

BUCS SPORT SPECIFIC REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2023-24 – SET 3 (VERSION 1)

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SUMMARY

This document highlights some of the changes to BUCS' Sport Specific Regulations for the 2023-24 season that institutions/Playing Entities should be aware of.

It is not a record of all changes, as it does not contain details of any minor editorial changes, such as wording changes which do not affect the purpose of the regulations, or changes to numbering where regulations have been reordered.

Updated versions of this document will be published should there be further updates to regulations following its initial publication.

Sport	Regulation Number	Previous Regulation	New Regulation	Reason
American Football	N/A	N/A	<p>*Notification of changes to BAFA rulebook for 2023-24 season, 2024-25 season and 2025-26 season*</p> <p>See here https://rules.bafra.info/docs/2023/BAFA/BAFA%20rule%20changes%202023.pdf.</p>	<p>Changes which are compulsory for BUCS to follow and will therefore affect members. Notice periods for future changes give institutions time to ensure compliance.</p>
American Football	AMF 10 (FORMERLY AMF 2)	<p>AMF 2 Minimum number of players for a fixture to start or continue The minimum number of players required for a fixture to start or continue will be 11.</p>	<p>AMF 10 Minimum number of players for a fixture to start In relation to BAFA regulation 5.1 and BAFA rule 13-8-6, the minimum number of players required for a fixture to start will be 18.</p>	<p>This regulation has been updated following discussions with the BUCS American Football SAG, including representatives of BAFA, BAFRA and BAFCA. The BAFA rulebook for 2023 has been updated to make it clear that competition authority (in this case BUCS) is responsible for determining the minimum number of players required for a fixture to start.</p> <p>When the BAFA rulebook had no set minimum ahead of the 2019-20 season, after consultation with the BUCS SAG, a minimum of 11 players was set. However, in recent seasons the BUCS Executive have heard from several teams that this is too low a number of players and raises concerns around player safety and welfare. With the update in the BAFA rulebook, BAFA's Adult National Leagues have set a minimum of 22 players and so this change brings BUCS in line with what is in place for the NGB's own competitions which many of our players and coaches are also involved in. In 2022-23, the average squad size on BUCS Play by the end of the season was 45 players.</p> <p>Starting with 22 players means that teams hopefully will not find themselves in the</p>

position of dropping as low as 11 (or less), but where they do lose any players during a match 11 will be the minimum number of players required for the match to continue as per BAFA regulation 5.1 and BAFA rules 3-5-3 and 13-8-6.

Following Comps Group Feedback on 23/05/2023: All regions had commented that some institutions would not be able to meet the number of players required and more walkovers would be conceded.

Therefore, the new minimum number of players required for a match to start will be 18 for the 2023-24 season, with a view to increase this for the 2024-25 season. To support this, having reviewed the squad numbers from the "after the first two rounds of the season" check for the 2022-23 season, all but one of the 83 teams team had at least 18 players in their squad on BUCS Play, just three others had less than 22. The team with less than 18 at the time of the check had at least 23 by their next fixture and 32 by the final season check. The average squad size at the time of the "after the first two rounds of the season" check was 45.

Starting with 18 players means that teams hopefully will not find themselves in the position of dropping as low as 11 (or less), but where they do lose any players during a match 11 will be the minimum number of players required for the match to continue as per BAFA regulation 5.1 and BAFA rules 3-5-3 and 13-8-6.

<p>American Football</p>	<p>AMF 12 (FORMERLY AMF 4)/AMF 11 (NEW)</p>	<p>AMF 4 Roster Before each match, in addition to completing BUCS Team Sheets as per REG 11.2, teams must supply the Referee with a roster listing all players, coaches and other sideline personnel as per BAFA regulation 5. All individuals on this roster must meet the requirements of AMF 3. A BAFRA Roster Form should be used, but if a team does not have one available then an alternative form can be submitted as long as it captures the same required information.</p> <p>AMF 4.1 Each team must have a BAFCA Level 1 qualified coach who is on the sideline at all times for a game to start or continue.</p> <p>AMF 4.2 Teams should also show their opposition and the Referee a form listing all registered coaches obtained from the BAFA membership website. This can be viewed online or printed in hard copy as long as the date it was generated is shown.</p>	<p>AMF 12 Roster Before each match, in addition to completing BUCS Team Sheets as per REG 11.2, teams must supply the Referee with a roster listing all players, coaches and other sideline personnel as per BAFA regulation 5. All individuals on this roster must meet the requirements of AMF 2. A BAFRA Roster Form should be used, but if a team does not have one available then an alternative form can be submitted as long as it captures the same required information.</p> <p>AMF 11 Coaches</p> <p>AMF 11.1 In relation to BAFA rule 13-8-6 and BAFA regulation 5.1, for each match, each team must have, at the field, a minimum of two licensed (as defined in BAFA rule 13-8-4) coaches who hold a current valid BAFCA level 1 or higher qualification. As per BAFA rule 13-8-6, this minimum only needs to be met at the scheduled kick-off time; thereafter the minimum number is one who must be on the sideline at all times.</p> <p>AMF 11.2 Teams should show their opposition and the Referee a form listing all registered coaches obtained from the BAFA membership website. This can be viewed online or printed in hard copy as long as the date it was generated is shown.</p>	<p>These regulations have been updated following discussions with the BUCS American Football SAG, including representatives of BAFA, BAFRA and BAFCA. The BAFA rulebook for 2023 has been updated to make it clear that competition authority (in this case BUCS) is responsible for determining the minimum number of coaches required for a fixture to start.</p> <p>Previously this was just one coach with the minimum level of qualification, however teams often only having one coach present - and in some cases associated with their team at all - has led to issues with fixtures not being able to take place or be abandoned when the coach becomes unavailable/unable to continue. There have also been player safety and welfare concerns raised about one coach trying to look after such large numbers of players as there are in American Football squads.</p> <p>With the update in the BAFA rulebook, BAFA's Adult National Leagues have set a minimum of three coaches and so this change brings BUCS in line with what is in place for the NGB's own competitions which many of our players and coaches are also involved in - although BUCS will currently still only require all three coaches to be level 1 qualified.</p> <p>Starting with three coaches means that teams hopefully will not find themselves in the position of dropping as low as one (or less), but where they do lose any coaches during a match 1 will be the minimum number of coaches required for the match</p>
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to continue as per BAFA rule 13-8-6.

Following Comps Group Feedback on 23/05/2023: All regions expressed some concern for this regulation stating reasons, such as cost, availability of staff and timing of the change. Therefore, the new minimum number of coaches required for a match to start will be two level one coaches for the 2023-24 season, with a view to increase this to three for the 2024-25 season, with one of these three needing to be level 2. To support this, institutions are advised that whilst one coach has to be on the sideline at all times, the other could be a "player / coach". Additionally, BUCS will again be supporting institutions with free places to coaching courses - likely one level 1 and one level 2 course per institution, which will be confirmed prior to the 2023-24 season. However, courses are already available for those who may wish to get qualified now at a cost of £55 - see here (<https://www.sportstructures.com/education-training/our-courses/sport-coaching-courses/sport-specific-coaching-courses/british-american-football-coaches-association/bafca-level-1-award-course/>) for more information.

Starting with two coaches means that teams hopefully will not find themselves in the position of dropping as low as one (or less), but where they do lose any coaches during a match one will be the minimum number of coaches required for the match to continue as per BAFA rule 13-8-6.

Archery	ARC 2.2.6	<p style="text-align: center;">ARC 2.2 Outdoor Championships</p> <p>ARC 2.2.6 Team awards will be determined using ranking points from the WA900 and WA720 rounds. The team scores for the Men’s and Women’s Experienced Team awards shall be the three lowest weighted non-compound ranking points based on the WA900 and WA720 from the eligible experienced competitors from each institution/Playing Entity. The team scores for the Open Compound Team award shall be the two lowest weighted compound ranking points based on the WA900 and WA720 from the eligible experienced and novice competitors from each institution/Playing Entity. The team scores for the Open Novice Team award shall be the three lowest weighted non-compound ranking points based on the WA900 and WA720 from the eligible novice competitors from each institution/Playing Entity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARC 2.2 Outdoor Championships</p> <p>ARC 2.2.6 Team awards will be determined using rank scores from the WA900 and WA720 rounds. The team scores for the Men’s and Women’s Experienced Team awards shall be the three highest weighted non-compound rank scores based on the WA900 and WA720 from the eligible experienced competitors from each institution/Playing Entity. The team scores for the Open Compound Team award shall be the two highest weighted compound rank scores based on the WA900 and WA720 from the eligible experienced and novice competitors from each institution/Playing Entity. The team scores for the Open Novice Team award shall be the three highest weighted non-compound rank scores based on the WA900 and WA720 from the eligible novice competitors from each institution/Playing Entity. An individual's combined rank score = [WA720 weighted rank] + [WA720 % of baseline score] + [WA900 weighted rank] + [WA900 % of baseline score].</p>	<p>Incorrect references to "lowest weighted" replaced with "highest weighted" to match the formula actually used. References to 'ranking points' replaced with 'rank scores' and additional detail as to what these are added for clarity.</p>
Archery	ARC 3	<p>ARC 3 Eligibility for Novice categories Only entrants who have not held insurance with an Archery Governing Body prior to, and who have commenced shooting during, the current academic year shall be eligible for entry into Novice categories.</p>	<p>ARC 3 Eligibility for Novice categories Only individuals who have not held insurance with an Archery Governing Body prior to, and who have commenced shooting since, 1 September of the current academic year, shall be eligible for entry into Novice categories.</p>	<p>Reference to September was previously in the regulations (up until 2015-16) and has been in the entry information in recent seasons. It is the most common date used in student archery for novice status.</p> <p>Adding this specific date back into the regulation ensures clarity and this detail is readily available throughout the season.</p>

Baseball	BSB i - BSB iii	<p>BSB i The BUCS Baseball Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules.</p> <p>BSB ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>BSB iii In the event that these regulations contradict the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	<p>BSB i The BUCS Baseball Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the 2021 edition of the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules.</p> <p>BSB ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>BSB iii In the event that these regulations contradict the 2021 edition of the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	To recognise that BUCS baseball will not yet be following the latest edition of the MLB rulebook, in line with domestic NGBs.
Baseball	BSB 7.1	<p>BSB 7 League specific regulations</p> <p>BSB 7.1 The baseball diamond must be either grass, dirt or artificial grass (3G or 4G) and dimensions should comply with the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules. BSUK have a diagram of field dimensions available here. It is the responsibility of the first named (home) team when confirming the fixture (note REG 9.5) to advise the opposition team and all match officials of the playing surface and on any footwear restrictions (note REG 9.3.3).</p>	<p>BSB 7 League specific regulations</p> <p>BSB 7.1 The baseball diamond must be either grass, dirt or artificial grass (3G or 4G) and dimensions should comply with the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules. BSUK have a diagram of field dimensions available here. Portable pitching mounds are permitted to be used. It is the responsibility of the first named (home) team when confirming the fixture (note REG 9.5) to advise the opposition team and all match officials of the playing surface, whether a portable pitching mound will be used, and on any footwear restrictions (note REG 9.3.3).</p>	For clarity that portable pitching mounds are permitted to be used.
Baseball	BSB 7.2-BSB 7.3	<p>BSB 7 League specific regulations</p> <p>BSB 7.2 The field of play should be booked for three hours per match, allowing for a 15 minute warm up on the field, two hours 30 minutes of normal match time and a 15 minute window for any delayed start of match.</p> <p>BSB 7.3 Matches shall be played over seven innings or three hours, whichever comes first. No new inning should start after two hours 45 minutes. The last inning is not run limited and therefore needs to be called to fit in with the time limit.</p>	<p>BSB 7 League specific regulations</p> <p>BSB 7.2 The field of play should be booked for three hours 15 minutes per match, allowing for a 15 minute warm up on the field and three hours of match time.</p> <p>BSB 7.3 Matches shall be played over seven innings or three hours, whichever comes first. No new inning should start after two hours 45 minutes. The last inning is not run limited and therefore needs to be called to fit in with the time limit.</p> <p>BSB 7.3.1 It may be possible for a match to be tied after the last, open inning. If this is the case and if the</p>	To address the inconsistency between the timings previously set out in 7.2 and 7.3.

		<p>BSB 7.3.1 It may be possible for a match to be tied after the last, open inning. If this is the case and if the match cannot continue to the point of conclusion due to field booking availability, the winner will be determined by count-back to the last team that held the lead at the end of an inning. For the avoidance of doubt, any extra innings will start with a runner on 2nd base as per the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules.</p>	<p>match cannot continue to the point of conclusion due to field booking availability, the winner will be determined by count-back to the last team that held the lead at the end of an inning. For the avoidance of doubt, any extra innings will start with a runner on 2nd base as per the MLB (Major League Baseball) Official Baseball Rules.</p>	
Baseball	BSB 7.4	<p>BSB 7 League specific regulations</p> <p>BSB 7.4 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').</p> <p>BSB 7.4.1 Institutions/Playing Entities can contact Chris Rawlings at BaseballSoftballUK (BSUK) to request support with sourcing officials, however, as per REG 10.2, it is the responsibility of the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity to arrange all appropriate match officials.</p>	<p>BSB 7 League specific regulations</p> <p>BSB 7.4 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').</p> <p>BSB 7.4.1 Institutions/Playing Entities can contact Leah Holmes at BaseballSoftballUK (BSUK) to request support with sourcing officials, however, as per REG 10.2, it is the responsibility of the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity to arrange all appropriate match officials.</p>	Updated to reflect change to BSUK contact.
Canoeing	CAN 2.5	<p>CAN 2 Canoe Polo Championships</p> <p>CAN 2.5 Disqualifications</p> <p>CAN 2.5.1 If a team is over 10 minutes late to a match, they will automatically lose the match 3-0 and it will be scratched.</p> <p>CAN 2.5.2 If a team is fielding an ineligible player for a match then they will automatically lose the match 3-0 and it will be scratched.</p>	<p>CAN 2 Canoe Polo Championships</p> <p>CAN 2.5 Disqualifications</p> <p>CAN 2.5.1 If a team is over 10 minutes late to a match, they will automatically lose the match 7-0 and it will be scratched.</p> <p>CAN 2.5.2 If a team is fielding an ineligible player for a match then they will automatically lose the match 7-0 and it will be scratched.</p>	To align the score penalty with that of the current International Canoe Polo (ICF) competition rules as goal differences can be fairly great even for similar teams.
Fencing	N/A	<p>*FIE regulations not adopted by BUCS*</p> <p>The 'new' (as of 2018) FIE Mask strap rules (t.71, t.72 and m.25.7) are still being reviewed by British Fencing's Safety Committee and as such BUCS has still not adopted these rules for the 2022-23 season and will review with British Fencing if they shall be adopted for future seasons.</p>	<p>*FIE regulations not adopted by BUCS*</p> <p>BUCS has still not adopted the requirement for masks that feature the two rear safety systems (securing devices) complying with FIE rule m.25.7.f as this requirement has not been added to the British Fencing Clothing Rules for all fencing, only being required for certain competitions. This results in aspects of FIE rules t.71 and t.72 relating to this therefore also not being applicable for BUCS fencing. Further information on this from the British Fencing Safety Committee can be found here and here. BUCS will</p>	For clarity that these rules are still not being adopted.

			<i>continue to review these requirements with British Fencing to determine if they should be adopted in future seasons.</i>	
Fencing	FEN 19	<p>FEN 19 Passitivity/Non Combativity Application of the rule shall be applied as per FIE rule t.124 except:</p> <p>FEN 19.1 As it is not possible to establish ‘the team with the highest ranking’ (t.124.2f), Weapon Captains are required in advance of the match, to ‘toss a coin’ to establish which team shall be awarded the ‘advantage’.</p> <p>FEN 19.2 In the event that the teams are level on score and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a p-black is issued to both teams and they have no reserve, or; • a double p-black card has been issued to both teams; <p>the team with the ‘advantage’ shall win the match. The team score shall remain the same.</p> <p>FEN 19.3 The penalty for the P-Black offences only apply to the individual(s) for that weapon specific team match that they were issued. For example, foil. If the penalty was awarded in the foil match, those fencers would still be eligible for the other weapons against the same team. The penalty does not continue beyond that weapon specific match.</p>	<p>FEN 19 Passitivity/Non Combativity Application of the rule shall be applied as per FIE rule t.124 except:</p> <p>FEN 19.1 As it is not possible to establish “the team with the higher initial seeding in the competition” (t.124.2.c.i), Weapon Captains are required in advance of the match, to ‘toss a coin’ to establish which team shall be awarded the ‘advantage’.</p> <p>FEN 19.2 In the event that the teams are level on score and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a p-black is issued to both teams and they have no reserve, or; • a double p-black card has been issued to both teams; <p>the team with the ‘advantage’ shall win the match. The team score shall remain the same.</p> <p>FEN 19.3 The penalty for the P-Black offences only apply to the individual(s) for that weapon specific team match that they were issued. For example, foil. If the penalty was awarded in the foil match, those fencers would still be eligible for the other weapons against the same team. The penalty does not continue beyond that weapon specific match.</p>	FEN 19.1 updated to reflect changes of FIE rule numbers and wording.
Football	FOO 4.1	<p>FOO 4.1 Tie in knockout competition matches In the event of a tie after normal time, two periods of extra time (15 minutes each way) shall be played. If at the end of the normal playing period of extra time, the teams are still tying the winner shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty spot as per the IFAB Laws of the Game.</p>	<p>FOO 4.1 Tie in knockout competition matches In the event of a tie after normal time, two periods of extra time (15 minutes each way) shall be played. If at the end of the normal playing period of extra time, the teams are still tying the winner shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty spot as per the IFAB Laws of the Game.</p> <p>FOO 4.1.1 If agreed between the two institutions in writing and the referee is informed before kick-off, the two periods of extra time can be eliminated and in the event of a tie after normal time, the winner shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty spot.</p>	Providing this option will enable institutions to potentially reduce facility booking and/or transport booking pressures, but only where there is agreement.

Football	FOO 8	<p style="text-align: center;">FOO 8 Substitutes</p> <p>FOO 8.1 Premier Tier league matches and National Championship knockout competition matches A maximum of three substitutions will be allowed from a maximum of five named substitutes. If a National Championship knockout fixture goes into extra time, then a fourth substitution is permitted, whether or not the team has already used the maximum number (three) of permitted substitutes. Players who have been substituted will not be permitted to return to the match, i.e. rolling substitutions are not permitted.</p> <p>FOO 8.2 Tier 1 and below league matches and National Trophy/Conference Cup/Conference Trophy/Conference Shield knockout competition matches A maximum of five substitutions will be allowed from a maximum of five named substitutes. Players who have been substituted will not be permitted to return to the match, i.e. rolling substitutions are not permitted.</p>	<p>FOO 8 Substitutes A maximum of five substitutions will be allowed from a maximum of five named substitutes. Players who have been substituted will not be permitted to return to the match, i.e. rolling substitutions are not permitted.</p>	<p>Number of substitutions permitted standardised across all BUCS football competitions to five from five. This is following several requests from the membership and after a review with the Football SAG.</p> <p>This will allow more playing opportunities for those involved in the Premier Tier/National Championship squads and more opportunity to rest/rotate players with other football/sporting commitments.</p>
Futsal	FUT i - FUT iii	<p>FUT i The BUCS Futsal Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.</p> <p>FUT ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>FUT iii In the event that these regulations contradict the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	<p>FUT i The BUCS Futsal Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.</p> <p>FUT ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	<p>FUT iii removed as no competition's rules can supersede those of FIFA.</p>
Futsal	FUT 8	<p>FUT 8 Minimum number of players for a fixture to start The minimum number of players per team required for a fixture to start will be three.</p>	<p>FUT 8 Minimum number of players for a fixture to start The minimum number of players per team required for a fixture to start will be five.</p>	<p>As per the FIFA Futsal Laws, a team will still be able to continue if they have at least three players, but it is felt that allowing a team to start a fixture with only three players does not create a positive student experience for either team and risks the integrity of the competition.</p>

Futsal	FUT 11 (NEW)	N/A	<p>FUT 11 Playing kit</p> <p>FUT 11.1 Shirt numbers Players shall wear on the back of their shirts numbers which shall not exceed the number 99. All numbers shall contrast with the colour of the shirt. No two players in a team may wear the same number in a single match.</p> <p>FUT 11.2 Where a "Flying Goalkeeper" is used and a second goalkeeping jersey is unavailable, teams may use a different coloured bib which does not need to have a number on.</p>	For clarity following a query in the 2022-23 season.
Hockey	HOC 5.1	<p>HOC 5 Team selection/Player movement</p> <p>HOC 5.1 Goalkeepers Goalkeepers are able to move up without restriction, and are able to move down one team from their starting selection only in order to cover injury. Evidence that players are moving down to cover injury may be required. This movement is only permitted within the goalkeeper position. This regulation supersedes REG 11.1.3 only.</p>	<p>HOC 5 Team selection/Player movement</p> <p>HOC 5.1 Goalkeepers Goalkeepers are permitted to move down one team from a team they have established normality for to play as a goalkeeper only in order to cover injury. Evidence that players are moving down to cover injury may be required. For example, a goalkeeper who has established normality for a 2nd Team may play for the 3rd Team, in the goalkeeper position only. However, teams should be aware that REG 11.1.4 still applies.</p>	There was a lack of clarity as to what was meant by "starting selection". An individual 'playing up' is not an issue, so the regulation has been updated to clarify when individuals can 'play down' which relates to when they have established 'normality' for a team as per REG 11.1.3.
Hockey	HOC 6	HOC 6 Substitutes Rolling substitutes may be used.	HOC 6 Substitutes A maximum of five substitutes may be named. All five substitutes may be used and as per the FIH Rules of Hockey there is no limit to the number of players who are permitted to be substituted at the same time or to the number of times any player is permitted to substitute or be substituted, i.e. rolling substitutions are permitted.	For clarity following queries over the permitted squad size for BUCS hockey, which is 16 players (11 starting and 5 substitutes).
Hockey	HOC 8	<p>HOC 8 Duration of play</p> <p>HOC 8.1 National Leagues and National Championship knockout competitions All matches shall consist of four quarters of 17.5 minutes, an interval of two minutes between quarter one and two and between quarter three and quarter four, and a half-time interval of no more than ten minutes between quarter two and three. Teams shall change ends at half-time.</p> <p>HOC 8.2 All other leagues and knockout competitions A match shall consist of two periods</p>	<p>HOC 8 Duration of play</p> <p>HOC 8.1 Premier Tier leagues (National/North/South) and National Championship and National Vase knockout competitions All matches shall consist of four quarters of 17.5 minutes, an interval of two minutes between quarter one and two and between quarter three and quarter four, and a half-time interval of no more than ten minutes between quarter two and three. Teams shall change ends at half-time.</p> <p>HOC 8.2 All other leagues and knockout competitions</p>	<p>The National Vase involves teams from both the National league and the North/South leagues. This has led to some confusion/disagreements regarding timings in the Vase when teams from the different leagues meet and those from the National league are not used to playing halves.</p> <p>This change standardises the experience for all teams in the Premier Tier.</p>

		of 35 minutes and a half-time interval of no more than 10 minutes. Teams shall change ends at half-time.	A match shall consist of two periods of 35 minutes and a half-time interval of no more than 10 minutes. Teams shall change ends at half-time.	As per REG 8.3.8.5.2 this would also apply for playoff matches for places in North/South and National: " REG 8.3.8.5.2 All playoff fixtures must be played in accordance with the requirements of the level of competition to which teams are seeking promotion, for example National league general and sport specific regulations."
Hockey	HOC 9	<p>HOC 9 Ties in knockout competition matches In the event of a tie after full-time, the outcome of the match shall be determined by a series of penalty strokes taken under the following conditions:</p> <p>HOC 9.1 The umpires shall together choose the goal to be used and the team captains shall toss a coin to decide which team shall take the first penalty stroke.</p> <p>HOC 9.2 Five different players from each of the teams, excluding any players who have been permanently suspended from the game (Red Card), shall take a penalty stroke alternately against one and the same goalkeeper of the other team. Only if that goalkeeper is, in the opinion of the umpires, incapacitated through injury, or is suspended, shall the team be permitted to substitute the goalkeeper during the course of a particular series in the stroke competition.</p> <p>HOC 9.3 The team that has been awarded the higher number of goals shall be the winner.</p> <p>HOC 9.4 In the event of an equal number of goals having been awarded, another series of penalty strokes shall be taken under the above conditions and with the same five players (subject to any incapacitated player being replaced) but on a sudden death basis, that is the team having been awarded the most goals after an equal number of strokes have been taken shall be the winner. The sequence in which the players take the strokes for their team need not be the same as in the previous</p>	<p>HOC 9 Ties in knockout competition matches In the event of a tie after full-time, the outcome of the match shall be determined as follows:</p> <p>HOC 9.1 National Championship/National Vase (All matches) and National Trophy (Final only) A shoot-out competition will take place under the following conditions:</p> <p>HOC 9.1.1 Each team shall select five players to take and one player to defend the shoot-outs, excluding any players who have been permanently suspended from the game (Red Card). A player who has been warned (green card) or temporarily suspended (yellow card) may take part in the shout-out competition even if the period of their suspension has not been completed at the end of the match. A player nominated to defend the shoot-outs can also be nominated to take a shoot-out. No substitutions/replacements are permitted during the shoot-out competition other than as specified below.</p> <p>HOC 9.1.2 The Technical Delegate, or where there is no Technical Delegate, the Umpires, will specify the method of timing shoot-outs taking account of the facilities available and the need to control time accurately.</p> <p>HOC 9.1.3 The Technical Delegate, or where there is no Technical Delegate, the Umpires, will specify the goal to be used.</p> <p>HOC 9.1.4 A coin is tossed; the team which wins the toss has the choice to take or defend the first shoot-out.</p>	<p>Penalty 'shuffles' being introduced to National Championship, National Vase and the final of National Trophy (as these finals currently take place at BUCS Big Wednesday). 'Shuffles' are becoming more common in the sport and it is felt that at this level the match officials will be equipped to oversee these, which will add to the matchday experience for all involved.</p> <p>All other knockout competition fixture will continue to use penalty 'strokes' for 2023-24 season, pending future review.</p>

series. The team captain has freedom of choice at the time of each stroke as to which of the five nominated players will take the stroke although they must use all five nominated players per round.
HOC 9.5 The team that has taken the first penalty stroke of a series shall not take the first penalty stroke of the following series (if any).

HOC 9.1.5 All persons listed on the Team Sheet other than any players who have been permanently suspended from the game (Red Card) are permitted to enter the field of play on the half-way line.
HOC 9.1.6 The goalkeeper / defending player of the team taking a shoot-out shall wait on the back-line outside the circle.
HOC 9.1.7 A player taking or defending a shoot-out may enter the 23m area for that purpose.
HOC 9.1.8 Players taking a shoot-out and also defending the shoot-outs taken by opponents are allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put back on their protective equipment.
HOC 9.1.9 Five players from each team take a shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper / defending player of the other team making a total of 10 shoot-outs.
HOC 9.1.10 Taking a shoot-out:
 a) the goalkeeper / defending player starts on or behind the goal-line between the goal posts;
 b) the ball is placed on the nearest 23m line opposite the centre of the goal;
 c) an attacker stands outside the 23m area near the ball;
 d) the Umpire blows the whistle to start time;
 e) an official at the technical table starts the clock/the Umpire starts timing;
 f) the attacker and the goalkeeper / defending player may then move in any direction;
 g) the shoot-out is completed when:
 i) Eight seconds has elapsed since the starting signal;
 ii) a goal is scored;
 iii) the attacker commits an offence;
 iv) the goalkeeper / defending player commits an unintentional offence inside or outside the circle in which case the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player against the same goalkeeper / defending player;
 v) the goalkeeper / defending player commits an

intentional offence inside or outside the circle, in which case a penalty stroke is awarded and taken;

vi) the ball goes out of play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper / defending player intentionally playing the ball over the back-line.

HOC 9.1.11 If a penalty stroke is awarded as specified above, it can be taken and defended by any eligible player on the Team Sheet subject to the provisions of HOC 9.1.14, HOC 9.1.15 and HOC 9.1.16.

HOC 9.1.12 The team scoring the most goals (or ahead by more goals than the other team has undertaken shoot-outs available) is the winner.

HOC 9.1.13 A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the shoot-out competition.

HOC 9.1.14 If during a shoot-out competition (including during any penalty stroke which is awarded) a player is suspended by a yellow or red card:

- a) that player takes no further part in that shoot-out competition and, unless a goalkeeper / defending player, cannot be replaced;
- b) the replacement for a suspended goalkeeper / defending player can only come from the five players of that team nominated to take part in the shoot-out competition:
 - i) the replacement goalkeeper / defending player is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the goalkeeper / defending player they are replacing was wearing;
 - ii) for taking their own shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.
- c) any shoot-out due to be taken by a suspended player is forfeited; any goals scored by this player before being suspended count as a goal.

HOC 9.1.15 If during a shoot-out competition, a defending goalkeeper / defending player is incapacitated:

a) that goalkeeper / defending player may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Team Sheet, except as excluded under HOC 9.1 or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition;

b) the replacement goalkeeper:

i) is allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment similar to that which the incapacitated goalkeeper / defending player was wearing;

ii) if this replacement is also nominated to take a shoot-out, this player is allowed reasonable time to take off their protective equipment to take their shoot-out and subsequently to put it on again.

HOC 9.1.16 If during a shoot-out competition, an attacker is incapacitated, that attacker may be replaced by another player from among the players listed on the Team Sheet, except as excluded above or unless suspended by an Umpire during the shoot-out competition.

HOC 9.1.17 Any replaced player (defender or attacker) takes no further part in the shoot-out competition.

HOC 9.1.18 If an equal number of goals are scored after each team has taken five shoot-outs:

a) a second series of five shoot-outs is taken with the same players, subject to the conditions specified in HOC 9.1;

b) the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the first series;

c) the team whose player took the first shoot-out in a series defends the first shoot-out of the next series;

d) when one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of shoot-outs, not necessarily being all five shoot-outs, that team is the winner.

HOC 9.1.19 If an equal number of goals are scored after a second series of five shoot-outs, additional series of shoot-outs are taken with the same players subject to the conditions specified in HOC 9.1:

a) the sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-

outs need not be the same in any subsequent series;
 b) the team which starts each shoot-out series alternates for each series.

HOC 9.2 National Trophy (Except Final) and Conference Cup/Trophy/Shield (All matches) A series of penalty strokes will be taken under the following conditions:

HOC 9.2.1 The umpires shall together choose the goal to be used and the team captains shall toss a coin to decide which team shall take the first penalty stroke.

HOC 9.2.2 Five different players from each of the teams, excluding any players who have been permanently suspended from the game (Red Card), shall take a penalty stroke alternately against one and the same goalkeeper of the other team. Only if that goalkeeper is, in the opinion of the umpires, incapacitated through injury, or is suspended, shall the team be permitted to substitute the goalkeeper during the course of a particular series in the stroke competition.

HOC 9.2.3 The team that has been awarded the higher number of goals shall be the winner.

HOC 9.2.4 In the event of an equal number of goals having been awarded, another series of penalty strokes shall be taken under the above conditions and with the same five players (subject to any incapacitated player being replaced) but on a sudden death basis, that is the team having been awarded the most goals after an equal number of strokes have been taken shall be the winner. The sequence in which the players take the strokes for their team need not be the same as in the previous series. The team captain has freedom of choice at the time of each stroke as to which of the five nominated players will take the stroke although they must use all five nominated players per round.

HOC 9.2.5 The team that has taken the first penalty stroke of a series shall not take the first penalty stroke of the following series (if any).

Hockey	HOC 10 (NEW)	N/A	<p>HOC 10 Penalty corners Rule 13.3 of the FIH Rules of Hockey shall be varied as follows: Time is not stopped after a penalty corner is awarded (unless stopped by the umpire). If a suspended player's period of suspension ends during the taking of a penalty corner the player cannot return until the penalty corner has been completed or another penalty corner is awarded.</p>	<p>For clarity. Following queries in recent seasons, this new regulation clarifies that BUCS hockey will be in alignment with rules used for England Hockey and Scottish Hockey competitions.</p>
Lacrosse	LAC i - LAC iii	<p>LAC i The BUCS Lacrosse Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the rules of World Lacrosse (WL).</p> <p>LAC ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>LAC iii In the event that these regulations contradict the rules of World Lacrosse (WL), these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	<p>LAC i The BUCS Lacrosse Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and rules of World Lacrosse (WL) 1&2.</p> <p>LAC ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>LAC iii In the event that these regulations contradict the rules of World Lacrosse (WL) 1&2, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>1: Please note that BUCS has adopted the World Lacrosse Men's Field Lacrosse Official Playing Rules (2021-2023) for the Men's Lacrosse programme for the 2023-24 season. As ever, any BUCS regulations shall supersede the WL rules, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>2: Please note that BUCS has not adopted the World Lacrosse Women's Field Lacrosse Official Playing Rules (2022-2024), published in December 2022, for the Women's Lacrosse programme for the 2023-24 season. As such, the rules as they stood in the World Lacrosse Women's International Official Playing Rules (2020-2022) amended by the World Lacrosse Women's Rules Memorandum (2021-01-24) shall stand for the 2023-24 season. As ever, any BUCS regulations shall supersede the WL rules, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	<p>To recognise that BUCS women's lacrosse will not yet be following the latest edition of the World Lacrosse rulebook, in line with domestic NGBs.</p>

Netball	NET i - NET iii	<p>NET i The BUCS Netball Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the INF (International Netball Federation) Rules of Netball.</p> <p>NET ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>NET iii In the event that these regulations contradict the INF Rules of Netball, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	<p>NET i The BUCS Netball Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the World Netball (formerly International Netball Federation) Rules of Netball.</p> <p>NET ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>NET iii In the event that these regulations contradict the World Netball (formerly International Netball Federation) Rules of Netball, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	<p>To start recognising the rebrand of the International Federation whose rules we follow, whilst still making reference to the old name as that is what is on/in the most recent edition of the rules (2020).</p>
Netball	NET 5.2.2	<p style="text-align: center;">NET 5.2 Court requirements</p> <p>NET 5.2.2 All Tier 1 and below league matches, and National Trophy and Conference Cup/Trophy/Shield knockout competition matches must be played on courts of regulation size, with regulation posts (sunken, floor fixed or free standing) and regulation rings. Wherever possible matches should be played on indoor courts. Where both indoor and outdoor courts are available the home team must stage the match on the indoor court. There is no minimum run-off requirement, but consideration should be made for officials courtside.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NET 5.2 Court requirements</p> <p>NET 5.2.2 Tier 1 and below league matches and National Trophy and Conference Cup/Trophy/Shield knockout competition matches All matches must be played on courts of regulation size, with regulation posts (sunken, floor fixed or free standing) that when knocked have minimal movement, and regulation rings with nets. Wherever possible matches should be played on indoor courts and padded post protectors are encouraged. Where both indoor and outdoor courts are available the home team must stage the match on the indoor court. The playing area should be free from overhanging items, for example basketball hoops, indoor cricket nets, or trees. It is recommended that the minimum run-off be 1.5m each side of the court and 2m at each end of the court. Whilst there is no minimum run-off requirement, umpires should be able to run around the outside of the court unimpeded. Team benches and officials' bench(es) to be located where safe and so as not to impede the match officials.</p>	<p>For clarity and to improve student experience.</p> <p>The BUCS Executive have had issues raised around the use of 'free standing' posts, such as their moving during play as well as concerns raised around issues with a lack of run-off space and obstructions, so these changes are aimed to be clearer on expectations to ensure a good quality and safe match experience.</p>
Netball	NET 5.4	<p>NET 5.4 Match ball An INF regulation ball should be used for all fixtures where possible. Teams must supply at least two suitable match balls to the umpires in advance of the match.</p>	<p>NET 5.4 Match ball A World Netball (formerly International Netball Federation) regulation ball should be used for all fixtures where possible. Teams</p>	<p>To start recognising the rebrand of the International Federation whose rules we follow, whilst still making reference to the</p>

			must supply at least two suitable match balls to the umpires in advance of the match.	old name as that is what is on/in the most recent edition of the rules (2020).
Netball	NET 8	<p>NET 8 Representative commitments When three or more players are selected for a National Governing Body senior, A or Under 21 side, necessitating their presence at a competition or preparation camp associated with a competition, the institution/Playing Entity concerned shall be able to postpone any affected league fixtures.</p> <p>NET 8.1 The institution/Playing Entity concerned shall be responsible for informing the opposition institution/Playing Entity of the requirement to postpone the fixture no later than 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) after the announcement of the squad for the representative team, and no later than five working days prior to the original fixture date. Upon notification of the postponement, institutions must follow REG 14.3 to rearrange the fixture.</p> <p>NET 8.2 Knockout competition fixtures are not covered under NET 8.</p>	<p>NET 8 Representative commitments When three or more players are selected for a National Governing Body Senior, A, Under 21, or Under 19 side, necessitating their presence at a competition or preparation camp associated with a competition, the institution/Playing Entity concerned shall be able to postpone any affected league fixtures.</p> <p>NET 8.1 The institution/Playing Entity concerned shall be responsible for informing the opposition institution/Playing Entity of the requirement to postpone no later than five working days prior to the original fixture date. Upon notification of the postponement, institutions must follow REG 14.3 to rearrange the fixture.</p> <p>NET 8.2 Knockout competition fixtures are not covered under NET 8.</p>	<p>Current 48-hour turnaround in NET 8.1 could fall outside of the BUCS season, for example in the Summer, so it seems sensible to remove and just stick to just the at least five working days before the affected fixture.</p> <p>U19 teams also now covered.</p>
Rowing	ROW 3.1	<p>ROW 3 Weights</p> <p>ROW 3.1 Coxswains Men's crews: 55.0kg, Women's crews: 50.0kg.</p>	REMOVE	BUCS Rowing will now follow British Rowing weights for coxswains and reference is made in ROW i to British Rowing Rules of Racing.
Rowing	ROW 3.2	<p>ROW 3 Weights</p> <p>ROW 3.2 Lightweight Indoor Championships, 4s and 8s Head and Small Boats Head weight: Men 75.0kg, Women 61.5kg, Regatta weight: Men 72.5kg, Women 59.0kg. Lightweight crews are not averaged at any BUCS Rowing Championships.</p>	<p>ROW 3 Weights</p> <p>ROW 3.1 Lightweight Lightweight crews are not averaged at any BUCS Rowing Championships.</p>	BUCS Rowing will now follow British Rowing weights for lightweights and reference is made in ROW i to British Rowing Rules of Racing.
Rugby League	Appendix 5 (BUCS Match Officials Requirements)	Currently this appendix states that all match official appointments will be made by the RFL but does not outline any minimum standards required.	In line with the other proposed changes below, Appendix 5 for 2023-24 will outline the minimum qualification needed for referees at each level of the Rugby League programme, which is a Level 1. They will be required to be neutral if not appointed by the RFL (unless otherwise agreed - see REG 10.7).	For clarity and in line with the other proposed changes below.

Rugby League	RUL 5.1-RUL 5.2	<p>RUL 5 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').</p>	<p>RUL 5 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').</p> <p>RUL 5.1 The RFL (Rugby Football League) endeavours to appoint referees to as many BUCS Rugby League fixtures as possible. The minimum appointment is outlined in Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').</p> <p>RUL 5.2 In the event that the RFL cannot provide a referee for a fixture, and teams have been notified of this at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture start time, then it is the responsibility of the home team to source a suitable alternative referee. This referee must hold the relevant qualifications required in Appendix 5. Teams are recommended to contact their local Referees Society to help. For a list of the Referees Society contact details, please see here: https://www.rugby-league.com/get-involved/match-officials/become-a-match-official-. If the home team are unable to source an appropriate referee and no alternative agreement is made with the away team, then the fixture shall be considered as postponed and should be rearranged in accordance with REG 14.</p>	<p>This is a highly unlikely event, and there are no known cases of the RFL not being able to appoint to fixtures, however this caveat is being added to support the changes to RUL 5.3 (formerly RUL 5.1) as stated below. This should support institutions/teams by highlighting the correct process to follow should they ever need to find an alternative Match Official.</p>
Rugby League	RUL 5.3 (Formerly RUL 5.1)	<p>RUL 5.1 It is the responsibility of the home team the Monday prior to a Wednesday fixture, to liaise with both its opponents and Match Official regarding team colours, kick-off times and ground directions. In the event of the Match Official not receiving communication the home team will be deemed to have forfeited the match.</p>	<p>RUL 5.3 It is the responsibility of the home team to confirm details of the fixture (including kit colours) with the appointed referee no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time. In the event of the referee not receiving communication before the stated deadline, the designated referee will not be required to fulfil the fixture. If the home team are unable to find a suitable alternative referee by following the process outlined in RUL 5.2, then it shall be deemed that they have forfeited the game rather than the match being postponed.</p>	<p>Following communications with the RFL, it is believed that the deadline for communications should be clearer within this regulation. It also clarifies that the Match Official will not be obliged to attend a fixture without communication before this deadline which emphasises the team/institution's responsibility to confirm the fixture.</p> <p>Wording regarding confirming information with the opposing team removed as this is already covered in REG 9.</p>

Rugby League	RUL 5.4	<p>RUL 5.3 Unqualified Touch Judges are only to indicate touch/touch in goal, and kicks at goal from penalties/conversion attempts.</p> <p>RUL 5.4 Unqualified Touch Judges cannot indicate knock-ons and forward passes; have no jurisdiction over foul play; cannot enter the field of play, other than to judge goal kicks; are at all times subject to the authority of the referee who may overrule and may also dispense with their services if they consider they are acting in a partisan manner.</p>	<p>RUL 5.4 Unqualified Touch Judges are only to indicate touch/touch in goal, and kicks at goal from penalties/conversion attempts. Unqualified Touch Judges cannot indicate knock-ons and forward passes; have no jurisdiction over foul play; cannot enter the field of play, other than to judge goal kicks; are at all times subject to the authority of the referee who may overrule and may also dispense with their services if they consider they are acting in a partisan manner.</p>	<p>Related/connected regulations brought together to provide all details regarding what unqualified touch judges can and cannot do.</p>
Rugby League	RUL 6.3	<p>RUL 6 Match Day operations</p> <p>RUL 6.3 Medical requirements As a minimum, the host institution/Playing Entity for each match must ensure that there are ample first aiders within a proximity of the pitch to provide immediate emergency care and any host venue should demonstrate a risk assessment and plan in the event each first aider at the venue is providing care (e.g. stopping matches from progressing until resource is available). It is recommended that a dedicated qualified first aider is pitchside for each match.</p>	<p>RUL 6 Match Day operations</p> <p>RUL 6.3 Medical requirements</p> <p>RUL 6.3.1 As a minimum, the host institution/Playing Entity for each match must ensure that there are ample first aiders within close enough proximity of the pitch to provide immediate emergency care as and when required. Any host venue must demonstrate on request a risk assessment and plan in the event that each first aider at the venue is providing care (e.g. stopping matches from progressing until resource is available). It is recommended that a dedicated qualified first aider is pitchside for each match, but this cannot be a player named on the fixture team sheet.</p> <p>RUL 6.3.1.1 Any team found to be in breach of this regulation will be subject to the following sanctions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st offence: £100 fine - 2nd offence: £400 fine - 3rd offence: Suspended from participating in fixtures until proof of compliance can be provided by way of an updated risk assessment <p>RUL 6.3.2 Head injuries and concussion Sub-section 6 of the First Aid Standards (Section F6) of the RFL's Tiers 4-6 (Community Game) Operational Rules should be referred to for managing any head injuries or concussion.</p> <p>RUL 6.3.3 As well as being recorded on the RFL Team Sheet (RUL 9), any serious injury (including suspected</p>	<p>Throughout the 2022-23 season, there have been concerns raised by match officials due to the designated first aider often being an on-field player. This results in delays to emergency care available to injured players and has caused several games to be halted so that the first aider is able to attend to the injury. This also causes a problem if the designated first aider gets injured as often there isn't another qualified first aider in close enough proximity to the pitch.</p> <p>The general wording of the regulation has also been updated to provide greater clarity over what level of provision is expected and sanctions added for breaches of this regulation given its importance for player safety and welfare.</p> <p>For the 2024-25 season, BUCS is looking at aligning with the requirements of the RFL's Operational Rules for Tiers 4-6 (Community Game) [B2:11 MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS], so this is a small change as we work with members towards matching the NGB's standards.</p> <p>In support of a push for player welfare,</p>

			<p>concussion) is to be reported by teams to the RFL via their Serious Injury and Concussion Reporting Form within 24 hours of the completion of the match in which it occurred.</p>	<p>clarification added regarding how head injuries and concussion should be managed and reported to the RFL.</p>
Rugby League	RUL 9	<p>RUL 9 RFL Team Sheets</p> <p>RUL 9.1 In addition to teams completing BUCS Team Sheets (as per REG 11.2), teams and referees are also responsible for completing RFL Team Sheets for each fixture.</p> <p>RUL 9.2 The first named (home) team shall be responsible for supplying a hard copy of the RFL Team Sheet for completion.</p> <p>RUL 9.3 Prior to the match commencing, the full names (first name and last name, no initials) of all players shall be recorded and the RFL Team Sheet shall be signed by a recognised official from each team and the referee.</p> <p>RUL 9.4 Immediately following the match, the referee and recognised team officials shall complete the rest of the RFL Team Sheet.</p> <p>RUL 9.5 The referee shall be responsible for sending the completed RFL Team Sheet to the RFL Competition Officer within 24 hours of the completion of the match.</p>	<p>RUL 9 RFL Team Sheets</p> <p>RUL 9.1 In addition to teams completing BUCS Team Sheets (as per REG 11.2), teams and referees are also responsible for completing RFL Team Sheets for each fixture.</p> <p>RUL 9.2 The first named (home) team shall be responsible for supplying a hard copy of the RFL Team Sheet for completion.</p> <p>RUL 9.3 Prior to the match commencing, the full names (first name and last name, no initials) of all players shall be recorded and the RFL Team Sheet shall be signed by a recognised official from each team and the referee.</p> <p>RUL 9.4 Immediately following the match, the referee and recognised team officials shall complete the rest of the RFL Team Sheet.</p> <p>RUL 9.5 The referee shall be responsible for sending the completed RFL Team Sheet to the RFL Competition Officer within 24 hours of the completion of the match by email to competitions@rfl.co.uk.</p>	<p>RFL Team Sheet has been updated and will now be hosted on the regulations page.</p> <p>Email address added for referees to submit RFL Team Sheets to.</p>
Rugby League	RUL 10.7 (NEW)	N/A - But links to REG 11.1.3.	<p>RUL 10.7 Supported Teams</p> <p>RUL 10.7.1 Where an institution/Playing Entity has a second team and/or any lower ranked team(s) within the lowest tier in their Conference, then they can apply for their lowest ranked team to be recognised as a Supported Team.</p> <p>RUL 10.7.2 An application for a Supported Team for the 2023-24 season must be submitted by email to fixtures@bucs.org.uk by Monday 16 October 2023.</p> <p>RUL 10.7.3 A Supported Team will be permitted to field up to five players per match who have established normality for a higher ranked team (Note REG 11.1.3).</p> <p>RUL 10.7.4 A Supported Team will not be eligible for promotion under any circumstances. Should a</p>	<p>The aims of introducing the option to be a Supported Team at the lowest tier in each Conference are to increase the number of playing opportunities for all students and to hopefully decrease the number of team withdrawals and walkovers due to a lack of players.</p> <p>The minimum number of players required to fulfil a match will still be nine, but this allowance will reduce the likelihood of such reduced sides being fielded.</p> <p>The key driving force for this change is feedback received from teams and data</p>

			<p>supported team occupy a promotion spot at the end of the season, the opportunity for promotion will be offered to the highest finishing team that is not a Supported Team. For the avoidance of doubt, once a team has been confirmed and recognised as supported team, in the instance that team does not field any players who have established normality for a higher ranked team throughout the season, this regulation will still apply.</p> <p>RUL 10.7.5 A Supported Team will not be permitted to compete in any knockout competition.</p>	<p>analysed from previous seasons which show that a change needs to happen to foster the growth of the programme and increase player development which will increase the level of competition on offer.</p>
Rugby League	RUL 12.2.5	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.2 Disciplinary process</p> <p>RUL 12.2.5 A reported team, player, official or any other person may, to defend an allegation of misconduct, send a letter for receipt by the RFL Competitions Officer within 10 days of the date of the match. The team or such persons may in their own defence request a personal appearance and/or bring witnesses to the hearing, provided that they notify the RFL Competitions Officer within 10 days of the alleged offence and send with it a deposit of £20.00 payable to the “RFL” The deposit shall be refunded at the hearing, provided that the appellant or their designated representative attends in person.</p>	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.2 Disciplinary process</p> <p>RUL 12.2.5 A reported team, player, official or any other person may, in their own defence submit written mitigation relating to any disciplinary matter arising, providing that they notify the RFL Competitions Officer within 7 days of receiving any such reports.</p>	<p>Updated to match current RFL process.</p>
Rugby League	RUL 12.2.10	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.2 Disciplinary process</p> <p>RUL 12.2.10 All RFL organised competition games, provided that they were arranged prior to the player’s offence may be counted towards their list of suspended games.</p>	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.2 Disciplinary process</p> <p>RUL 12.2.10 All RFL organised competition games, provided that they were arranged prior to the player’s offence may be counted towards their list of suspended games. For players that play club rugby for their community club, any suspension will carry over into that environment.</p>	<p>For clarity.</p>

Rugby League	RUL 12.2.11	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.2 Disciplinary process</p> <p>RUL 12.2.11 A suspended player is not permitted to play in any other game of rugby league until their suspension is served. Any player or team violating this rule will be fined not less than £100 and the offending player shall be suspended for a further six matches. In the event of a game having been won by a team fielding a player under suspension then the competition points gained shall be forfeited automatically. The Management Group, should it deem appropriate, reserves the right to apply other sanctions which may include a team's suspension or expulsion from the competition.</p>	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.2 Disciplinary process</p> <p>RUL 12.2.11 A suspended player is not permitted to play in any other game of rugby league until their suspension is served. Any player or team violating this rule will be fined not less than £100 and the offending player may also incur an additional suspension. In the event of a game having been won by a team fielding a player under suspension then the competition points gained shall be forfeited automatically. BUCS/the RFL, should it deem appropriate, reserve the right to apply other sanctions which may include a team's suspension or expulsion from the competition.</p>	Updated to match current RFL process.
Rugby League	RUL 12.3.1	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.3 Appeals</p> <p>RUL 12.3.1 All appeals against disciplinary sanctions imposed by the UCRL are to be dealt with by an independent RFL appointed panel.</p>	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.3 Appeals</p> <p>RUL 12.3.1 All appeals against disciplinary sanctions imposed by an RFL disciplinary panel under RUL 12.2 are to be dealt with by an independent RFL appointed panel.</p>	Wording updated to reflect current names of bodies.
Rugby League	RUL 12.3.4	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.3 Appeals</p> <p>RUL 12.3.4 No member of the Management Group actively involved in a decision taken at the initial hearing other than the RFL Competitions Officer, who has no voting rights, shall be permitted to adjudicate on matters which will be the subject of appeal.</p>	<p>RUL 12 Discipline, suspensions and fines</p> <p>RUL 12.3 Appeals</p> <p>RUL 12.3.4 No member of the disciplinary panel actively involved in a decision taken at the initial hearing other than the RFL Competitions Officer, who has no voting rights, shall be permitted to adjudicate on matters which will be the subject of appeal.</p>	Wording updated to reflect current names of bodies.

Rugby Union	RUU 1.4	RUU 1.4 Playing surface All matches should be played on grass or World Rugby approved artificial surface as per World Rugby Law 1.1 and World Rugby Regulation 22. It is the responsibility of the first named (home) team when confirming the fixture (note REG 9.5) to advise the opposition team and all match officials of the playing surface and on any footwear restrictions and the type of surface to be used (note REG 9.3.3).	RUU 1.4 Playing surface All matches should be played on grass or World Rugby approved artificial surface as per World Rugby Law 1 and World Rugby Regulation 22. It is the responsibility of the first named (home) team when confirming the fixture (note REG 9.5) to advise the opposition team and all match officials of the playing surface and on any footwear restrictions and the type of surface to be used (note REG 9.3.3).	Correction to the World Rugby Law referenced.
Rugby Union	RUU 1.9.4	N/A	RUU 1.9 Discipline RUU 1.9.4 BUCS, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the Students' Rugby Football Union (SRFU) operate a Higher Education Rugby Union Disciplinary Group (HERUDG) through which a partnership approach to dealing with misconduct issues relating to English institutions can be taken, including the sharing of outcomes of any disciplinary action taken by either BUCS or the RFU. Further information regarding the HERUDG can be found here.	For clarity.
Rugby Union	RUU 1.10 (NEW)	N/A	RUU 1.10 Tackle height The applicable laws in relation to tackle height shall be those adopted by the Home Union of the nation in which each fixture is being played.	Clarity on what the situation will be with each of the Home Unions having lowered the tackle height.
Rugby Union	RUU 2.2.2.1	RUU 2 BUCS Super Rugby (Men's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations RUU 2.2 Fixture Administration RUU 2.2.2 Fixture dates RUU 2.2.2.1 League matches All BUCS Super Rugby league matches must take place on the date as set by BUCS. Unless REG 14 applies, only in exceptional circumstances and with written agreement of both institutions and written approval from the BUCS Executive may league matches take place on an alternative date. Once agreed and approved, BUCS Play must be updated	RUU 2 BUCS Super Rugby (Men's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations RUU 2.2 Fixture Administration RUU 2.2.2 Fixture dates RUU 2.2.2.1 League matches All BUCS Super Rugby league matches must take place on the date as set by BUCS. Unless REG 14 applies, only in exceptional circumstances and with written agreement of both institutions and written approval from the BUCS Executive may league matches take place on an alternative date. Once agreed and approved, BUCS	Dates updated for the 2023-24 season.

		<p>immediately.</p> <p>RUU 2.2.2.1.1 Should REG 14 apply, dates offered by both institutions to play the rearranged fixture must fall within the below windows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For matches originally scheduled in match weeks 1-5, rearranged fixtures must be played by 13 November 2022. (The Sunday after blank fixture week 1) • For matches originally scheduled in match weeks 6-11, rearranged fixtures must be played by 22 January 2023. (The Sunday before match week 12 following the Christmas break) • For matches originally scheduled in match weeks 12-15, rearranged fixtures must be played by 26 February 2023. (The Sunday after blank fixture week 2) • For matches originally scheduled in match week 16, rearranged fixtures must be played by 12 March 2023. (The Sunday before match week 18) • For matches originally scheduled in match week 17, rearranged fixtures must be played by 19 March 2023. (The Sunday after match week 18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matches from match week 18 that require a rearrangement must be played by the league deadline, in accordance with Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines'). 	<p>Play must be updated immediately.</p> <p>RUU 2.2.2.1.1 Should REG 14 apply, dates offered by both institutions to play the rearranged fixture must fall within the below windows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For matches originally scheduled in match weeks 1-6, rearranged fixtures must be played by 12 November 2023. (The Sunday after blank fixture week 1) • For matches originally scheduled in match weeks 7-11, rearranged fixtures must be played by 21 January 2024. (The Sunday before match week 12 following the Christmas break) • For matches originally scheduled in match weeks 12-15, rearranged fixtures must be played by 25 February 2024. (The Sunday after blank fixture week 2) • For matches originally scheduled in match week 16, rearranged fixtures must be played by 10 March 2024. (The Sunday before match week 18) • For matches originally scheduled in match week 17, rearranged fixtures must be played by 17 March 2024. (The Sunday after match week 18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matches from match week 18 that require a rearrangement must be played by the league deadline, in accordance with Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines'). 	
Rugby Union	<p>RUU 2.4.3/RUU 3.3.1/RUU 4.3.1/RUU 5.3.1/RUU 6.3.1/RUU 7.4.1/RUU 8.3.1/RUU 9.3.1/RUU 10.3.1</p>	<p>RUU 2.4.3/RUU 3.3.1/RUU 4.3.1/RUU 5.3.1/RUU 6.3.1/RUU 7.3.1/RUU 8.3.1/RUU 9.3.1/RUU 10.3.1 Front row players, except for full internationals, can move up or down one team from their starting selection to play in a front row position only. For example, a 2nd Team prop may play for the 1st Team, or the 3rd Team, in a front row position only. However, teams should be aware that REG 11.1.4 still applies.</p> <p>RUU 2.4.3.1/RUU 3.3.1.1/RUU 4.3.1.1/RUU 7.3.1.1/RUU 8.3.1.1/RUU 9.3.1.1 For playoff fixtures, players shall only be eligible to move down one team if it can be evidenced that they are covering an injured front row player.</p>	<p>RUU 2.4.3/RUU 3.3.1/RUU 4.3.1/RUU 5.3.1/RUU 6.3.1/RUU 7.4.1/RUU 8.3.1/RUU 9.3.1/RUU 10.3.1 Front row players, except for full internationals, are permitted to move down one team from a team they have established normality for to play in a front row position only. For example, a prop who has established normality for a 2nd Team may play for the 3rd Team, in a front row position only. However, teams should be aware that REG 11.1.4 still applies.</p> <p>RUU 2.4.3.1/RUU 3.3.1.1/RUU 4.3.1.1/RUU 7.4.1.1/RUU 8.3.1.1/RUU 9.3.1.1 For playoff fixtures, players shall only be eligible to move down one team if it can be evidenced that they are covering an injured front row player.</p>	<p>There was a lack of clarity as to what was meant by "starting selection". An individual 'playing up' is not an issue, so the regulation has been updated to clarify when individuals can 'play down' which relates to when they have established 'normality' for a team as per REG 11.1.3 (or RUU 2.4.1 for institutions with teams in BUCS Super Rugby).</p>

Rugby Union	RUU 2.6/RUU 3.5/RUU 4.5/RUU 7.6	<p>RUU 2 BUCS Super Rugby (Men’s National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations</p> <p>RUU 2.6 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage</p> <p>RUU 2.6.2 A maximum of seven replacements per team may be named and used. Rolling substitutions are used in these competitions, with teams limited to 12 interchanges per match. At least five of the nominated squad (irrespective of squad size, but maximum 22) must be able to play in front row positions. Teams will be allowed a 23 player squad if they field an additional front row replacement on the bench to ensure cover of all three front row positions (Loosehead Prop, Hooker and Tighthead Prop) at the first time of asking. This falls in line with World Rugby Law 3.8.</p> <p>RUU 2.6.3 A team unable to start the match with at least five suitably trained front row players will be deemed to have conceded a walkover. If the above requirements were met pre-match but during the match a team reaches a point where a front row cannot be replaced, then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. World Rugby Law 3.17 shall apply, whether a 22 or 23 player squad.</p> <p>RUU 3 Men’s North 1/South 1/North 2/South 2 leagues and National Vase knockout competition specific regulations</p> <p>RUU 3.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage</p> <p>RUU 3.5.2 A maximum of seven replacements per team may be named and used. Rolling substitutions are used in these competitions, with unlimited interchanges allowed per match. At least five of the nominated squad (irrespective of squad size, but</p>	<p>RUU 2 BUCS Super Rugby (Men’s National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations</p> <p>RUU 2.6 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage</p> <p>RUU 2.6.2 A maximum of seven replacements per team may be named and used. Rolling substitutions are used in these competitions, with teams limited to 12 interchanges per match. At least five of the nominated squad (irrespective of squad size, but maximum 22) must be able to play in front row positions and the team must be able to replace both a prop and a hooker at the first time of asking. Teams will be allowed a 23 player squad if they field an additional front row replacement to ensure cover of all three front row positions (Loosehead Prop, Hooker and Tighthead Prop) at the first time of asking. This falls in line with World Rugby Law 3.8.</p> <p>RUU 2.6.3 A team unable to start the match with at least five suitably trained front row players will be deemed to have conceded a walkover. If the above requirements were met pre-match but during the match a team reaches a point where a front row cannot be replaced, then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. World Rugby Law 3.17 shall apply, whether a 22 or 23 player squad.</p> <p>RUU 3 Men’s North 1/South 1/North 2/South 2 leagues and National Vase knockout competition specific regulations</p> <p>RUU 3.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage</p> <p>RUU 3.5.2 A maximum of seven replacements per team may be named and used. Rolling substitutions are used in these competitions, with unlimited interchanges allowed per match. At least five of the</p>	<p>Clarification provided that of the 5 front row players, one replacement must be able to replace a prop and the other a hooker. This is already made clear in RUU 5.5 and RUU 8.5 for other levels of competition. Wording "on the bench" removed from 23 player squad wording in RUU 2.6.2 and RUU 7.5.2 as this is not correct - replacements can start on the field of play in a different position.</p>
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maximum 22) must be able to play in front row positions.

RUU 3.5.3 A team unable to start the match with at least five suitably trained front row players will be deemed to have conceded a walkover. If the above requirements were met pre-match but during the match a team reaches a point where a front row cannot be replaced, then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. World Rugby Law 3.17 shall apply, regardless of squad size.

RUU 4 Men's Tier 1 leagues and National Trophy knockout competition specific regulations

RUU 4.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage

RUU 4.5.2 A maximum of seven replacements per team may be named and used. Rolling substitutions are used in these competitions, with unlimited interchanges allowed per match. At least five of the nominated squad (irrespective of squad size, but maximum 22) must be able to play in front row positions.

RUU 4.5.3 A team unable to start the match with at least five suitably trained front row players will be deemed to have conceded a walkover. If the above requirements were met pre-match but during the match a team reaches a point where a front row cannot be replaced, then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. World Rugby Law 3.17 shall apply, regardless of squad size.

RUU 7 Women's National league and National Championship knockout competition specific regulations

RUU 7.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage

nominated squad (irrespective of squad size, but maximum 22) must be able to play in front row positions and the team must be able to replace both a prop and a hooker at the first time of asking.

RUU 3.5.3 A team unable to start the match with at least five suitably trained front row players will be deemed to have conceded a walkover. If the above requirements were met pre-match but during the match a team reaches a point where a front row cannot be replaced, then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. World Rugby Law 3.17 shall apply, regardless of squad size.

RUU 4 Men's Tier 1 leagues and National Trophy knockout competition specific regulations

RUU 4.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage

RUU 4.5.2 A maximum of seven replacements per team may be named and used. Rolling substitutions are used in these competitions, with unlimited interchanges allowed per match. At least five of the nominated squad (irrespective of squad size, but maximum 22) must be able to play in front row positions and the team must be able to replace both a prop and a hooker at the first time of asking.

RUU 4.5.3 A team unable to start the match with at least five suitably trained front row players will be deemed to have conceded a walkover. If the above requirements were met pre-match but during the match a team reaches a point where a front row cannot be replaced, then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. World Rugby Law 3.17 shall apply, regardless of squad size.

RUU 7 Women's National league and National Championship knockout competition specific regulations

		<p>RUU 7.5.2 A maximum of seven replacements per team may be named and used. Rolling substitutions is used in these competitions, with unlimited interchanges allowed per match. At least five of the nominated squad (irrespective of squad size, but maximum 22) must be able to play in front row positions. Teams will be allowed a 23 player squad if they field an additional front row replacement on the bench to ensure cover of all three front row positions (Loosehead Prop, Hooker and Tighthead Prop) at the first time of asking. This falls in line with World Rugby Law 3.8.</p> <p>RUU 7.5.3 A team unable to start the match with at least five suitably trained front row players will be deemed to have conceded a walkover. If the above requirements were met pre-match but during the match a team reaches a point where a front row cannot be replaced, then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. World Rugby Law 3.17 shall apply, whether a 22 or 23 player squad.</p>	<p>RUU 7.6 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage</p> <p>RUU 7.6.2 A maximum of seven replacements per team may be named and used. Rolling substitutions is used in these competitions, with unlimited interchanges allowed per match. At least five of the nominated squad (irrespective of squad size, but maximum 22) must be able to play in front row positions and the team must be able to replace both a prop and a hooker at the first time of asking. Teams will be allowed a 23 player squad if they field an additional front row replacement to ensure cover of all three front row positions (Loosehead Prop, Hooker and Tighthead Prop) at the first time of asking. This falls in line with World Rugby Law 3.8.</p> <p>RUU 7.6.3 A team unable to start the match with at least five suitably trained front row players will be deemed to have conceded a walkover. If the above requirements were met pre-match but during the match a team reaches a point where a front row cannot be replaced, then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. World Rugby Law 3.17 shall apply, whether a 22 or 23 player squad.</p>	
Rugby Union	RUU 2.7/RUU 3.6	<p>RUU 2.7/RUU 3.6 BUCS Super Rugby playoffs</p> <p>RUU 2.7.1/RUU 3.6.1 The home team for each of the BUCS Super Rugby playoff matches will be determined by coin toss, undertaken by the BUCS Executive. Institutions/Playing Entities are encouraged to use neutral venues, but this is not mandatory.</p> <p>RUU 2.7.2/RUU 3.6.2 In order to be eligible to compete in each of the BUCS Super Rugby playoff matches players must have been named on Team Sheets (REG 11.2) in at least 33% of league fixtures for the team they wish to represent. The exemptions to this being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidenced medical dispensation. - A player that has established normality (REG 11.1) for a lower ranked team, and hence would be 	<p>RUU 2.7/RUU 3.6 BUCS Super Rugby playoffs</p> <p>RUU 2.7.1/RUU 3.6.1 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.</p> <p>RUU 2.7.2/RUU 3.6.2 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</p>	To provide a safer playoff experience for players, staff, spectators, and any attendees. By abiding to a smaller set of minimum operating standards, institutions will be operating at a similar level to the level mandated in BUCS Super Rugby. See supplementary paper for further details.

		eligible to be called up, evidenced through Team Sheets (REG 11.2).	<p>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.</p> <p>RUU 2.7.3/RUU 3.6.3 In order to be eligible to compete in each of the BUCS Super Rugby playoff matches players must have been named on Team Sheets (REG 11.2) in at least 33% of league fixtures for the team they wish to represent. The exemptions to this being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidenced medical dispensation. • A player that has established normality (REG 11.1) for a lower ranked team, and hence would be eligible to be called up, evidenced through Team Sheets (REG 11.2). 	
Rugby Union	RUU 7.1	N/A	<p>RUU 7 Women’s National league and National Championship knockout competition specific regulations</p> <p>RUU 7.1 Minimum Operating Standards Institutions/Playing Entities must conform to the BUCS Women’s National League Minimum Operating Standards (MOS). These are outlined in a separate document and managed by the BUCS Executive directly with institutions/Playing Entities. The MOS document is to be observed in conjunction with the BUCS general regulations and Rugby Union sport specific regulations.</p>	To reflect the creation of a Minimum Operating Standards document.

<p>Rugby Union</p>	<p>RUU 8.5.3/RUU 9.5.3</p>	<p>RUU 8 Women’s North/South leagues and National Vase knockout competition specific regulations</p> <p>RUU 8.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage</p> <p>RUU 8.5.3 Teams unable to start the match with at least three suitably trained front row players may play with uncontested scrums without forfeit. For this to be the case, the team without a front row must inform their opposition that they are unable to provide a front row 24 hours in advance of the advertised kick-off time. However, teams that play more than three matches with uncontested scrums will be deducted three league points and face possible further disciplinary action. As per RUU 8.5.1 all front row players should be indicated on team sheets. Non-offending teams should report offending teams here. Failure to provide 24 hours’ notice will entitle the non-offending team to claim a walkover. Should 24 hours’ notice not be given and the non-offending team agrees to play with uncontested scrums then they are not entitled to claim a walkover retrospectively.</p> <p>RUU 9 Women’s Tier 1 leagues and National Trophy knockout competition specific regulations</p> <p>RUU 9.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage</p> <p>RUU 9.5.3 Teams unable to start the match with at least three suitably trained front row players may play with uncontested scrums without forfeit. For this to be the case, the team without a front row must inform their opposition that they are unable to provide a front row 24 hours in advance of the advertised kick-off time. However, teams that play 50% of matches or more with uncontested scrums</p>	<p>RUU 8 Women’s North/South leagues and National Vase knockout competition specific regulations</p> <p>RUU 8.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage</p> <p>RUU 8.5.3 If a team is unable to start a match with at least three suitably trained front row players, the following shall apply:</p> <p>RUU 8.5.3.1 If they inform their opposition that they are unable to provide a front row at least 24 hours in advance of the advertised kick-off time then they may play with uncontested scrums, but they will be limited to a maximum squad size of 15 players, unless otherwise agreed with the opposition.</p> <p>RUU 8.5.3.2 Should at least 24 hours’ notice not be given, the non-offending team will be entitled to claim a walkover. If the non-offending team agrees to play with uncontested scrums, then they are not entitled to claim a walkover retrospectively. In such a case, the offending team will be limited to a maximum squad size of 15 players, unless otherwise agreed with the opposition.</p> <p>RUU 8.5.3.3 Teams that play more than three matches with uncontested scrums will be deducted three league points and face possible further disciplinary action. Non-offending teams should report offending teams here.</p> <p>RUU 9 Women’s Tier 1 leagues and National Trophy knockout competition specific regulations</p> <p>RUU 9.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage</p> <p>RUU 9.5.3 If a team is unable to start a match with at least three suitably trained front row players, the following shall apply:</p> <p>RUU 9.5.3.1 If they inform their opposition that they are unable to provide a front row at least 24 hours in</p>	<p>Clarification provided that a team who cannot provide a front row will be limited to a maximum squad size of 15 players - unless otherwise agreed with the opposition.</p>
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		<p>will not be eligible for promotion. As per RUU 9.5.1 all front row players should be indicated on team sheets. Teams will be required to validate their eligibility for promotion by submitting their team sheets to the BUCS Executive at the end of the season. Non-offending teams should report offending teams here. Failure to provide 24 hours' notice will entitle the non-offending team to claim a walkover. Should 24 hours' notice not be given and the non-offending team agrees to play with uncontested scrums then they are not entitled to claim a walkover retrospectively.</p>	<p>advance of the advertised kick-off time then they may play with uncontested scrums, but they will be limited to a maximum squad size of 15 players, unless otherwise agreed with the opposition.</p> <p>RUU 9.5.3.2 Should at least 24 hours' notice not be given, the non-offending team will be entitled to claim a walkover. If the non-offending team agrees to play with uncontested scrums, then they are not entitled to claim a walkover retrospectively. In such a case, the offending team will be limited to a maximum squad size of 15 players, unless otherwise agreed with the opposition.</p> <p>RUU 9.5.3.3 Teams that play 50% or more of their matches with uncontested scrums will not be eligible for promotion. Non-offending teams should report offending teams here.</p>	
Softball	SOF 3.3	<p>SOF 3 Indoor league specific regulations</p> <p>SOF 3.3 Fielding The number of fielders in play at any one time shall be 8, with a maximum of 4 players of one gender as standard. For guidance, the 8 fielding positions would typically be Pitcher, Catcher, First Base, Second Base/Inside Right, Short Stop, Third Base/Inside Left, Left Field, Right Field. Teams shall be allowed to field a maximum of 5 players of one gender if short-handed but if doing so the fifth player must play in the Right Field position.</p>	<p>SOF 3 Indoor league specific regulations</p> <p>SOF 3.3 Fielding The number of fielders in play at any one time shall be 8, with a maximum of 4 players of one gender as standard. For guidance, the 8 fielding positions would typically be Pitcher, Catcher, First Base, Second Base/Inside Right, Short Stop, Third Base/Inside Left, Left Field, Right Field. Teams shall be allowed to field a maximum of 5 players of one gender if short-handed but if doing so the fifth player must play in the Inside Right position.</p>	To add clarity and accuracy.
Softball	SOF 4.5	<p>SOF 4 Outdoor league specific regulations</p> <p>SOF 4.5 Games will last 1 hour with no new innings called at 50 minutes. In the event of time elapsing before the final inning is completed, the score at the end of the previous completed inning will become the final score.</p>	<p>SOF 4 Outdoor league specific regulations</p> <p>SOF 4.5 Games will last 1 hour with no new innings called at 50 minutes and the game called at 55 minutes. In the event of time elapsing before the final inning is completed, the score at the end of the previous completed inning will become the final score.</p>	Enable the schedule to be followed and events prevented from overrunning.

Swimming	SWI i - SWI iii	<p>SWI i The BUCS Swimming Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, the Laws, Regulations and Technical Rules of the Amateur Swimming Association (Swim England), the FINA Swimming Rules, and the World Para Swimming Rules and Regulations. Further event specific requirements, rules, and regulations will be contained within the entry and pre-event information for each Championship.</p> <p>SWI ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>SWI iii In the event that these regulations contradict the Laws, Regulations and Technical Rules of the Amateur Swimming Association (Swim England), the FINA Swimming Rules, or the World Para Swimming Rules and Regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	<p>SWI i The BUCS Swimming Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, the Laws, Regulations and Technical Rules of the Amateur Swimming Association (Swim England), the World Aquatics Swimming Rules, and the World Para Swimming Rules and Regulations. Further event specific requirements, rules, and regulations will be contained within the entry and pre-event information for each Championship.</p> <p>SWI ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.</p>	<p>References to FINA replaced with references to World Aquatics following change of name of the International Federation.</p> <p>SWI iii removed as no licensed competition's rules can supersede those of the National Governing Body or International Federation.</p>
Swimming	SWI 2	<p>SWI 2 Disputes at events In line with REG 7.7, should a dispute occur at an event, the event appeal panel for Swimming shall comprise of a BUCS staff member and the Tournament Director.</p>	<p>SWI 2 Disputes at events In line with REG 7.7, should a dispute occur at an event, the event appeal panel for Swimming shall comprise of a BUCS staff member and the Meet Director.</p>	<p>Reference to Tournament Director replaced with reference to Meet Director as this is the correct terminology for the sport.</p>
Swimming	SWI 4	<p>Individual Championships (Long Course and Short Course Championships)</p> <p>SWI 4 All individual and relay events will be decided by heats and finals, except for the 400m/800m/1500m Freestyle, the 400m Individual Medley and the Mixed Medley Relay, all of which will be decided on a Heat Declared Winner basis.</p>	<p>Individual Championships (Long Course and Short Course Championships)</p> <p>SWI 4 All individual and relay events will be decided by heats and finals, except for the 400m/800m/1500m Freestyle and the 400m Individual Medley, all of which will be decided on a Heat Declared Winner basis.</p>	<p>Mixed Medley Relay is no longer a Heat Declared Winner event, following this being trialed in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and enabled by changes to the programme.</p>

Swimming	SWI 5 (NEW)	<p>Wording in event information 2021-22 and 2022-23: Short Course: "BUCS points will be awarded to the top 4 swimmers/teams for eligible events. Note that only the top 2 swimmers from each institution or 1 team per institution for relay events will score points." Long Course: "BUCS Points are only available for A finals and are limited to 2 swimmers per institution in individual events and 1 team per institution in relay events."</p>	<p>Individual Championships (Long Course and Short Course Championships)</p> <p>SWI 5 BUCS Points BUCS Points shall be awarded as per Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points') and REG 6, subject to entry numbers. Whilst for the Short Course Championships institutions can enter more than two swimmers per individual event and more than one team per relay event, and there is no restriction on how many of these can qualify for a final, at both Championships institutions will be limited to only their highest placed two swimmers in individual events and one team in relay events being awarded BUCS Points.</p>	<p>To give this longstanding restriction a permanent home in the regulations, as is the case with other sports.</p>
Tennis	TEN 6.1	<p>TEN 6 Match format Each match shall consist of two doubles rubbers and four singles rubbers.</p> <p>TEN 6.1 For the 2022-23 season, Full Set format tennis shall be played in all leagues and knockout competitions except for the following in which Fast4 format tennis shall be played:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men's Scottish Tier 5 leagues (5A) and Scottish Conference Trophy - Men's Northern Tier 5 leagues (5A) and Northern Conference Trophy - Men's Midlands Tier 4 leagues (4A and 4B) and Midlands Conference Trophy - Men's Western Tier 3 leagues (3A and 3B) and Western Conference Trophy - Men's South Eastern Tier 5 leagues (5A) and South Eastern Conference Trophy - Women's Scottish Tier 3 leagues (3A) and Scottish Conference Trophy - Women's Northern Tier 3 leagues (3A and 3B) and Northern Conference Trophy - Women's Midlands Tier 3 leagues (3A and 3B) and Midlands Conference Trophy - Women's Western Tier 3 leagues (3A and 3B) and Western Conference Trophy - Women's South Eastern Tier 3 leagues (3A and 3B) and South Eastern Conference Trophy 	<p>TEN 6 Match format Each match shall consist of two doubles rubbers and four singles rubbers.</p> <p>TEN 6.1 For the 2023-24 season, Full Set format tennis shall be played in all leagues and knockout competitions except for the following in which Fast4 format tennis shall be played:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men's Scottish Tier 6 leagues (6A) and Scottish Conference Trophy - Men's Northern Tier 5 leagues (5A) and Northern Conference Trophy - Men's Midlands Tier 5 leagues (5A) and Midlands Conference Trophy - Men's Western Tier 3 leagues (3A) and Western Conference Trophy - Men's South Eastern Tier 5 leagues (5A) and South Eastern Conference Trophy - Women's Scottish Tier 3 leagues (3A) and Scottish Conference Trophy - Women's Northern Tier 3 leagues (3A) and Northern Conference Trophy - Women's Midlands Tier 4 leagues (4A) and Midlands Conference Trophy - Women's Western Tier 3 leagues (3A) and Western Conference Trophy - Women's South Eastern Tier 3 leagues (3A) and South Eastern Conference Trophy 	<p>To reflect applicable leagues and knockout competitions for 2023-24.</p>

Tennis	TEN 7.1.1/TEN 7.1.2	<p>TEN 7.1.1 Full Set format A minimum reservation of 12 court hours MUST be booked by the host team for a fixture. This shall comprise at least 2 x 2 hours for doubles rubbers (including a 5 minute warm-up per match), and 4 x 2 hours for singles rubbers (including a 5 minute warm-up per match) = total 12 court hours. Failure to book the minimum prescribed above will result in the home team forfeiting any rubbers not completed should the match not be finished. For knockout fixtures, an additional 1 hour on 1 court MUST be booked in case of the need for a match tie-break (note TEN 11.5). The additional hour is for the match tie-break only and as such should be booked for immediately after the court hours booked for the normal fixture, not alongside any of these hours, and the normal fixture should be completed within the standard 12 hours.</p> <p>TEN 7.1.2 Fast4 format A minimum reservation of 6 court hours MUST be booked by the host team for a fixture. This shall comprise at least 2 x 1 hour for doubles rubbers, and 4 x 1 hour for singles rubbers = total 6 court hours. Failure to book the minimum prescribed above will result in the home team forfeiting any rubbers not completed should the match not be finished. For knockout fixtures, an additional 1 hour on 1 court MUST be booked in case of the need for a match tie-break (note TEN 11.5). The additional hour is for the match tie-break only and as such should be booked for immediately after the court hours booked for the normal fixture, not alongside any of these hours, and the normal fixture should be completed within the standard 6 hours.</p>	<p>TEN 7.1.1 Full Set format A minimum reservation of 12 court hours must be booked by the host team for a fixture. This shall comprise at least 2 x 2 hours for doubles rubbers (including a 5 minute warm-up per match), and 4 x 2 hours for singles rubbers (including a 5 minute warm-up per match) = total 12 court hours. These court hours must be booked in accordance with TEN 7.2/TEN 7.2.1. Failure to book the minimum prescribed above will result in the home team forfeiting any rubbers not completed should the match not be finished. For knockout fixtures, an additional 1 hour on 1 court MUST be booked in case of the need for a match tie-break (note TEN 11.5). The additional hour is for the match tie-break only and as such should be booked for immediately after the court hours booked for the normal fixture, not alongside any of these hours, and the normal fixture should be completed within the standard 12 hours.</p> <p>TEN 7.1.2 Fast4 format A minimum reservation of 6 court hours must be booked by the host team for a fixture. This shall comprise at least 2 x 1 hour for doubles rubbers, and 4 x 1 hour for singles rubbers = total 6 court hours. These court hours must be booked in accordance with TEN 7.2/TEN 7.2.1. Failure to book the minimum prescribed above will result in the home team forfeiting any rubbers not completed should the match not be finished. For knockout fixtures, an additional 1 hour on 1 court MUST be booked in case of the need for a match tie-break (note TEN 11.5). The additional hour is for the match tie-break only and as such should be booked for immediately after the court hours booked for the normal fixture, not alongside any of these hours, and the normal fixture should be completed within the standard 6 hours.</p>	<p>For clarity and to avoid it being argued that 'unusable hours' (for example on a fifth court) can be argued as counting towards meeting the requirements.</p>
Tennis	TEN 7.1.6 (NEW)	N/A	<p>TEN 7.1.6 Court surfaces All courts should have an ITF recognised court surface. Any courts with a non-recognised court surface, or a surface that falls under the type 'Other', require approval by the BUCS Executive in advance of fixtures being scheduled to</p>	<p>As BUCS league and knockout competition matches are not refereed events, there are currently no rules and regulations that determine the surface or quality of courts. The current BUCS</p>

			take place on them. In all cases the court surface should be flat, with courts and surrounding area free from hazards such as holes, raised areas and obstacles.	regulations refer to LTA documentation which state a referee determines whether a venue is safe to play, which is therefore not applicable. This addition will provide clarity, in the situation of non-refereed matches, as to the quality of courts that are expected to be provided by home teams. https://www.itftennis.com/media/2169/surfaces-surface-types.pdf
Tennis	TEN 7.2/TEN 7.2.1	<p>TEN 7.2 Order of play Players shall compete in rank order i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4 singles; 1, 2 doubles. The doubles rubbers ordered 1v1, 2v2 should be played first, followed by the singles rubbers, which will be ordered 4v4, 3v3, 2v2, 1v1. Any proposed changes to the standard order of play must be agreed by both teams prior to play.</p> <p>Coaches/captains/administrators can use the below guide for court booking variations:</p> <p>On four courts: R1 - Doubles 1 and 2; R2 Singles 1 – 4.</p> <p>On three courts: R1 - Doubles 1 and 2; R2 Singles 4 – 2; R3 Singles 1.</p> <p>On two courts: R1 - Doubles 1 and 2; R2 Singles 4 and 3; R3 Singles 2 and 1.</p> <p>TEN 7.2.1 Institutions/Playing Entities are permitted, but not encouraged, to book three courts for two rounds (three courts x 4 hours). In order for the fixture to be completed there must be 1 doubles rubber and 2 singles rubbers played in round 1, followed by 1 doubles rubber and 2 singles rubbers in round 2. The away team shall select the order of the rubbers within these rounds prior to play.</p>	<p>TEN 7.2 Order of play Players shall compete in rank order i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4 singles; 1, 2 doubles. The doubles rubbers ordered 1v1, 2v2 should be played first, followed by the singles rubbers, which will be ordered 4v4, 3v3, 2v2, 1v1. Any proposed changes to the standard order of play must be agreed by both teams prior to play (note TEN 7.2.1 for an exception to this). Coaches/captains/administrators can use the below guide for court booking variations:</p> <p>On four courts: R1 - Doubles 1 and 2; R2 Singles 1 – 4.</p> <p>On three courts: R1 - Doubles 1 and 2; R2 Singles 4 – 2; R3 Singles 1.</p> <p>On two courts: R1 - Doubles 1 and 2; R2 Singles 4 and 3; R3 Singles 2 and 1.</p> <p>TEN 7.2.1 An exception to TEN7.2.1 is that institutions/Playing Entities are permitted, but not encouraged, to book three courts for two rounds (three courts x 4 hours). In order for the fixture to be completed there must be 1 doubles rubber and 2 singles rubbers played in round 1, followed by 1 doubles rubber and 2 singles rubbers in round 2. The away team shall select the order of the rubbers within these rounds prior to play.</p>	Clarity added that TEN 7.2.1 is an exception to TEN 7.2.
Tennis	TEN 7.2.2.1	<p>TEN 7.2.2.1 Singles nominations Teams consisting of more than four players may nominate players for singles rubbers, not including their highest ranked player(s) in the match day squad, but teams must play in rank order. E.g. 3, 4, 5 and 6 play as Singles 1,</p>	<p>TEN 7.2.2.1 Singles nominations Teams consisting of more than four players may nominate players for singles rubbers, not including their highest ranked player(s) in the match day squad, but teams must play in rank order. For example, if a team takes six players</p>	Wording updated following the BUCS Executive having been contacted by teams confused by the old wording which had resulted in some not playing players as they thought they weren't allowed.

		2, 3 and 4, with players 1 and 2 only participating in the doubles.	to a match, they will rank their players as they are playing on the day as 1-6 across the whole team based on where they sit on the ranking list, but they can choose that 3-6 will play as their singles 1-4, their two highest ranked players in attendance only participating in the doubles.	
Volleyball	VOL 5/Appendix 5	<p>VOL 5 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').</p> <p>VOL 5.1 A designated scorer, or scorers, must be assigned for each fixture to conduct the completion of the FIVB scoresheet but do not require to be qualified.</p> <p>VOL 5.2 For Premier Tier/National Championship matches, two Line Judges must be provided by the home team. Failure to provide Line Judges will result in a £50 fine.</p> <p>Appendix 5 extract: National Championship Referees: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = Grade 3, Grade 2 from Quarter Finals onwards; Neutral = Yes.</p>	<p>VOL 5 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').</p> <p>VOL 5.1 A designated scorer, or scorers, must be assigned for each fixture to conduct the completion of the FIVB scoresheet but do not require to be qualified.</p> <p>VOL 5.2 For Premier Tier/National Championship matches, two Line Judges must be provided by the home team. Failure to provide Line Judges will result in a £50 fine.</p> <p>Appendix 5 extract: National Championship Referees: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = Grade 4, Grade 3 from Quarter Finals onwards; Recommended level of qualification = Grade 2; Neutral = Yes.</p>	The longer-term aspiration will be to raise officiating standards and therefore requirements across BUCS volleyball, but currently the BUCS Executive have received feedback from institutions who are struggling to source Grade 2 referees or having to pay significantly more to get them to travel to them from further afield. For all other BUCS volleyball matches - including Premier Tier league matches - the requirement is just two Grade 4 referees and they are not required to be neutral. As such, the minimum level of qualification requirement for the National Championship knockout competitions has been lowered to Grade 3, but a recommended level of qualification of Grade 2 has been added as guidance to what would be preferred for the standard of match being played.
Volleyball	VOL 5.3 (NEW)	<p>REG 10.6 Failure to obtain officials Failure to obtain the appropriate officials, as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements'), may lead to the forfeiture of the affected match, unless there is written notification from the appropriate officials appointments body that they were unable to provide officials and this is communicated at least 48 hours before the fixture start time, or where officials withdraw from the fixture on the day (written evidence required, refer to REG 10.6.3).</p> <p>REG 10.6.1 For all competitions, if at least 48 hours' (outside of weekends and bank holidays) notice ahead of the start time of the fixture has been given and the appropriate written evidence provided,</p>	<p>VOL 5.3 REG 10.6.3 is amended so that if an institution/Playing Entity has two appointed/booked referees, but one of these withdraws from a fixture later than 48 hours before the fixture start time, the remaining referee shall act as the 1st referee and the institution/Playing Entity may replace the other referee with a competent, experienced and suitable person, for example a player or coach, to act as 2nd referee, but they must inform the opposition of this before the match begins. Should both appointed/booked referees withdraw, or there is no suitable replacement found, then REG 10.6.3.1/REG 10.6.3.2 shall apply as appropriate.</p>	<p>To assist with challenges sourcing officials and where officials may drop-out/cancel close to matches.</p> <p>This is similar to regulations which apply to other competitions, such as the Volleyball England National Volleyball Leagues.</p>

then the away institution/Playing Entity may choose to host the match provided it can supply the appropriate officials and facilities, and notifies the opposition and the BUCS Executive by 11:00 on the last working day before the fixture. In this case the original home institution/Playing Entity is obliged to travel.

REG 10.6.1.1 Where the away institution/Playing Entity chooses not to host and agreement cannot be reached between the institutions/Playing Entities for rescheduling, the match shall be replayed at a venue and on a date determined by the BUCS Executive.

REG 10.6.2 Any institution/Playing Entity failing to notify the opposition of the failure to obtain the appropriate officials at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture start time will forfeit the match and concede a walkover.

REG 10.6.3 Non-provision of officials due to being let down by an appointed/booked official within 48 hours of the fixture start time

REG 10.6.3.1 If the away team has arrived at the venue and the home team is let down by an appointed/booked official and can prove in writing that the official was appointed/booked, the original home team will be obliged to travel to a rescheduled match.

REG 10.6.3.2 If the away team has not yet travelled, and the home side notifies them that they have been let down by an appointed/booked official within 48 hours of the fixture start time (providing written evidence as per REG 10.6.3.1) the match shall be rescheduled to be played at the original home team venue.

REG 10.7 Should the two institutions/Playing Entities concerned agree in writing beforehand to play with non-neutral, not appropriately qualified and/or the incorrect number of officials, the BUCS

		Executive will accept the result. Neither team can play under protest or appeal against the result of a match played under these circumstances.		
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