

BUCS NETBALL SAG - MEETING 30/01/2026 - MINUTES

Date Friday 30th January 2026
Time 13:00 – 15:00
Location Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Sarah Gandon
Sophie Ewin
Sally Sandison
Mel Mansfield
Nick Burley
Em Harvey
Alice Cuell
Eva Doriano
Max Bergin
Katie Sykes
Katy Ryan
Adrain Evans
Tristan Donaldson

APOLOGIES

Hannah Underhill
Katelyn Williamson
Trish Wilcox
Jo Noel

BUCS Netball SAG Meeting 30.01.2026 Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Every member introduced themselves, their role on the SAG and role/interest within netball. New SAG members were welcomed to the group.

2. Key Discussion Areas

A. Actions from previous meeting

- Discussed actions from previous meeting, those not yet actioned included in Actions (Section 10).

B. NGB Updates – Standing Agenda Point

England Netball Update:

- England Netball are celebrating their centenary this year.
- 5 years into 10 year 'Adventure Strategy'. Ongoing focus on NetballHer, BEE product, CWG 2026 along with NSL and NextGen.

- Currently modernising memberships to match experience to meet members demands which involves examining what a relevant netball NGB looks in the HE sector.
- Introduction of a learner management system (LMS) with an initial focus on coaching pathway. Advisory groups have been set up – Katy to ensure HE representation here.

Netball Scotland Update:

Update sent from Katelyn Williamson -

- We have been working with all Scottish universities to accredit them under our Thistle Mark Standard. This is our minimum governance standard for clubs and aligns with sport Scotland's guidance.
- Mixed competition for seniors is now up and running. It has had a great start, with 11 teams entered, and we hope to see further growth next season.
- We have also launched our first boys' competition, currently focusing on S1 (ages 12–13), with plans to expand this in the new season.
- We are developing support resources for schools and clubs for the hosting of the CWG in Glasgow, alongside a wider focus on growing and sustaining netball both before and after the Games.
- Scottish Student Sport now have their new netball committee in place for the upcoming season, which is progressing positively. Unfortunately, due to budget and staffing cuts, **SSS are unable to deliver the recreational competitions and some programme elements they previously offered**. However, we are continuing to explore how NS can further support universities during this time.

Wales Netball Update:

- Wales Netball have recently restructured. Recruited 2 new development officers.
- Facilities audit – limit for 2 courts in same venue causing stress on clubs and leagues.
- Current competitions review finishing mid-March including a roadshow around Wales to engage members' feedback.

C. Operational Plan/Delivery

- Overview of SAG aims and objectives
- Discussed challenges around calendar clashes (BUCS, Prem, NextGen, NSL). Need for education piece around player welfare and overloading. Potential to look at pinch points in season or change structure of league (e.g. more teams in prem 1, less fixtures) to avoid congestion with external competitions. Mindful this may not work in Prem 2 and below.
- Home Nations University Programme – Sarah, Mel and Trish to review involvement and relevance in SAG along with any changes to SAG objectives.

D. Updates from the SAG Group

Performance –

- No updates (various points discussed throughout agenda).

Competitions –

- Insufficient data from wider BUCS feedback to give sport-specific results; however this is a future aspiration when more data is gathered.
- Recognition of completion and participation rates of netball would be appreciated from BUCS.
- Growing impact recognised from Wednesday pm pressure on academic commitments.

- Sign - up period for officiating courses (e.g. INTO) may not align with HE landscape. LMS should provide anytime learning along with additional (virtual) release dates (mid-end Oct).
- Lower performing uni's struggling to know how to advertise for coaches – Planet Netball jobs page suggested - [JOBS | Planet Netball](#)

Scotland –

- Sally linking with Katelyn about improving standard of umpires.

Student Voice – Eva

- Students happy with structure, timing and rescheduling of games.
- Feedback for improvement – standard cut- off time for FCP. From a participation perspective more games are wanted across the whole season.
- Full student feedback can be found here - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ar3giJy6vtXfAA3CBBIHfjMmle7FUzZwAExGv-HUgOI/edit?usp=sharing>.

Student voice – Tristan

- Success of Men's tournament highlighted.
- Will advertise for a Men's Rep (current student) who can work closely with Jo Noel across Men's and mixed netball.
- Men's competition should be referred to as 'Men's Universities'. Avoid using BUCS branding until it is approved by BUCS.
- Men's representative game will be a curtain raiser for BBW, organised by Jo Noel.

Workforce update – Alice

- Officiating and umpiring courses discussed along with a push on EN job portal. Met with Katy Ryan which was helpful coming into the role.

E. Events

Big BUCS Wednesday

- Men's representative match to be curtain raiser.
- Changes to timings – 14:00 trophy 16:30 championship.
- Alice will be tournament director (Em Harvey to do a handover).
- EN to provide umpires and technical officials. Event will be livestreamed – Lucy Goodman and 1 other (tbc) to commentate.

F. League and Rules

- Suggestion for A award umpires to be standard for Prem 1.
 - ➔ to improve consistency of umpiring, performance level and player safeguarding. Clarity needed around UK landscape of A award umpires and feasibility of implementing this for Prem 1.
 - ➔ If feasible this could lead to umpires being centrally appointed by NGB's (would need all 3 NGB's to support this in case of promotion e.g. for Scottish sides).
- Scoring requirements for Prem 1 and 2 – confirmation of home team to provide 2 technical officials. Suggestion of introduction of running score sheet (to be completed by both scorers) needed for Prem leagues to support umpires.

- Review of 50% (normality) rule – Discussed potential of including whether or not players take to the court rather than being named in match day squad within this rule. Highly reliant on quality of data capture, may not be accurate and feasible in BUCS at the moment (ongoing review).
- BUCS international player regulation & scheduling - normality adaptation for international players – player who moves up does not have normality affected. Potential repercussion on below players normality.
- Priorities for rule and regs changes
 - ➔ A award umpire introduction to Prem 1.
 - ➔ Scoring improvement in Prem with introduction of running score sheet.
- Deadline for proposed regulation changes –
 - 19th April 2026 (for discussion at the 2nd June Comp Group meeting)
 - 17th May 2026 (for discussion at the 14th July Comp Group meeting)

BUCS recommend that we aim to submit any proposed changes by the **first of these deadlines** due to the proximity of the July meeting to the start of next season.

8. Men's Netball

- Covered previously in section D

9. A.O.B

- None

Next Meeting

- Mid-late April, Doodle poll to follow.

10. Actions

Action Item	Responsible Person(s)	Notes/Progress
Meet Charlotte (England Netball) to agree facility standards	Katie Sykes, Sarah	Ongoing. For Prem leagues discuss wooden floors, scoreboards
Obtain and review BUCS event project plan	BUCS Event Leads	Ongoing, for streamlined event responsibility. Inc possibility of Uni Championships as a curtain-raiser for NSL main event
Ensure HE representation on EN Learner Management System advisory groups	Katie Ryan	
Include player welfare and overloading education for HE players and coaches on LMS	Katie Ryan	
Review Home Nations University Programme involvement/relevance in SAG	Sarah, Mel, Trish	To amend SAG objectives if needed.
Develop a plan to share links and assets with EN (mainly around BBW) for promotion.	Nick, Max	If no existing plan ensure links and assets sent with enough time for EN to share.

Advertise open role: Mens Rep	Hannah	
BBW Tournament director handover	Em, Alice	
Clarify if sports president needed at BBW	Nick, Max	
Feasibility appraisal with Gary Burgess for introduction of A award umpires in Prem 1	Katy Ryan, Mel, Em	Katy to meet with Gary, Mel to support from performance/Em from umpire perspectives
Continued review of 50% rule	Nick	
Create a guide for how to use the running score sheet to introduce this to Prem 1 and 2. BUCS to attach this to regs along with 'How to Score A Netball Match' YouTube resource.	Em, Nick	Em to create guide, BUCS to attach to regs.
Push BUCS student feedback survey amongst student networks to gain netball specific feedback	Everyone in HE	
Ask IAs to look out for Competitions Group Papers from the Regional Competitions Rep and actively support any rule changes.	Everyone in HE	Once link circulated will stay active so this can be ongoing.
Explore Uni Championships as curtain-raiser for main event	Katy Ryan	
Create infographic of completion statistics (BUCS netball)	Hannah	Ongoing, focus on completion stats/success stories.
Regular NGB updates from Scotland, Wales, England Netball	Katelyn, Adrian, Katie	Ongoing