

BUCS INVOLUNTARY WALKOVER REQUEST DECISIONS 2024-25

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Upon the conclusion of involuntary walkover request hearings, BUCS publishes a summary of each case, including the decision, to aid transparency of BUCS's involuntary walkover request processes, and to be used as an educational tool. Published summaries of cases do not carry the names of any institution/Playing Entity or individuals involved.

This document contains summaries of all involuntary walkover requests ruled on in the 2024-25 season to date. Where there is a gap in the numbering, this is because a request was withdrawn before it was ruled on.

Please note:

- Whilst these case summaries may be helpful for institutions/Playing Entities to refer to when considering whether to submit an involuntary walkover request, and Panels may consider previous cases of a similar nature when making a ruling, it is important to note that every case is different and so however similar cases may seem, no specific outcome is guaranteed.
- The rules and regulations referenced within each case summary, and any links provided to them, were valid at the time each case was heard. Since then, these rules and regulations may have been removed or amended. Therefore, at the time this document is read, it may no longer be possible to find a rule or regulation, or its content may have changed in a way that would impacts its relevance to a case.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 2

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [REG 13.7.3.2](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

Whilst injuries cannot be helped, the Panel noted that the submission lacked specific details regarding the players who were out with injuries or details regarding any other players unavailable for other reasons, with it only being referenced that "due to 5 separate injuries, the Away team are unable to put out a front row capable of playing in a first team fixture".

The decision of the Panel was therefore primarily based on the weakness of the submission, specifically the lack of information and evidence to support the case that it was injuries that were the primary/main reason that the Away team were unable to play the fixture.

As per REG 13.7.3.2, institutions/playing entities submitting an Involuntary Walkover request are responsible for ensuring that their submissions are comprehensive and concise, and that there is validity to any claims, before they make their submission.

The submission lacked details such as the names of the players injured, the severity and nature of their injuries, and the expected duration of their unavailability. It also lacked information regarding whether players were deemed unavailable for other reasons, such as work, why players could or should not be called up from the Men's 2s, or how many suitably trained front row players for this level there are in the club. This information is crucial for establishing the legitimacy of the claim for an Involuntary walkover.

The Panel considered the historical approval of Involuntary walkover requests and observed a consistent pattern wherein successful submissions provided comprehensive information and evidence supporting their claims. Conversely, submissions lacking sufficient evidence have historically been rejected. In alignment with established practices, this submission did not meet the criteria for approval.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

The Panel acknowledges the challenges the team might have faced with injuries. However, for future submissions, we strongly advise providing more comprehensive evidence to substantiate the claim. Detailed documentation of injuries/medical reports, and any other relevant information will significantly strengthen the case and increase the likelihood of a successful request.

We understand the disappointment this decision may bring and appreciate your understanding of the Panel's commitment to maintaining consistency and fairness in evaluating walkover requests.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 3

Sport: Dodgeball

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The match did not proceed as the away team experienced a breakdown of their vehicle, rendering them unable to travel to the venue. The evidence submitted includes screenshots of a WhatsApp group conversation, updates from the AA breakdown service, and messages reflecting communication among team members regarding the incident.

The WhatsApp messages show that the Away team was prepared to depart at around 8:15 AM. However, shortly after, a message was sent at 8:18 AM stating that the car had failed to start and confirming the team's inability to continue with their travel plans. The conversation further demonstrates that the team made efforts to resolve the situation by reaching out for alternative transportation, including asking housemates and others for assistance, though these efforts were unsuccessful.

The AA breakdown service notifications further corroborate the team's claim, showing that assistance was requested at 8:21 AM, with the estimated arrival time initially set for 9:25 AM and later updated to

9:50 AM. These updates confirm that the team was stranded and unable to reach the venue due to an unforeseen mechanical failure.

The timeliness of the communication also supports the team's case. Notifications about the breakdown were promptly shared with relevant parties, and the team proactively attempted to mitigate the situation by seeking alternative transport. However, despite these efforts, the breakdown left the team unable to fulfil the fixture as scheduled.

After careful consideration of the evidence and circumstances, the Panel finds that the breakdown of the Away team's vehicle constitutes a legitimate and unforeseen reason for their inability to attend the match. The evidence provided, including the breakdown service updates and team communication, supports the claim that the situation was beyond the team's control.

As per REG 13.7, which governs forfeited matches, an involuntary walkover may be granted in cases where a team is unable to participate due to uncontrollable events. The Panel concludes that this incident meets the criteria for an involuntary walkover.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 4

Sport: Futsal

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [REG 13.7.3.2](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

The grounds for this request rest on an administrative error in facility booking. According to the explanation provided, the Home team's AU forwarded the booking details to the facilities team; however, due to an internal oversight, the booking was not successfully processed, leading to the walkover.

The Panel notes that administrative errors, while unfortunate, do not meet the threshold for classification as involuntary under BUCS regulations.

Historically, administrative errors are not classified as involuntary causes. While the Panel acknowledges the impact of the administrative error on the Home team's ability to fulfil the fixture, this circumstance does not meet the criteria required for an involuntary walkover. Therefore, the Panel has decided that the walkover will not be considered involuntary, and the fixture result will stand as a walkover against the Home team.

As per REG 13.7.3.2, institutions/playing entities submitting an Involuntary Walkover request are responsible for ensuring that their submissions are comprehensive and concise, and that there is validity to any claims, before they make their submission.

The Panel considered the historical approval of Involuntary walkover requests and observed a consistent pattern wherein successful submissions provided comprehensive information and evidence

supporting their claims. Conversely, submissions lacking sufficient evidence have historically been rejected. In alignment with established practices, this submission did not meet the criteria for approval.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

We understand the disappointment this decision may bring and appreciate your understanding of the Panel's commitment to maintaining consistency and fairness in evaluating walkover requests.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 6

Sport: Badminton

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Conference Cup

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals Panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

After thorough review of the submissions provided by the Away team regarding their request for an involuntary walkover, the Panel has concluded that the appeal does not meet the criteria for granting such a decision under BUCS regulations.

The primary reason cited by the Away team for their inability to fulfil the fixture was the impact of their institution's reading week. Historically, reading weeks have not been considered a valid reason for an involuntary walkover. As such, the Panel finds this explanation insufficient to justify the request. Institutions are expected to plan and manage their fixtures in line with BUCS schedules, even during internal academic periods such as reading weeks, which are not recognised as exceptional circumstances by BUCS.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

We understand the disappointment this decision may bring and appreciate your understanding of the Panel's commitment to maintaining consistency and fairness in evaluating walkover requests.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 7

Sport: Badminton

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Conference Cup

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals Panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

After thorough review of the submissions provided by the Home team regarding their request for an involuntary walkover, the Panel has concluded that the appeal does not meet the criteria for granting such a decision under BUCS regulations.

The primary reason cited by the Home team for their inability to fulfil the fixture was the impact of their institution's reading week. Historically, reading weeks have not been considered a valid reason for an involuntary walkover. As such, the Panel finds this explanation insufficient to justify the request. Institutions are expected to plan and manage their fixtures in line with BUCS schedules, even during internal academic periods such as reading weeks, which are not recognised as exceptional circumstances by BUCS.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

We understand the disappointment this decision may bring and appreciate your understanding of the Panel's commitment to maintaining consistency and fairness in evaluating walkover requests.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 8

Sport: Football

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Conference Trophy

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [REG 13.7.3.2](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals Panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

After reviewing the submission for an involuntary walkover request by the Home team, the Panel has concluded that the appeal lacks sufficient evidence and detail to be considered valid. The request is therefore deemed frivolous and is rejected.

The Home team claimed that they were unable to fulfil the fixture due to a number of players being unwell. However, the evidence provided is minimal and does not substantiate the claim to a degree that would warrant an involuntary walkover. While an email from the Home team confirmed their intention to forfeit the match and attributed the decision to illness among players, no additional documentation was provided to verify the extent or impact of the situation. Specifically, there was no medical evidence, team availability records, or further substantiation that would establish this as a situation beyond the team's control.

The decision of the Panel was therefore primarily based on the weakness of the submission, specifically the lack of information and evidence to support the case that it was sickness to multiple players that were the primary/main reason that the Home team were unable to play the fixture.

As per REG 13.7.3.2, institutions/playing entities submitting an Involuntary Walkover request are responsible for ensuring that their submissions are comprehensive and concise, and that there is validity to any claims, before they make their submission.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

We understand the disappointment this decision may bring and appreciate your understanding of the Panel's commitment to maintaining consistency and fairness in evaluating walkover requests

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 9

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 2

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

After thorough consideration of the facts and regulations, the Panel has determined that the walkover cannot be deemed involuntary

The Away team initially claimed they were unable to fulfil the fixture due to 12 injuries across their 1st and 2nd teams, which reduced their theoretical player pool from 41 to 29 players. However, further investigation revealed that five of the players listed as injured participated in matches the previous week. This adjustment brought their total available player pool to 36. Of these, 21 players were fielded in the 1st team, leaving 15 players potentially available for the 2nd team.

Under BUCS regulations for Tier 2 rugby fixtures, teams are required to field a minimum of 10 players, with uncontested scrums allowed if a complete front row cannot be provided. Based on the available information, the Away team could have fielded a squad of 15 players, which exceeds the regulatory minimum. This indicates that the fixture could have proceeded within the rules, even with uncontested scrums, nullifying the argument that the match was unplayable due to front row shortages.

Considering these factors, the Panel concludes that the Away team had sufficient players to fulfil the fixture. While injuries reduced their overall squad depth, the institution still had enough players to meet the minimum requirements for participation. As a result, the Panel finds that the inability to field a team was not beyond the Away team control and does not meet the criteria for an involuntary walkover under BUCS regulations.

The match will therefore be recorded as a voluntary walkover in favour of the Home team. The Panel considered the historical approval of Involuntary walkover requests and observed a consistent pattern wherein successful submissions provided comprehensive information and evidence supporting their claims. Conversely, submissions lacking sufficient evidence have historically been rejected. In alignment with established practices, this submission did not meet the criteria for approval.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

The Panel acknowledges the challenges the team might have faced with injuries. However, for future submissions, we strongly advise providing more comprehensive evidence to substantiate the claim. Detailed documentation of injuries/medical reports, and any other relevant information will significantly strengthen the case and increase the likelihood of a successful request. The Panel also reminds the Away team to carefully assess player availability and regulatory provisions, such as the allowance for uncontested scrums, before requesting involuntary walkovers in future fixtures.

We understand the disappointment this decision may bring and appreciate your understanding of the Panel's commitment to maintaining consistency and fairness in evaluating walkover requests.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 10**Sport:** Rugby Union**League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only):** National Trophy**Regulation(s) considered:** [REG 13.7](#), [RUU 4.5.3](#)**Decision:** Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Home team has provided sufficient information regarding the number of injuries within their squad, the severity and duration of these injuries, and the timeline over which they occurred. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match.

The evidence submitted by the Home team demonstrated that their inability to field a front row of suitably trained players was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries (RUU 4.5.3).

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 11**Sport:** Rugby Union**League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only):** Premier Tier**Regulation(s) considered:** [REG 13.7](#), [REG 13.7.3.2](#)**Decision:** Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

Whilst injuries cannot be helped, the Panel noted that the submission lacked specific details regarding the players who were out with injuries or details regarding any other players unavailable for other reasons, with it only being referenced that there was "a number of injuries to our more senior players, we do not believe we are capable of fielding a front row that is safe to scrum in this fixture".

The decision of the Panel was therefore primarily based on the weakness of the submission, specifically the lack of information and evidence to support the case that it was injuries that were the primary/main reason that the Home team were unable to play the fixture.

As per REG 13.7.3.2, institutions/playing entities submitting an Involuntary Walkover request are responsible for ensuring that their submissions are comprehensive and concise, and that there is validity to any claims, before they make their submission.

The submission lacked details such as the names of the players injured, the severity and nature of their injuries, and the expected duration of their unavailability. It also lacked information regarding whether

players were deemed unavailable for other reasons, such as why players could or should not be called up from the Women's 2s, or how many suitably trained front row players for this level there are in the club. This information is crucial for establishing the legitimacy of the claim for an Involuntary walkover.

The Panel considered the historical approval of Involuntary walkover requests and observed a consistent pattern wherein successful submissions provided comprehensive information and evidence supporting their claims. Conversely, submissions lacking sufficient evidence have historically been rejected. In alignment with established practices, this submission did not meet the criteria for approval.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

The Panel acknowledges the challenges the team might have faced with injuries. However, for future submissions, we strongly advise providing more comprehensive evidence to substantiate the claim. Detailed documentation of injuries/medical reports, and any other relevant information will significantly strengthen the case and increase the likelihood of a successful request.

We understand the disappointment this decision may bring and appreciate your understanding of the Panel's commitment to maintaining consistency and fairness in evaluating walkover requests.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 12

Sport: Volleyball

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [REG 14](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals Panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home Team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

From a review of the evidence provided, the Panel concluded that there had not been a confirmed booking for *(date redacted)*. Whilst the Home Team may have made a booking request for this date (which was not evidenced in the submissions), the venue emailed the Home Team on *(date redacted)* stating that they have "booked you in games hall at *(location and date redacted)* from 11:00 – 14:00".

The Panel agreed that it was therefore in the reasonable control of the Home Team to have noticed that this was not confirmation of the date they had needed to book and to contact the venue back to ensure the required booking was made, or to explore other venue options if this one was not available.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

The Panel also wished to note that had there been a confirmed booking for *(date redacted)* and the Home Team had then been subsequently let down by the venue, then under REG 14 there is reference to "unforeseeable facility issues" as a reason for a match to be postponed, rather than forfeit.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 14

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Premier Tier

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [RUU 4.5.3](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away Team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Away Team has provided sufficient information regarding the number of injuries within their squad, the severity and duration of these injuries, and the timeline over which they occurred. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match.

The evidence submitted by The Away Team demonstrated that their inability to field a front row of suitably trained players was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries (RUU 4.5.3).

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 15

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 2

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Away team provided sufficient information regarding the number of injuries within their squad, the severity and duration of these injuries, and the timeline over which they occurred. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match.

The evidence submitted by the Away team demonstrated that their inability to field a front row of suitably trained players was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 16

Sport: American Football

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [AMF 11.1](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: REG 13.7 states that: “An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)”.

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the walkover to be voluntary.

The Panel noted that the regulations, AMF 11.1 and BAFA, require each team to have a minimum of three licensed coaches at the field by the scheduled kick-off time, one of whom must hold a valid BAFCA Level 2 or higher qualification. While the Away team designated Level 2 coach's qualification was marked as “pending,” the Panel deliberated that a pending status is, under certain conditions, accepted as valid for participation. However, the issue arose due to the lack of awareness and adherence to the regulatory requirements by the Away team's coaching staff.

The Panel determined that the failure of the Away team coaching staff to adequately prepare and ensure regulatory compliance was within their reasonable control. The primary reason for the forfeiture was the coach's lack of knowledge regarding the regulations, which ultimately led to the team being unable to meet the necessary requirements at the time of the fixture. This lack of awareness directly contributed to the forfeiture of the match.

Based on these findings, the Panel concluded that this situation does not constitute an involuntary walkover. Instead, it is deemed a voluntary walkover, as the forfeiture resulted from circumstances that were preventable had the coaching staff been adequately informed and prepared.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

The Panel recommends that the Away team take immediate steps to ensure that all coaching staff are fully aware of and compliant with league regulations for future fixtures. Additionally, it is advised that all teams establish stronger communication protocols regarding regulatory requirements to avoid similar situations in the future. This decision highlights the importance of preparedness and regulatory awareness in maintaining the integrity and smooth functioning of the competition.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 17

Sport: Tennis

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 9.8](#), [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: REG 13.7 states that: “An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent).”

The BUCS Appeals Panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the walkover to be voluntary.

The Panel considered REG 9.8: No Shows, which states that if “a team does not attend a fixture on the date specified in BUCS Play without notifying their opposition in writing, they will concede a walkover”.

The Panel understood the Away team's frustrations that the Home team have claimed a walkover in this situation, with the Away team having suggested a rescheduling, given that the reason they had initially told their team the fixture was not going ahead was because the Home team had originally asked for a rescheduling – which the Away team had noted they were looking to support with. However, with no new date having been agreed, the Panel agreed that the Away team are in breach of REG 9.8 for not

attending the fixture and not notifying the Home team of this in advance and therefore, the Home team are entitled to have claimed this walkover.

The Panel noted that the Away team stated that the players were not at fault they felt it unfair that they be penalised, however, the Panel consider it to have been within the reasonable control of the “team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)” as per REG 13.7 to have avoided this walkover. The Away team informing their team that the fixture was being moved – before any such move had been agreed – was an action they took which was within their control to not have done – or to have advised their team that at this point it was simply a possibility that the fixture may be moved but until advised further they should prepare for it to take place as scheduled. The same was considered the case for subsequently not ensuring that their players were then made aware that it was still to take place as scheduled on BUCS Play when no agreement was made for any change of date and/or venue. It was also discussed that the coach could be considered a representative of the club who was made aware of the fixture needing to go ahead as scheduled but failing to communicate this to the players.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 18

Sport: Badminton

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 2

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [REG 14.1.1](#), [BAD 7.1.2](#), [BAD 7.1.3](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: “An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)”.*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the walkover to be voluntary.

The Panel carefully reviewed the circumstances surrounding the walkover claim submitted by the Home team against the Away team. The review included the email correspondence between the institutions, the submitted documentation, and the relevant BUCS regulations.

BUCS regulation BAD 7.1.2 states that a team “unable to field enough players to fulfil at least four rubbers...shall concede a walkover”. BUCS regulation BAD 7.1.3 allows a team with fewer than six players to compete, provided they can fulfil at least four rubbers.

The Away team stated that they had a team of four players available but then one of these players came down sick on the morning of the fixture, leaving them with only three players.

The Panel agreed that – contrary to the Away team’s belief – they could have still fulfilled the fixture in accordance with BAD 7.1.3 with just three players – or even just two. A minimum of two players would enable them to fulfil Singles 1v2, Singles 2v1, Singles 1v1 and Singles 2v2. Three players would enable them to fulfil, as an example, Singles 1v1, Singles 1v2, Doubles 1v1, Doubles 1v2.

The Panel also noted, that even had the minimum number of players needed to fulfil the fixture been four, the Away team did not provide an explanation as to why they only had four players available by the morning of the fixture, despite them having a Men’s 3s entered in BUCS – who were not also playing that day – and that their Men’s 2s had previously put out a full team of six players in other fixtures. The absence of additional players raised questions regarding the Away team’s efforts to utilise squad members from lower-ranked teams or ensure squad availability. The Panel noted that the Away team

did not provide evidence as to why other Men's 2s players were not available or that they attempted to call up players from their Men's 3s, which could have mitigated the situation.

Based on the evidence presented, the Panel concluded that this situation constitutes a voluntary walkover as the Away team did not fulfil the fixture despite having enough available players to do so, seemingly due to a lack of knowledge of the regulations, something considered within their control.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary.

The Panel recommends that the Away team reviews the regulations regarding team selection with their teams and for any future involuntary walkover applications, ensures detail is provided regarding why minimum numbers of players have not been able to be fielded where they have larger squads and/or additional teams.

The Panel also wished to address the Away team's comment that they felt this situation was "out of reasonable control (outlined in REG 13.7) and falls under Force Majeure in REG 14.1.1". A situation cannot be both – and the Panel agreed that such a situation would not be considered "Force Majeure". If an institution believes that a fixture has not taken place due to "Force Majeure" and their opposition claims a walkover, then they should be appealing against the walkover, not requesting that it is considered involuntary, and an institution cannot do both. To request that a walkover is considered involuntary is accepting that the fixture has been forfeited – so not postponed under REG 14.1 – but making a case as to why it is believed to have been forfeited for reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent).

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 19

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 2

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals Panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the Involuntary.

The Panel acknowledges the claim that the Away team was unable to field a suitable team due to the unavailability of trained front-row players. This was confirmed through communication with the Club and coaching staff, who cited injuries as the reason for their inability to meet the requirements.

BUCS regulations stipulate that teams must ensure the availability of players, especially for positions such as front-row players in Rugby Union, to fulfil a fixture. While the injuries to front-row players are unfortunate, the Panel is of the opinion that there was not enough evidence or context provided. However, the Panel notes that with the information provided, it is reasonable to assume they could not have provided any other front row players.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

For future involuntary walkover claims, the Panel recommends that institutions provide detailed evidence, including squad composition, the number of suitably trained front-row players, and the anticipated duration of injuries. This level of documentation will enable the Panel to better assess the legitimacy of claims and ensure fair decision-making.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 20

Sport: American Football

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away team and have deemed the walkover to be voluntary.

The Panel first discussed the Away team's comments regarding their view that the Walkover Claim Form had not been completed correctly as it was filled out by the team and not a registered IA which they believe to be in contravention of REG 13.7.1. The Panel agreed that REG 13.7.1 requires that the form is emailed by a "recognised Athletic Union (or equivalent) representative of the institution/Playing Entity" – but does not dictate who can have filled out the form itself. As such, the Panel considered that REG 13.7.1 had been followed.

The Panel also agreed that, whilst the Away team stated that the reasons given for the walkover were incorrect, in submitting an involuntary walkover request, rather than an appeal, the Away team were accepting that they had forfeited the match. The Panel were therefore happy that they could then to considered whether the walkover could be considered involuntary.

The Away team had stated that due to "the specialist nature and training required for American Football" that they were "not able to call upon anyone else (outside of the limited squad) with sufficient experience to meet the minimum 22-person squad limit", citing injuries and illness. They also added that the captain had "wrongly listed multiple players on previous team sheets, that were not present or trained to play".

The Panel reviewed team sheets on BUCS Play for all prior matches in the season and found that the following number of players had been named on these official team sheets for each date as follows: 42 on 27/10, 43 on 03/11, 45 on 10/11, and 49 on 24/11.

The Away team provided details of 11 players who at the time of the fixture were unavailable for selection due to illness or injuries, providing details as to what the specific illness and/or injury was for each player.

The Panel noted that the evidence presented does not support an inability to field a team due to injuries or illnesses, particularly as those detailed were not extensive enough to prevent the assembly of a viable team who have recorded in their team sheets for each match a minimum of 42 players, a maximum of 49. With 11 players out for illness/injury, this would leave 31-38, so 9-16 other players unaccounted for. The Away team suggested that the captain had "wrongly listed multiple players on previous team sheets, that were not present or trained to play", but there was no evidence to support this, and the Panel agreed that therefore these team sheets are taken as confirmation of who the team were confirming was representing them that day.

Given these findings, the Panel has concluded that the walkover is deemed voluntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 21

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Premier Tier

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [RUU 4.5.3](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away Team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Away Team has provided sufficient information regarding the number of injuries within their squad, the severity and duration of these injuries, and the timeline over which they occurred. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match.

The evidence submitted by The Away Team demonstrated that their inability to field a front row of suitably trained players was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries (RUU 4.5.3).

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 22

Sport: Netball

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 8

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals Panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away Team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Panel were satisfied that the Away Team provided enough evidence relating to the disruption caused by Storm Eowyn and the impact this had on the team's ability to travel to the fixture, especially with the designated minibus driver unable to leave their house. The Away Team also illustrated the team's endeavours to find other means of transport which were unsuccessful.

The evidence provided by the Away Team demonstrated that their inability to travel to the fixture was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by Storm Eowyn and so they had forfeited on the fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of the team, club and Sports Union.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 24

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Premier Tier

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [RUU 4.5.3](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away Team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Away Team has provided sufficient information regarding the number of injuries within their squad, the severity and duration of these injuries, and the timeline over which they occurred. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match.

The evidence submitted by The Away Team demonstrated that their inability to field a front row of suitably trained players was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries (RUU 4.5.3).

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 25

Sport: Basketball

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 2

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [BAS 8.1.3.2](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals Panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home Team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

The Panel agreed that the Home Team were correct in their assumption that match officials had been correctly allocated for the match in question. An administrative error from LABL where the match was said to be postponed without any communication to the team fell outside of the Home Team's control. However, as per BAS 8.1.3.2, the match could have been rescheduled for a later date of which the Home Team would have been obliged to travel to. Due to the Home Team not following the process outlined in BAS 8.1.3.2 and the match being forfeited, there are no grounds for this fixture to be deemed as an involuntary walkover as the fixture was not forfeited through reasons beyond the reasonable control of the Home Team as stated in REG 13.7. Therefore, the Panel have deemed the walkover to have been voluntary as, the Home Team did not follow the correct processes as per the regulations in the circumstances that unfolded.

The Panel advises the Home Team to familiarise themselves with BUCS Regulations to ensure every option is explored to ensure fixtures can be played, even if at a later date. This fixture did not need to be forfeited hence the decision for the walkover to be deemed voluntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 26

Sport: American Football

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [AMF 10](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away Team and have deemed the walkover to be involuntary.

The Away Team has provided sufficient information regarding the number of injuries within their squad, the severity and duration of these injuries, as well as the knock-on effect to the number of available players in their squad. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match.

The evidence presented by the Away Team illustrated their inability to field 22 players in a match which is the minimum amount of players required as per AMF 10. The Panel agreed that as the Away Team currently have 29 players listed in their BUCS Play team and provided evidence of 12 injured players meaning they were unable to field a team. The forfeiture of the match was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 27

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Premier Tier

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 11.1.3](#), [REG 13.7](#), [RUU 8.4](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The Appeals Panel carefully reviewed the submission by the Home Team along with the relevant regulations.

RUU 8.4 states that the minimum number of players per team required for a fixture to start will be 10.

Team sheets from fixtures played by the Home Team's Women's 1 so far this season show that for all fixtures prior to this between 20 and 22 players have been fielded (22 x 5, 21 x 3, 20 x 1). Furthermore, these show that 38 individuals have represented the team across the season on at least one occasion, 29 of these on three or more occasions, 23 of these on five or more occasions.

In their submissions, the Home Team stated: "11x 1st XV standard players unavailable. 8 through injury and 3 unavailable." The injuries were detailed as "1x concussion, 1x hamstring injury, 2x shin/lower leg injuries, 1x knee injury, 1x shoulder injury, 1x elbow injury, 1x illness".

The Home Team added: "...at least 13 unavailable for the 2nd XV game, mix of injuries and unavailability. Currently our 2nd XV team for tomorrow is only 19 players and a mixture of 2nd and 3rd XV standard players. 8 out of the 19 for our 2nd XV tomorrow are inside their first 5 games of rugby ever. This should demonstrate the lack of depth and inability to pull anyone sensible up to play in the 1st XV."

The Home Team stated that of the players they could have fielded for this fixture, four started and four were on the bench against the Away Team in their previous meeting, with the rest playing the 2s.

The Panel understood why there would be safety concerns around playing up individuals of the playing level of the Home Team's Women's 2s – who play in Tier 3 – given the expected gulf in standards across these four levels (Premier Tier down to Tier 3) and that it would not be reasonable to field such players at this level on safety grounds.

However, whilst the above account for eight 1st team players being unavailable for reasons not within the reasonable control of the Home Team (injuries and illnesses), there are also three noted as simply "unavailable". Taking these 11 away from the squad means that there are 27 other players who have represented the Home Team's Women's 1s this season (18 on three or more occasions, 12 on five or more occasions) – so considered of a suitable level to be fielded at Premier Tier level – for which their reasons for non-selection for this fixtures were unclear and who could have represented them for this fixture in order for RUU 8.4 to be met (minimum of 10 players).

Whilst the Panel did not disagree that safety concerns seemed to be the primary consideration for the Home Team when deciding to concede the match, the Panel did not feel that the Home Team had evidenced why they could not put out at least 10 players who have played at Premier Tier level this season and, whilst noting that the Home Team had stated that there had been "a couple of significant collision-related injuries" in their previous match with the Away Team, did not feel there was a strong case for why putting a team out against the Away Team of individuals who have played other teams in the same league would be a significant safety concern compared to them playing in to other fixtures at this level. So, whilst there had not been such injuries occur in these other matches, the Panel did not feel this meant an expected higher risk from a match against the Away Team compared to a match against other teams competing at the same level.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary and that REG 11.1.3 therefore would not be suspended on this occasion.

The Panel will however be highlighting this case to all relevant BUCS staff and the Rugby Union Sports Advisory Group (SAG) to be considered as part of the annual review of rules and regulations for their consideration as to whether any changes may be warranted regarding regulations for minimum numbers of players, REG 11.1.3, and involuntary walkovers in future and/or or if there may be wider concerns to be investigated around potential disparity of standards of teams in the women's rugby union structure.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 28

Sport: Badminton

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [BAD 6.1.1](#), [BAD 10.1](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals Panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away Team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Panel were satisfied that the Away Team provided enough evidence relating to the disruption caused by their pre-booked taxi cancelling on the morning the team were supposed travel to Aberystwyth for the fixture. The Away Team also illustrated the team's endeavours to find other means of transport which were unsuccessful. The Panel agreed that based on the time of travel indicated on the return train ticket provided as evidence by the Away Team, that they would not have had enough time to get to the fixture and complete at least six rubbers as per BAD 10.1 in the allotted court booking time as stated in BAD 6.1.1.

The evidence provided by the Away Team demonstrated that their inability to travel to the fixture was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by cancelled transport and the amount of time available to travel to the fixture. Therefore, the Away Team forfeited the fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of the team, club and Sports Union.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

The Panel noted that an Involuntary Walkover claim does not have to be made within 24 hours of the match, but within 24 hours of the walkover being claimed/ conceded as stated in REG 13.7.2. Therefore, in this instance more time could have been taken to look at other options of fixture rearrangement.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 30

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Premier Tier

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [RUU 4.5.3](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home Team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Home Team has provided sufficient information regarding the number of injuries within their squad, the severity and duration of these injuries, and the timeline over which they occurred. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match.

The evidence submitted by the Home Team demonstrated that their inability to field a front row of suitably trained players was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries (RUU 4.5.3).

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 31

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): National Trophy

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: REG 13.7 states that: “An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)”.

The Appeals Panel carefully reviewed the submission by the Away Team along with the relevant regulations, however due to the case presented by the Away Team lacking any viability within the regulations, the Panel have deemed the Walkover to be Voluntary.

Whilst the Panel did not disagree that safety concerns seemed to be the primary consideration for the Away Team when deciding to concede the match, the Panel did not feel that the Away Team had evidenced any reasons within the regulations for the match against the Home Team to not take place. The reasoning presented by the Away Team of ‘An opponent who are on a different level in terms of strength & conditioning and general power in a contact sport’ does not give any clear grounds to make the walkover Involuntary. Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered voluntary

The Panel will however be highlighting this case to all relevant BUCS staff and the Rugby Union Sports Advisory Group (SAG) to be considered as part of the annual review of rules and regulations for their consideration and whether there may be wider concerns to be investigated around potential disparity of standards of teams in the women’s rugby union structure.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 32

Sport: Rugby Union

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Premier Tier

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [RUU 4.5.3](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: REG 13.7 states that: “An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)”.

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home Team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Home Team has provided sufficient information regarding the number of injuries within their squad, the severity and duration of these injuries, and the timeline over which they occurred. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match.

The evidence submitted by the Home Team demonstrated that their inability to field a front row of suitably trained players was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries (RUU 4.5.3).

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 33

Sport: Water Polo

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 1

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [WAT 6.1.2](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away Team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Away Team has provided sufficient information regarding the number of injuries within their squad, the severity and duration of these injuries, and the timeline over which they occurred. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match.

The Panel agreed that the Away Team's original squad of twelve players had been depleted to eight with four master's students no longer being available for selection. The Away Team demonstrated evidence of the three players unavailable due to injury and illness which took their squad size down to five available players, below the minimum six required to play in a Water Polo fixture (WAT 6.1.2). The Panel agreed this was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered involuntary.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 34

Sport: Basketball

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): Tier 3

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 10.6.3.1](#), [REG 13.7](#), [REG 14.3/REG 14.4/REG 14.5](#), [BAS 8.1.3.2](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Voluntary

Justification of decision: REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Home Team and have deemed the walkover to be Voluntary.

The Panel agreed that match officials being sent to the wrong location due to an issue with an external booking software was outside of the Home Team's control. However, as is outlined in REG 10.6.3.1 and BAS 8.1.3.2 'If the away team has started their journey and/or arrived at the venue and the home team is let down by an appointed/booked Crew Chief/Umpire and can prove in writing that the official was appointed/booked, the original home team will be obliged to travel to a rescheduled match. The fixture should be rearranged in line with REG 14.3/REG 14.4/REG 14.5'. Therefore, the fixture should have been rearranged, and a Walkover should not have been conceded in the first place. Therefore, an Involuntary Walkover cannot be claimed as the fixture was not forfeited through reasons beyond the reasonable control of the institution. Furthermore, the Panel noted that the Home Team did not provide any evidence of the match official being booked in their Involuntary Walkover appeal which also detracted from their case.

Therefore, the Panel have deemed the walkover to have been voluntary as, the Home Team did not follow the correct processes as per the regulations in the circumstances that unfolded.

Involuntary Walkover Request Number: 37

Sport: Rugby League

League (Tier only)/Knockout (Level only): National Trophy

Regulation(s) considered: [REG 13.7](#), [RUL 10.2](#)

Decision: Walkover deemed Involuntary

Justification of decision: *REG 13.7 states that: "An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (whether by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent)".*

The BUCS Appeals panel have reviewed the evidence submitted by the Away Team and have deemed the walkover to be Involuntary.

The Away Team have provided sufficient information regarding the injuries to their team during the fixture which led to the match being forfeited part way through. Due to the Away Team already struggling with their squad size and depth throughout the season, the Panel were understanding that they had started the fixture with enough players to fulfil RUL 10.2 but not enough players to play with a full team. The Panel agreed that the team were taken down to nine players through injury, but a concussion to another player meant the team only had eight players which was a safety issue outside of their control and was therefore unreasonable to expect the concussed player to continue. The match therefore had to be forfeited as per RUL 10.2 due to there only being eight players on the pitch through reasons beyond the reasonable control of the team, club or athletic union. The Panel acknowledges that this situation was beyond the institution's control and, as such, does not constitute a voluntary forfeiture of the match. The Panel agreed this was not due to neglect or lack of preparation but rather an unavoidable set of circumstances caused by injuries.

Therefore, the Panel deemed that the walkover was considered Involuntary.
