Connecting Communities team undertook a comprehensive survey aimed at gathering valuable insights from participants of Parkour across the United Kingdom. Running from early December to mid-January, the survey, hosted on Survey Monkey, targeted respondents through Parkour UK's Instagram page and reached out to community leaders nationwide for distribution.

Over the duration of the survey, 107 participants engaged with the questionnaire, from which data analysis excluded two due to incomplete responses (<20%).

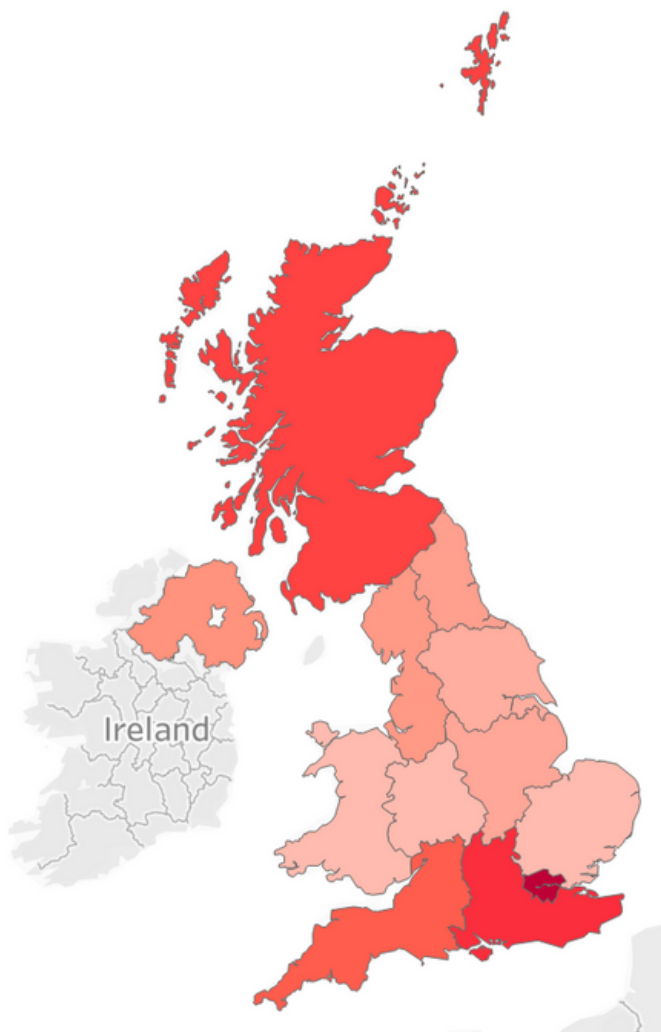
The primary objective of this survey was to assess interest levels in coaching, competition, and National Governing Body (NGB) membership among Parkour practitioners. The findings serve as critical inputs for Parkour UK's strategic decisions and organizational initiatives.

Additionally, demographic data collection encompassed age, gender, and UK regional distribution. Aligned with Parkour UK's commitment to equity and inclusion, particularly under the Uniting the Movement initiative, this data aids in identifying and addressing gaps within the Parkour community.

It's important to acknowledge the limited sample size of our data. Representing approximately 0.01% of UK Parkour practitioners, generalizations must be approached cautiously. Nevertheless, these insights serve as a foundational basis for informed decision-making.

Geographic Data

Analysis reveals concentrated participation in London, the Southeast, Scotland, and the Southwest, collectively constituting over half of the surveyed sample. However, recognizing the existence of sizable Parkour communities beyond these regions, Parkour UK aims to enhance inclusivity by amplifying engagement in Northern England. Current strategies include supporting grassroots initiatives and coordinating events to bolster the community involvement in Parkour UK decision-making processes.



UK Region	Percentage
London	27.10%
South East	17.76%
Scotland	15.89%
South West	13.08%
Northern Ireland	6.54%
North West	5.61%
North East	4.67%
East Midlands	3.74%
Yorkshire And The Humber	2.80%
Wales	0.93%
West Midlands	0.93%
East	0.93%

Gender

Notably, around 90% of respondents identify as male, indicating a significant gender disparity within the UK Parkour community. To address this gap, Parkour UK plans to conduct semi-structured interviews with female athletes, aiming to gain deeper insights into their perspectives and experiences. These interviews, available as podcasts, will serve as educational resources to foster inclusivity and support for female, trans, and non-binary practitioners.

Gender	
Male	89.72%
Female	6.54%
Prefer not to say	2.80%
Non-Binary	0.93%

Age

Survey results illustrate a participation gradient, peaking in the early 20s and declining in the 35-44 age bracket. To foster broader engagement, Parkour UK endeavors to engage with participants over the age of 40, understanding their unique needs and tailoring support accordingly.

Age	
Under 18	14.02%
18-24	35.51%
25-34	39.25%
35-44	9.35%
45-54	0.93%
55-64	0.93%

Interest in Coaching by Gender

Interest in Coaching	Gender			Prefer not to say
	Female	Male	Non-Bin..	
Interested	57.14%	47.92%		66.67%
Uninterested	14.29%	34.38%	100.00%	
Unsure / no preference	28.57%	17.71%		33.33%

Table shows responses of interest in coaching proportional to gender groups

Responses show that the majority of parkour athletes are interested in becoming qualified coaches. Additionally, the proportion of female athletes interested in coaching is greater than the proportion of male athletes interested in coaching. This raises questions around barriers to participation and progression for women in the sport. Due to the small sample size, we will carry these questions into further research projects specifically tailored to the lived experiences of women in parkour.

Interest in Competition by Gender

	Gender			
	Male	Female	Non-Binary	Prefer not to say
Yes	42.71%	57.14%		66.67%
No	30.21%	28.57%	100.00%	33.33%
Unsure / no preference	27.08%	14.29%		

Table shows responses of interest in coaching proportional to gender groups

Similar to the results above, UK parkour athletes express an interest in competition regardless of gender group. Additionally, female interest in competition outweighs male interest proportional to the number of respondents.

It is worth mentioning, only one participant identified as non-binary and as such we cannot generalise for that group based on these findings. We will carry these questions forward into research projects tailored to the needs of this particular demographic.

Interest in Coaching by Age

Interest in Coaching	Age					
	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Interested	8.41%	17.76%	18.69%	3.74%		
Uninterested	2.80%	7.48%	15.89%	4.67%	0.93%	0.93%
Unsure / no preference	2.80%	10.28%	4.67%	0.93%		

Table shows proportions of interest in coaching based on the whole sample

Interest in coaching by age shows a steady increase in interest from <18 to ~30. Parkour UK is looking to improve its introductory coaching course to provide an accessible platform for younger athletes and adult professionals to get involved with delivering classes.

Interest in Competition by Age

Interest in Competition	Age					
	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Interested	66.67%	47.37%	35.71%	40.00%		
Uninterested	6.67%	26.32%	35.71%	50.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Unsure / no preference	26.67%	26.32%	28.57%	10.00%		

Table shows proportions of interest in competition based on the each age group

Interest in competition by age shows a steady decrease in interest in interest from <18 to ~30. We are currently working on an internal framework for competition and are looking to set up a UK competitive circuit. We understand that competition in sport is an important progress marker for both parents and children, and we are looking to build a framework to support the progression of young athletes in the sport. We also aim to build a strong adult competitive circuit for young athletes to aspire to and work towards.

Moving Forward

Competition Framework

The groundwork for our competition framework is well underway, as we've enlisted the competition working party to steer its development. Currently, we're in the process of drafting the initial framework, slated for review at our upcoming working party meeting in April. Additionally, we're gearing up for a community consultation phase to gather input on competitions. In line with our commitment to inclusivity, we're also in the midst of formulating a trans inclusion policy for parkour competitions. Our involvement in the competition working group at Parkour Earth allows me to contribute to discussions on the global landscape and advancements in parkour competitions. With these initiatives in motion, we're poised to shape a comprehensive and inclusive framework for parkour competitions.

Workforce

The Parkour UK workforce team is actively collaborating with parkour facilities nationwide to arrange the hosting of our level 1 courses. Our objective is to facilitate a minimum of 5 courses across the United Kingdom in 2024, ensuring broad geographical coverage encompassing Scotland, Wales, and various regions of England throughout the year. This effort sets the stage for offering level 2 courses in the same areas come 2025. Our inaugural level 2 course for the year is scheduled in London, with plans underway to secure a venue in the Midlands or Northern regions for a subsequent course later in the year. Additionally, we're revisiting our introductory coaching course, formerly known as the 'Activator' course. This revamped introductory level offering aims to engage individuals keen on embarking on their parkour coaching journey, providing an opportunity for hands-on experience assisting with classes before being eligible for the Level 1 qualification at 16 years old. Moreover, this qualification targets parent volunteers, community members with coaching experience in other sports, and educators interested in supporting in-school parkour lessons.

Connecting Communities

Our community-focused efforts are actively pinpointing opportunities for expansion. With several projects in the pipeline pending board approval, our aim is to address identified community needs through data-driven insights. Building on the findings from our initial survey, we're embarking on qualitative research endeavors to delve into the lived experiences of underrepresented groups in parkour, starting with women and older adults. However, our broader vision encompasses tackling accessibility and inclusivity challenges across all facets of the sport.