BUCS Cross Country Championships 2025-26

Event Criteria

**Status**

The BUCS Cross Country Championships are the annual National Championships for Higher Education athletes.

In 2024- 25, Blackweir Fields, Cardiff hosted the BUCS Cross-Country Championships on the 1st February 2025. This one-day event saw over 2,000 students from across the UK, come together to enjoy a competitive and exciting Cross-Country Championships. Please see [here](https://www.bucs.org.uk/events-page/athletics-cross-country-championships-2024-25.html) for more information on the 2024-25 event.

BUCS Cross-Country is one of the biggest and best events in the BUCS calendar and we are excited to receive applications to host in partnership with any interested University Athletic Union and/or University Sports Department.

**Format**

The one-day event currently features four races;

Men’s Long: Circa 10km [BUCS Points Available]

Men’s Short: 7-8km

Women’s Long: 7-8km [BUCS Points Available]

Women’s Short: 6-7.5km

[BUCS will apply for and obtain the necessary race permit]

**Dates**

Ideally the competition will take place on **Saturday** **31st January 2026**.

The date is set according to advice from the Home Nation Athletics Bodies to avoid a clash with other major endurance events.

**Host venue**

One venue is required but joint bids from neighbouring Universities will also be accepted.

The venue should accommodate around 2000 competitors, 250 additional spectators and 50 event staff.

The venue should be accessible to all individuals, e.g. accessible toilets, access routes

**Timetable**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tuesday 13th May 2025 | Bid Questionnaire available to complete |
| Friday 18th July 2024 17:00 | Deadline for submission of Bid Questionnaire |
| September 2025 | Host venue announced |

**Officials / Marshals**

Those bidding for the Championships are responsible for sourcing all officials.

The Officials required are as follows:

* X1 Race Referee Level 3 or 4
* X1 Assistant Referee
* X1 Chief Timekeeper Level 3 or 4
* X2 Timekeepers/Recorders
* X1 Chief Finish Co-Ordinator
* X2 Line Judge/Recorders
* X1 Chief Starter Level 3 or 4
* X1 Chief Start Co-ordinator
* X1 Clerk of Course
* X4 Finish Area Team (N.B. some of these roles could be filled by volunteers familiar with Cross Country)
* X6 Start Team (N.B. some of these roles could be filled by volunteers familiar with Cross Country)

The successful applicant will also need to utilise volunteer marshals to supplement the Officials at the Championships. Marshals are required in the following areas:

* At least x10 Course Marshals (in the 2024 event at Leeds approximately 30 marshals were utilised on the course)

The successful applicant needs to contact the Home County or County Officials Secretary or Regional Officials Secretary in England to source officials.

**England Athletics**

County Officials’ Secretary

<https://d1laub10p5ibfa.cloudfront.net/2024/02/CofSec-List-Updated-080224.pdf>

**Tri-regional Secretary contact details:**

* Northern – tronorth@gmail.com
* Midlands and Southwest – midsswsecretary@gmail.com
* Southern – elsesec2022@gmail.com

In Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland the successful applicant should look for more information on the following Home Nations webpages:

**Welsh Athletics**

<https://www.welshathletics.org/en/page/official-s-resources>

**Scottish Athletics**

<https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/officials/>

**Athletics Northern Ireland**

<https://athleticsni.org/Officials>

BUCS can help with securing officials if the successful applicant is struggling to secure officials. The successful host must make BUCS aware of this at least 2 months prior to the event.

**Event Budget**

BUCS will cover costs for the results service, medical cover, officials’ expenses, and associated costs, more detail of which can be found in the Bid Questionnaire document. Hosts are expected to cover venue/facilities costs. This includes potential indoor space for spectators and competitors. All costs to be covered by BUCS will need invoices/receipts.

Hosts are encouraged to generate additional funding from other supporters. All additional funding must be cleared by the BUCS Office, to ensure compatibility with existing sponsors.

A proposed budget MUST be submitted with application.

For further information please see the [UKA – Guide to Cross Country Event Organisation](http://uka.org.uk/competitions/useful-documents/)