

BUCS INDOOR AND ADAPTIVE ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT CRITERIA & HOSTING GUIDELINES 2026-27

Introduction

The BUCS Indoor and Adaptive Rowing Championships aims to empower, encourage and support university rowing clubs in planning and delivering indoor rowing events. BUCS and British Rowing have a shared goal of ensuring that local university clubs are partnering with a local community club or organisation, to create a series of exciting and inclusive regional indoor rowing events that provide a competitive rowing experience for rowers and non-rowers, students and members of the wider local community.

The Championships is inclusive of adaptive rowing and offers dedicated adaptive categories to reflect this commitment. These categories ensure that athletes with disabilities can compete in a supportive and competitive environment, helping to make the event accessible to a broader range of participants.

Event Organisers will receive support from both BUCS and British Rowing throughout the planning and delivery process, helping to ensure consistency, fairness and collaboration across all events within the Championships. The Championships also encourages institutions to broaden participation by reaching out to a partner club in the community and to engage not only your own and local student rowing clubs, but also other university sports clubs, gym users, local rowing clubs and community groups.

The Championships aims to promote both participation and performance, welcoming newcomers to the sport alongside experienced and competitive rowers.

About the Event

The events shall be held over the weekends of 24-25 October and 31 October – 1 November 2026 and will be the gateway to a season that will conclude with the [British Rowing and World Indoor Rowing Championships](#) from 5-6 December at the NEC, Birmingham.

BUCS is seeking to appoint 5-6 hosts across different regions of the UK to make the events as open and accessible as possible to the BUCS membership and local rowing communities. These regions will be determined based on the bids received to host. Bids will be assessed on the commitment from the hosts to use the BUCS categories as a platform for a wider event including team events, relays etc. to help widen participation and create a more inclusive and exciting event experience.

Results from eligible BUCS students taking part in the series, who have been entered through BUCS Play, will be included within the BUCS Rowing Indoor Rowing Championships 2026-27 results which will be displayed on the BUCS website.

Timetable for Bids

Monday 8 June 2026	Bid Questionnaire available to complete
Wednesday 8 July 2026 at 23:59	Deadline for submission of Bid Questionnaire
Friday 17 July 2026	Anticipated date for hosting to be awarded to clubs
w/c 13 August 2026	All hosts and venues announced publicly
Tuesday 8 September 2026	Event Information published and Entries Open

Event Planning

Institutions who host an Indoor Rowing Championship event will be required to:

- Provide written sign off to BUCS from a university staff member who agrees to act as a guarantor for the event. This is to be provided through the bidding document.
- Confirm details of a partner club in the local community that is committed to running the event alongside the University
- Book a suitable venue with dedicated competition space
- Have a volunteer team with knowledge of indoor rowing (for event set-up)
- Develop an event plan and budget
- Appoint an Independent Adjudicator
 - The adjudicator is responsible for ensuring all machines (Concept 2 ergometers) are fit for purpose, and each race and regional event is completed in accordance with the guidelines listed in this document. They must also ensure the conduct and delivery of the event is safe, fair and exhibits good sportsmanship. BUCS will ask for confirmation of results from the Independent Adjudicator.
- Market the event to the wider community
- Administer and manage an entry process
- Collate results and upload results into the BUCS results system (details to be provided)
- Provide a risk assessment for the event (in consultation with the institution, the partner club and BUCS)
- Confirm that you have applicable insurance and first aid coverage for the event.

Venue Requirements

The venue and technical sporting requirements are outlined in the Bidding Document.

Competition Format

The following BUCS endorsed categories must be included within each Indoor and Rowing Championship Event:

Category	Distance
Championship (Open and Women's)	2,000m
Championship (Open and Women's)	250m
Championship Lightweight (Open and Women's)	2,000m
Championship Adaptive (Open and Women's)	1,000m
Beginner (Open and Women's)	1,000m

As above, host institutions are also encouraged to create wider event experience for competitors and spectators and to offer their own categories such as other sprints, team relays and perhaps other distances. These events provide opportunities for local event organisers to tailor the event to their local audience – to take entries on the day and to earn income from a wider base of activity – there is no BUCS fee for these local events – but organisers must offer the core BUCS categories as above as a minimum.

Lightweights

Details of lightweight information can be found in the BUCS Rowing Regulations [here](#). Lightweight competitors must weigh-in at least one hour before their race. Weigh-in must open at least two hours before the competition starts.

Lightweight competitors who do not make their weight will still be able to race but they will not be placed. Their time will be listed at the bottom of the race category they entered. Lightweight competitors failing to make their weight will have their time included in the open weight category results.

Machine Settings

The drag factor should be set as below for all competitors:

Open	138
Female	130
Open lightweight	135
Female lightweight	125

Advice on settings will be available from the appointed Independent Adjudicator.

Support for Adaptive Categories

Staff from British Rowing will be available to provide guidance and where possible support to help accommodate adaptive entries at your event.

For more information around adaptive [classification](#) and on indoor adaptive categories, head to the [British Rowing website](#).

Entries

Entries (for the BUCS categories noted above) will be open through BUCS Play and must be approved by Institution Administrators to be valid for the University Indoor & Adaptive Rowing Series. Confirmed entries will be sent to universities prior to the competition. Competitors may turn up and enter on the day, however these will not count towards the BUCS event and will therefore not be eligible for BUCS medals or points and similarly – entries for local events – such as sprints and relays are not managed through BUCS Play and will not count for BUCS medals / points

****Athletes and Teams that wish to compete in the BUCS Indoor & Adaptive Rowing Championship must be registered through BUCS Play. This must be done by the individual competitor through the BUCS Play app. Universities will be billed for entries post event by BUCS.**

Entry Fees

Entry fees for the BUCS event categories within the BUCS Indoor Rowing Series will be determined by BUCS on BUCS Play. 85% of the entry fees received from each host's entries will be shared back with the organisers of their event.

As a host institution you will decide on your own entry fees for categories at your event for walk-ups on the day (for example as a way of raising funds for your rowing club / a charity / venue hire etc.), but please note, those who have entered through BUCS Play should not be charged, a list of these names will be sent to the host prior to the event and after the event has closed on BUCS Play.

Results

Host institutions will be provided with a results template from BUCS. Results must be confirmed by the Independent Adjudicator before being uploaded to a shared document, within 24 hours of the event finishing.

It is vital the naming of competitors and institutions is accurate and consistent in all results.

Results will be available on the BUCS event webpage after all events in the Championships have concluded.

Medals

Host institutions are able to award medals on a local basis at their own discretion for additional categories.

**** At the conclusion of the Indoor Rowing Championship BUCS will send medals to institutions for competitors who were registered on BUCS Play and finish 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the BUCS Rowing Indoor Championship categories. ****

Marketing and Communications

Host institutions are required to maintain an event webpage for publicity purposes and to contain all essential information explaining to potential participants how to enter their event, with a link to BUCS Play. BUCS and British Rowing need to be informed of the website URL address so these can be referenced online.

Please note that events should be advertised to all students and staff at your institutions, and members of the local community. Therefore, any marketing material should be inclusive and should not be targeted specifically to existing rowers only.

Webpage

Each host institution and its partner club should maintain an event webpage. The host institution may also choose to run a marketing campaign and create associated marketing material to generate further interest in their event.

The webpage and any marketing material should contain the following information:

- Title 'BUCS Indoor Rowing Championship' displayed clearly
- Name of host institution and partner club
- Venue of event
- Date of event
- Summary of categories available
- Details of how to enter and costs – link to BUCS Play for information
- Link BUCS Play for entry
- Contact details of Event Organiser
- Results for each category
- Photos and social media interaction
- Opportunity for participants to feedback on the event