

MEN'S BUCS SUPER RUGBY – PLAYOFF AUDIT – MINIMUM OPERATING STANDARDS

CONTENTS

Men's BUCS Super Rugby – Playoff Audit – Minimum Operating Standards.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Regulations.....	2
Audit process.....	2
Sanctions	2
Minimum Operating Standards.....	3
1. Player Welfare.....	3
1.1 Injury management.....	3
2. Facilities and venue	3
2.1 Match Day	3
2.2 Pre- and Post-Match Arrangements	4
2.3 Medical Facilities and Equipment	5

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the specific requirements that must be in place at an institution to make it eligible to host the fixtures associated with the BUCS Super Rugby Playoff. This includes both the Premier North 1 league winner vs Premier South 1 league winner, and subsequently the match 1 winner vs the lowest ranked BUCS Super Rugby team. This is governed by the BUCS executive through an audit process for all eligible teams during the period after round 14 of the Premier North/South 1 seasons (7 February 2024). This MOS Audit document is to be adhered to in conjunction with the BUCS General Regulations and Rugby Union Sport Specific Regulations.

Regulations

Teams competing in Premier North 1 and South 1 are eligible for promotion to BSR through the playoff system outlined in REG 8 and Appendix 10 of the BUCS General Regulations. **The proposed regulations below outline the process by which a team can be marked as eligible to host a playoff fixture.**

***RUU 2.7.1** The home team for each of the BUCS Super Rugby playoff matches must host at a venue that meets the requirements outlined in the BUCS Super Rugby Playoff Minimum Operating Standards. Institutions/Playing Entities are encouraged to use neutral venues, but this is not mandatory.*

***RUU 2.7.2** The home team for each of the BUCS Super Rugby playoff matches will be determined by coin toss, undertaken by the BUCS Executive, subject to it having been confirmed that they will be able to provide a venue that meets the requirements of RUU 2.7.1. Confirmation will be achieved by the BUCS Executive undertaking an audit in January/February with any Premier North/South 1 teams who are in potential contention for the playoffs of any venue(s) they would wish to host at. The existing BUCS Super Rugby team will be expected to provide such a venue, given the requirements already applying to any venues they have used throughout the league season. If a team cannot confirm that they will be able to provide a venue that meets the requirements of RUU 2.7.1, then they will automatically be designated as the away team.*

Audit process

Should a team be successful in gaining promotion through the playoffs, a full audit will take place to ensure compliance with that season's full MOS. It is recognised that it may take some time for newly promoted teams to put systems in place which enable them to meet all MOS criteria and therefore BUCS is happy to discuss an implementation timeline for newly promoted teams to have all elements in place. However, any MOS related to safety and player welfare would not be subject to this exception. This would include equipment, facilities, personnel, and university policies.

The exact timeline for the audit process will be decided by BUCS on an annual basis through consultation with eligible institutions.

Sanctions

Should a team fail the Playoff Audit, they will be ineligible to host any BUCS Super Rugby playoff fixture(s) for the given year. They will automatically be listed as the Away team. Should both teams participating in the Premier North 1 vs South 1 playoff fixture fail the Playoff Audit, an individual consultation will take place with each team to ensure that the outlined minimum operating standards can be met between the audit period and the playoff period at one of the institutions.

MINIMUM OPERATING STANDARDS

1. Player Welfare

1.1 Injury management

1.1.1	One member of the coaching/management team must have undertaken the following course (or other home union equivalent): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFU Emergency First Aid in Rugby Union WRU Emergency First Aid for Rugby <p>* Or an equivalent course including Emergency First Aid at Work or other Level 2 Sports First Aider course.</p>	3
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2. Facilities and venue

2.1 Match Day

The provision of a floodlit pitch meeting the minimum requirements as set out by [World Rugby Law 1](#). If this is a synthetic surface, the pitch must meet those standards set by [World Rugby Regulation 22](#) relating to the provision of artificial surfaces. If this is a natural grass surface, there must be adequate maintenance to ensure the safety of players remains paramount and that the standard of rugby, and match scheduling, is not compromised by poorly maintained surface. This is in accordance with [REG 9.3.3: Playing Surfaces](#) and [RUU 1.4: Playing Surface](#).

2.1.1	Floodlighting to an average maintained lux reading of 200, with a uniformity level of >0.6* *Failure to comply with floodlighting requirements may mean that the home pitch will not be selected for live-streamed matches.	2
2.1.2	A permanent or temporary 1-meter-high barrier surrounding the field of play in its entirety and separating the field of play from supporters.	2
2.1.3	Designated technical areas with pitch-side seating for staff and players of both teams.	2
2.1.4	Appropriate run-off areas beyond the touchlines and dead-ball lines to a minimum of 5 metres. (Any distance less than 5 metres must be risk-assessed by a competent person and managed including through taking into account inter alia the nature and extent of the hazards outside the perimeter of the pitch).	2
2.1.5	Flag posts and flags in line with World Rugby Law 1.	2
2.1.6	A means of ingress to the pitch wide enough to accommodate an ambulance.	2
2.1.7	Barriers separating non-participants from the field of play, running from changing rooms to pitch where possible, ensuring that the minimum width between barriers is at least 3-metres to prevent tunnelling. Where it is not possible for a barrier to be placed between the pitch and changing rooms, this barrier must be in place from a minimum of 10m from the entrance to the pitch.	3

2.1.8	Separate changing facilities for both teams on a match-day, adequate to accommodate 25 players with appropriate shower and toilet provision, and space for a physio table.	2
2.1.9	Separate match-day facilities for referees, with appropriate shower and toilet provision.	2
2.1.10	Spectators should have access to toilets and first aid, including toilets with disabled access.	1
2.1.11	<p>Provision of dedicated spectator areas, where possible, this should include permanent or temporary seating.</p> <p>A spectator area could be any area which is provided for the sole purpose of accommodating spectators. It does not specifically have to be a stand or include seating.</p>	1
2.1.12	A fixed or temporary scoreboard easily visible from the main player and spectator vantage points within the ground.	1
2.1.13	A permanent or temporary public address system audible in the main player and spectator areas within the ground.	1
2.1.14	The ability to accommodate BUCS media staff, broadcast partners and other media delegations through fixed or temporary facilities. This should include access to Wi-Fi.	1
2.1.15	<p>Access to an alternative pitch in the event that the primary facility is unavailable, the alternative pitch must be on a different site, unless the pitch is of a different surface, to the primary pitch to reduce the risk of both pitches being unplayable. As a minimum, this should meet the aforementioned standards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing area and environment • Changing facilities for teams and referees • Medical facilities and emergency service access 	3
2.1.16	Where possible, the pitch which the match is due to take place on must be booked for a minimum of 1 hour prior to the scheduled kick off to allow time and space for a warm up to take place. If this is not possible, due to unexpected circumstances, then a warm up time of 30 minutes must be allocated with both teams having equal space on a surface that is the same as the match pitch.	2

2.2 Pre- and Post-Match Arrangements

Pre-match

2.2.1	The travelling team must contact the home team at least 6 days before a match asking whether travelling supporters can be accommodated at the venue.	3
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2.2.2	<p>The travelling team must send the name and contact information (phone number) of at least 1 responsible leader for every 50 travelling spectators to the home institution's fixture administrator. This communication must be sent at least 6 days before the fixture.</p> <p>The responsible leader's duty is to monitor the behaviour of travelling spectators. Institutions are reminded of their duty to spectator conduct under BUCS REG 5.</p>	3
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Post-match

It is customary for teams to provide post-match catering for visiting teams and match officials. It should in the first instance be assumed that this will be the case. In the following instances sanctions will apply:

2.2.3	<p>The home team fails to provide post-match catering to an away team that has traveled in excess of 150 miles to the fixture without giving them least 24 hours' notice. For the avoidance of doubt, at a minimum this should be a hot, takeaway or sit-down meal for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 23 squad members • At least 4 support staff 	2
2.2.4	<p>The away team declines the offer of post-match catering and/or fails to confirm whether they would like to have a sit-down meal or take-away without giving the home team 48-hours' notice.</p>	2
2.2.5	<p>If a sit-down meal is requested, it is expected that post-match catering will be provided in a separate dedicated room such as a food hall.</p>	1
2.2.6	<p>All 3 match officials appointed to a fixture should receive post-match catering.</p>	2

2.3 Medical Facilities and Equipment

2.3.1	<p>Each club must provide a dedicated medical treatment room for players at its principal home ground and any other ground hosting first team games.</p> <p>The minimum physical requirements for a medical treatment room are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access available to both teams. • access for a stretcher from the pitch and to an external exit accessible by ambulance, with a minimum corridor and door width of 1.2m. • in exceptional circumstances where it is not possible for 1.2m door width, a minimum of 0.8m door width is accepted if an ambulance cot is provided pitch-side to allow movement of injured/ill player with extrication team member at either end of the cot. There must be access from the pitch to the medical room for an ambulance cot and equally access to the ambulance from either the pitch-side or medical room to the ambulance for the ambulance cot. 	3
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • floors to be non-slip, impervious and washable wall linings, and worktops to be easily cleaned, to comply with hygiene and infection control requirements. • a sink with hot and cold running water. • direct access to a WC (where WC provision is located within 20m of the medical room and does not require access through a public area). • adequate lighting and heating. <p>The minimum equipment requirements of a medical treatment room are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drinking water and disposable cups. • soap and paper towels. • adequate arrangements for the safe and proper disposal of clinical waste and sharps e.g., needles. • contain at least one examination couch with waterproof protection, clean pillows and blankets or towels. • contain at least one lockable cabinet for medicines, and adequate storage facilities for other equipment. • a chair. • The room must be cleaned regularly in accordance with national guidelines and health and safety regulations. 	
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2.3.2	<p>During matches and contact training sessions the home team must ensure the following medical equipment is available pitch side:</p> <p>Split long board (EXL Scoop or equivalent) with Head Immobiliser and appropriately trained stretcher bearers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cervical Stiff Neck Collar(s) - 2 adjustable collars or an assortment of collars to fit every player within the Club (extrication collar). Soft neck collars are not suitable. • AED Cardiac Defibrillator – ideally with a manual override and monitor. <p><i>The following equipment is required in the BSR MOS, but is NOT required for this playoff fixture. Competing teams are encouraged to provide the most comprehensive medical equipment and staffing provision possible</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split long board (EXL Scoop or equivalent) with Head Immobiliser and appropriately trained stretcher bearers. • Splints (For immobilisation of the upper and lower limbs). • Stethoscope and Sphygmomanometer. • Airways (selection of ALL the below must be present) - Oropharyngeal airway (assorted sizes) - Nasopharyngeal airway (assorted sizes) - Pocket mask with one way valve. • Bag valve mask. • Magill forceps. • Emergency Cricothyrotomy Device/Kit and needle Cricothyroidotomy equipment* • Oxygen cylinder - to include variable flow rate oxygen, bag valve mask, non-rebreathing mask, and purpose made carrier • Entonox with patient self-administration system in purpose made carrier. • Pentrox may be used as an alternative to Entonox for players aged 18 and above (Pentrox must not be used for players aged 18 and under). 	3
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable Suction (can be hand-held or powered). • Penlight torch. • IV giving sets - 1l crystalloid (not 5% dextrose) - IV Cannulae (14G-22G)*. • Nebuliser mask and tubing. <p>This list is consistent with the immediate care equipment used in the PHICIS Lv.2 course following consultation with physio's and doctors involved in rugby union across the UK.</p> <p>* Only to be included if the appropriately trained personnel are present</p>	
2.3.3	Access to a separate room which can serve as a doping control room on match-day if required (which may or may not also serve another purpose), with appropriate toilet facilities.	2