

BUCS SPORT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR 2026-27 (VERSION 1)

PUBLISHED | 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

SUMMARY

This document highlights some of the changes to BUCS' Sport Specific Regulations for the 2026-27 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.

Regulations for the 2026-27 are currently still being published, so this document currently contains changes for the following sets of regulations which have been published to date:

- Football
- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Lacrosse 6s
- Rugby Union
- Sailing

Updated versions of this document will be published when there are further updates to regulations.

Sport	Regulation Number	Previous Regulation	New Regulation	Reason
Football	FOO 5/Appendix 5 (BUCS Match Officials Requirements)	FOO 5 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements'). FOO 5.1 Assistant referees shall report to the referee prior to commencement of the match and will be provided with standard flags by the home team. Appendix 5 extracts: Premier Tier Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 5 (England & Scotland)/Level 3A (Wales); Neutral = Yes. Premier Tier Assistant Referees: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = Level 6 (England & Scotland)/Level 3B (Wales); Neutral = No. Tier 1 Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 6 (England & Scotland)/Level 3B (Wales); Neutral = Yes. Tier 2 Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales); Neutral = No. Tier 3 and below Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales); Neutral = No. National Championship Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 5 (England & Scotland)/Level 3A (Wales); Neutral = Yes. National Championship Assistant Referees: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = Level 6 (England & Scotland)/Level 3B (Wales); Neutral = Yes. National Trophy Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 5 (England & Scotland)/Level 3A (Wales); Neutral = Yes. National Trophy Assistant Referees: Number	FOO 5 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements'). FOO 5.1 Assistant referees shall report to the referee prior to commencement of the match and will be provided with standard flags by the home team. Appendix 5 extracts: Premier Tier Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 5 (England & Scotland)/Level 3A (Wales); Neutral = No. Premier Tier Assistant Referees: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales); Neutral = No. Tier 1 Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 6 (England & Scotland)/Level 3B (Wales); Neutral = Yes (Level 5/Level 3A or higher considered neutral). Tier 2 and below Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales); Neutral = No. National Championship/Trophy Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 5 (England & Scotland)/Level 3A (Wales); Neutral = No. National Championship/Trophy Assistant Referees: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales); Neutral = Yes (Level 5/Level 3A or higher considered neutral). Conference Cup/Trophy/Shield Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales) [Level 6/Level 3B for Final]; Neutral = Semi-Final onwards only (Level 5/Level 3A or higher considered neutral). Conference Cup/Trophy/Shield Assistant Referees:	Where neutral referees or assistant referees are required, those qualified to Level 5 (England & Scotland)/Level 3A (Wales) or higher to be considered neutral, in line with similar provisions in requirements for BUCS's hockey and volleyball programmes. This will enable these highly qualified, experienced, assessed and monitored officials, many of whom are committed to refereeing as a potential career pathway, to cover more BUCS fixtures, increasing the pool of appropriate officials and supporting the development of student officials. Level of qualification for Assistant Referees required at Premier Tier, National Championship and National Trophy level lowered based on feedback that institutions have found it challenging to find higher qualified officials willing to act as Assistant Referees. This change, along with the neutrality change, should make it easier for institutions to source the necessary officials. Levels merged where requirements are the same to reduce the amount of text and make easier to read.

		required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = Level 6 (England & Scotland)/Level 3B (Wales); Neutral = Yes. Conference Cup Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales) [Level 6/Level 3B for Final]; Neutral = Semi-Final onwards only. Conference Cup Assistant Referees: Number required = 2*; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales); Neutral = Yes. Conference Trophy/Shield Referees: Number required = 1; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales) [Level 6/Level 3B for Final]; Neutral = Semi-Final onwards only. Conference Trophy/Shield Assistant Referees: Number required = 2*; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales); Neutral = Yes. *Required for Final.	Number required = 2*; Minimum level of qualification = Level 7 (England & Scotland)/Level 4A (Wales); Neutral = Yes (Level 5/Level 3A or higher considered neutral). *Required for Final.	
Football	FOO 6.4 (NEW)	N/A	FOO 6.4. Warm up space and time For Premier Tier/National Championship matches, the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity shall book at least 30 minutes of pitch time before the scheduled kick-off time, to provide the opportunity for both teams to warm up on the pitch, subject to the teams being present before the scheduled kick-off time.	This new regulation aims to more standardise and improve the quality of the playing experience at Premier Tier/National Championship level. Suitable time and space for warm up is important for player welfare and injury prevention. This is an update to a proposal shared in June 2025, taking into account feedback from Members and Competitions Group. It has been updated to clarify that this time needs to be booked, but may not necessarily be provided, for example if a team arrives late.
Hockey	Appendix 5 (BUCS Match)	Appendix 5 extracts:	Appendix 5 extracts:	The level of qualification required to be held in Scotland in order for an

	Officials Requirements)	Premier Tier (North/South) Umpires: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = LEVEL 1 ASSESSED (England & Wales), LEVEL 1/C BADGE (Scotland); Neutral = YES (LEVEL 2/B BADGE OR HIGHER CONSIDERED NEUTRAL). National Trophy Umpires: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = LEVEL 1 ASSESSED (England & Wales), LEVEL 1/C BADGE (Scotland); Neutral = YES (LEVEL 2/D BADGE OR HIGHER CONSIDERED NEUTRAL).	Premier Tier (North/South) Umpires: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = LEVEL 1 ASSESSED (England & Wales), LEVEL 1/C BADGE (Scotland); Neutral = YES (LEVEL 2 England & Wales/ B1 ASSESSED (Scotland) OR HIGHER CONSIDERED NEUTRAL). National Trophy Umpires: Number required = 2; Minimum level of qualification = LEVEL 1 ASSESSED (England & Wales), LEVEL 1/C BADGE (Scotland); Neutral = YES (LEVEL 2 England & Wales/ B1 ASSESSED (Scotland) OR HIGHER CONSIDERED NEUTRAL).	umpire to be considered neutral for Premier Tier (North/South) and National Trophy matches is being lowered to recognise the differences in umpiring pathways and opportunities in England, Scotland and Wales. To progress from Level 1 to B Badge in Scotland an individual is required to pass two assessments, the first resulting in them being classed as "B1" and the second "B2"/B Badge. The requirements for "B1" and "B2" assessments are very similar, with the main difference being that a "B2" assessment is usually done on a higher-level match. Umpires who hold a B1 are typically umpiring Scottish Hockey National League or Premiership matches as they work towards B2, making this comparable to the Level 2 in England and Wales. Classing B1 assessed umpires as neutral will increase the pool of appropriate umpires able to officiate these fixtures and it is anticipated should increase the standard of officiating for these matches if B1 assessed umpires (not considered neutral under REG 10.5.1) are used instead of Level 1 umpires who are considered neutral under REG 10.5.1. This will also support the development of student umpires in Scotland working towards doing their B2 assessment, as the umpire development/pathway
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				opportunities in Scotland are limited.
Hockey	HOC 5.2	HOC 5.2 Senior International players and Great Britain Elite Development Programme Squad Players On league weeks when Senior International/GB EDP players who an institution would internally consider a "1st Team player" are not released for BUCS selection due to their international commitments (training or competition), as confirmed to BUCS by the Senior International/GB EDP Head Coaches, players who an institution would not internally consider a "1st Team player" are able to "move up" to the 1st Team to cover the absence without it counting towards their 'normality' tally (as described in REG 11.1.2.2) under the following conditions: HOC 5.2.1 The names of the "1st Team player(s)" unavailable due to Senior International/GB EDP commitments (training or competition) and the name(s) of the players 'playing up' as cover must be submitted via email to discipline@bucs.org.uk prior to the start of the relevant fixture to be eligible for normality exemption.	HOC 5.2 Senior/U21 International players and Great Britain Elite Development Programme (GB EDP) players On league weeks when Senior/U21 International or GB EDP players who an institution/Playing Entity would internally consider a "1st Team player" are not released for BUCS selection due to their international commitments (training or competition), players who an institution/Playing Entity would not internally consider a "1st Team player" are able to "move up" to the 1st Team to cover the absence without it counting towards their 'normality' tally (as described in REG 11.1.2.2) under the following conditions: HOC 5.2.1 The names of the "1st Team player(s)" unavailable due to international commitments (training or competition), evidence of their selection, and the name(s) of the players 'playing up' as cover must be submitted via email to discipline@bucs.org.uk prior to the start of the relevant fixture to be eligible for normality exemption. HOC 5.2.2 Failure to meet the requirements of HOC 5.2.1 in advance will mean that the fixture will count towards 'normality' for the player(s) 'playing up'. HOC 5.2.3 This is in addition to, and does not supersede any other elements of, REG 11.1.	HOC 5.2 and HOC 5.2.1 amended to cover U21 internationals across all nations as well as senior internationals across all nations and GB EDP players, with institutions/Playing Entities also now required to provide evidence of an individual's selection in alignment with the equivalent Men's BUCS Super Rugby regulation (RUU 2.4.1). HOC 5.2.2 and HOC 5.2.3 added to provide clarity and in alignment with the equivalent Men's BUCS Super Rugby regulation (RUU 2.4.1).
Hockey	HOC 8	HOC 8 Duration of play 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. HOC 8.2 All other leagues and knockout competitions	HOC 8 Duration of play 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. HOC 8.2 All other leagues and knockout competitions A match shall consist of two periods of	BUCS is aware that for some fixtures which are currently required to be played in accordance with HOC 3.2, teams are agreeing to play quarters instead of halves. The BUCS Executive and BUCS's Hockey Advisory Group feel that to move any of the competitions currently covered under HOC 8.2 to be covered by HOC 8.1 would have the potential to place institutions/Playing Entities under

		competitions 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.	35 minutes and a half-time interval of no more than 10 minutes. Teams shall change ends at half-time. HOC 8.2.1 If agreed in writing by both institutions/Playing Entities, a match can 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.	facility pressure due to increase time required, and so is not desirable, but allowing teams in such competitions to agree to play quarters provides a flexibility which is in line with some NGB competitions, such as for Premier Division matches in England Hockey's Area Leagues.
Hockey	HOC 13.5	HOC 13 Additional Premier Tier/National Championship/National Vase specific requirements HOC 13.5 Additional Fixture Administration In addition to fulfilling REG 9.3.6/REG 9.3.6.4, for all National League matches, National Championship matches and National Vase matches (except finals), the first named (home) team shall update the England Hockey officiating Management System with all match details, to assist the National Programme Umpiring Association (NPUA) with officials' appointments. Failure to do so shall result in a £50.00 fine. HOC 13.5.1 In addition to REG 9.3.6.1 through REG 9.3.6.4, any change(s) to the start time or venue at any stage once initial time and venue are confirmed should be updated on the England Hockey officiating Management System and confirmed in writing with the nominated NPUA representative by the first named (home) team, a minimum of 48 hours before the originally scheduled time of the fixture. Failure to do so shall result in a £100.00 fine, and the possibility umpires will not be appointed by the NPUA. Additionally, in cases where the fixture date is changed, as soon as this has been agreed (as per REG 9.2.1/REG 9.2.2) the fixture details on the nominated umpiring software should be updated accordingly.	HOC 13 Additional Premier Tier/National Championship/National Vase specific requirements HOC 13.5 Fixture Administration HOC 13.5.1 Where a first named (home) institution/Playing Entity fails to input a start time and/or venue on BUCS Play in accordance with REG 9.3.6/REG 9.3.10.1 they shall incur a £50 fine. Failure to do so shall also result in the possibility that umpires will not be appointed by the NPUA/Scottish Hockey. HOC 13.5.2 Should a fixture have a change of start time or venue from that initially listed on BUCS Play, the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity must communicate this to bucsappointments@npua.co.uk (for fixtures taking place in England or Wales) or officialsconvenor@scottish-hockey.org.uk (for fixtures taking place in Scotland) a minimum of 48 hours before the previously scheduled start time of the fixture. Failure to do so shall result in a £100 fine, and the possibility that umpires will not be appointed by the NPUA/Scottish Hockey. Additionally, in cases where the fixture date is changed, as soon as this has been agreed (as per REG 9.2.1/REG 9.2.2) the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity must communicate this to bucsappointments@npua.co.uk (for fixtures taking place in England or Wales) or officialsconvenor@scottish-hockey.org.uk (for fixtures taking place in Scotland).	Updated to reflect changes to how the NPUA/Scottish Hockey will get initial fixture details and how changes should be communicated to them.

			HOC 13.5.3 Should any match be cancelled or postponed, the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity must communicate this to bucsappointments@npua.co.uk (for fixtures taking place in England or Wales) or officialsconvenor@scottish-hockey.org.uk (for fixtures taking place in Scotland) and any appointed umpires.	
Lacrosse	LAC 12	LAC 12 Additional Women's Lacrosse specific requirements LAC 12.1 It is recommended that all players should wear protective and appropriate eye goggles.	LAC 12 Additional Women's Lacrosse specific requirements LAC 12.1 Protective eyewear All field players are required to wear protective eyewear that: • Is designed for use in lacrosse • Meets one of the following recognised lacrosse protective eyewear performance standards: ◦ ASTM F3077 ◦ UKCA Certified • Fits securely and comfortably • Does not obstruct vision • Is maintained and used in line with the manufacturer's instructions LAC 12.2 Protective soft-shell headgear Field players are permitted to wear soft-shell protective headgear which meets the applicable ASTM standards or comparable standards in the country of product origin. If soft-shell protective headgear is worn, the player must also wear protective eyewear that meets the requirements detailed in LAC 12.1. If protective eyewear is integrated into the protective soft-shell headgear, both the headgear and the eyewear must meet their respective standards. LAC 12.3 Squad size The maximum squad size for a match shall be 22 players.	LAC 12.1 updated so that protective eyewear is now a requirement, rather than a recommendation, for field players, in line with new safety rules of England Lacrosse's, which BUCS has chosen to adopt for fixtures taking place anywhere in the UK. Please see here for more information. LAC 12.2 added to permit field players to wear compliant soft-shell protective head gear, which England Lacrosse also now permits. LAC 12.3 added for clarity, as the World Lacrosse rules (5.A.2) currently only specify the limit for World Lacrosse events, meaning that some may have interpreted that this could be different for BUCS matches.
Lacrosse 6s	LAS 6	LAS 6 Playing kit Each team must provide two sets of matching playing shirts or bibs which are clearly numbered on the front and back. Teams must identify playing numbers on their team sheet when registering at the event. No number may be used more than once, and players cannot swap numbers	LAS 6 Personal equipment The World Lacrosse rules regarding personal equipment shall apply, with the following variations: • Equipment (Women's): ◦ All field players are required to wear protective eyewear that: • Is designed for use in lacrosse	Updated to include new protective eyewear requirements for field players, which are a new safety rule of England Lacrosse's. BUCS's Lacrosse 6s Championships are delivered solely in England, and by England Lacrosse, and for England

		during the tournament. If there is a clash of colours the first named team will change kit.	§ Meets one of the following recognised lacrosse protective eyewear performance standards: • ASTM F3077 • UKCA Certified § Fits securely and comfortably § Does not obstruct vision § Is maintained and used in line with the manufacturer's instructions o Field players are permitted to wear soft-shell protective headgear which meets the applicable ASTM standards or comparable standards in the country of product origin. If soft-shell protective headgear is worn, the player must also wear protective eyewear that meets the requirements detailed in these regulations. If protective eyewear is integrated into the protective soft-shell headgear, both the headgear and the eyewear must meet their respective standards. • Uniform: Each team must provide two sets of matching playing jerseys or pinnies. If there is a clash of colours the first named team will change kit. • Jersey/pinnie numbers: Jerseys/pinnies must be clearly numbered on the front and back. Teams must identify playing numbers on their team sheet when registering at the event. No number may be used more than once, and players cannot swap numbers during the tournament.	Lacrosse's insurance to apply, must comply with England Lacrosse's safety rules. Also updated to permit field players to wear compliant soft-shell protective head gear, which England Lacrosse also now permits. These changes are about improving player safety.
Rugby Union	RUU 2.2.7 (NEW)	N/A	RUU 2 Men's BUCS Super Rugby (Men's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations RUU 2.2 Fixture Administration RUU 2.2.7 Notwithstanding REG 9.3.5.1, the BUCS Executive reserves the right to determine as they see fit the start time for one Men's National league match per match week, for broadcasting purposes. When the BUCS Executive chooses to exercise this right, the chosen start time for a selected match will be communicated to the institutions/Playing Entities	A regulation proposal from the BUCS Executive following discussions with Members with teams in Men's BUCS Super Rugby and Premier North/South 1 regarding increasing commercial potential of BSR. The regulation will give BUCS the ability within the schedule to have a fixture at a consistent time each week, which would be essential for any broadcast partnership.

			involved no less than six weeks before the scheduled date of the match.	BUCS intends to work with Members as much as possible when selecting matches and start times, to ensure the best possible situation for all involved, and to provide notification of chosen matches and start times well before the six-week deadline.
Rugby Union	RUU 2.2.8 (NEW)	N/A	RUU 2 Men's BUCS Super Rugby (Men's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations RUU 2.2 Fixture Administration RUU 2.2.8 Notwithstanding REG 9.3.5.1, the BUCS Executive reserves the right to determine as they see fit the start time for up to two Men's National Championship knockout competition matches per round, for broadcasting purposes. When the BUCS Executive chooses to exercise this right, the chosen start time for a selected match will be communicated to the institutions/Playing Entities who may be involved when the Men's National Championship knockout competition draw is published on BUCS Play.	A regulation proposal from the BUCS Executive following discussions with Members with teams in Men's BUCS Super Rugby and Premier North/South 1 regarding increasing commercial potential of BSR. The regulation will give BUCS the ability within the schedule to have a fixture at a consistent time each round, which would be essential for any broadcast partnership, and to have two matches per round broadcast, either at the same time, or different times, as may be deemed appropriate. BUCS intends to work with Members as much as possible when selecting matches and start times, to ensure the best possible situation for all involved.
Rugby Union	RUU 2.4.4	RUU 2 Men's BUCS Super Rugby (Men's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations RUU 2.4 Team Selection RUU 2.4.4 In order to be eligible to compete in a Men's BUCS Super Rugby National Championship match a player must have either: a) been fielded (including as an unused substitute) in at least 33% of the league fixtures fulfilled that	RUU 2 Men's BUCS Super Rugby (Men's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations RUU 2.4 Team Selection RUU 2.4.4 In order to be eligible to compete in a Men's BUCS Super Rugby National Championship match a player must have either: a) been fielded (including as an unused substitute) in at least 33% of the league fixtures fulfilled that	To allow students to compete in the National Championship if they have been playing for another internal team in an external competition throughout the season. This supports player experience, as players don't choose which team they're selected in, and supports the high level of MBSR with some institutions now able to select their genuine second choice squad should

		season for the team they wish to represent; b) be able to evidence that they would have been able to meet the 33% threshold of a) were it not for medical reasons and/or not being released for BUCS selection due to international commitments (Senior/A/U20s/U18s, training or competition); c) be able to evidence that they have been fielded (including as an unused substitute) in at least six league fixtures across one or more teams that season in the BUCS Men's Rugby Union Championships; or d) be a front row player, selected to play in a front row position only, and able to evidence that they are covering an injured front row player who would have been eligible under a) or b).	season for the team they wish to represent; b) be able to evidence that they would have been able to meet the 33% threshold of a) were it not for medical reasons and/or not being released for BUCS selection due to international commitments (Senior/A/U20s/U18s, training or competition); c) be able to evidence that they have been fielded (including as an unused substitute) in at least six league fixtures across one or more teams that season in the BUCS Men's Rugby Union Championships and/or for an eligible team in an external competition as determined in RUU 2.4.4.1; or d) be a front row player, selected to play in a front row position only, and able to evidence that they are covering an injured front row player who would have been eligible under a) or b). RUU 2.4.4.1 An eligible team in an external competition is defined as an institution/Playing Entity's team, as determined by the relevant National Governing Body (NGB), playing at or below the following levels in the current season; RFU Level 4 (National League 2 East/North/West), WRU Level 3 (Premiership), SRU Level 3 (National League Division 1). The institution/Playing Entity must provide evidence from the relevant NGB that this team is representing the BUCS member institution.	they need to bring players into the 1st team.
Rugby Union	RUU 2.7/RUU 3.6	RUU 2 Men's BUCS Super Rugby (Men's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations/RUU 3 Men's North 1/South 1/North 2/South 2 leagues and National Vase knockout competition specific regulations RUU 2.7/RUU 3.6 Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff RUU 2.7.1/RUU 3.6.1 The home team for the Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff match must host at a venue that meets the requirements outlined in the Men's BUCS Super Rugby Playoff Minimum Operating Standards. Institutions/Playing Entities	RUU 2 Men's BUCS Super Rugby (Men's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations/RUU 3 Men's North 1/South 1/North 2/South 2 leagues and National Vase knockout competition specific regulations RUU 2.7/RUU 3.6 Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff RUU 2.7.1/RUU 3.6.1 The home team for the Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff match 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 2.7.2/RUU 3.6.2. Confirmation will be	For the 2026-27 season, it has been necessary to bring the Women's National Championship final to earlier in the season due to external scheduling clashes with the U21 Six Nations, however the scheduling of this does not work with the MBSR fixture calendar, resulting in the decision to hold the Men's and Women's National Championship finals on different dates. Because of this, in order to make the hosting of the finals financially and commercially viable, the intention is

		are encouraged to use neutral venues, but this is not mandatory. RUU 2.7.2/RUU 3.6.2 The home team for the Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff match 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/RUU 3.6.1. Confirmation will be achieved by the BUCS Executive undertaking an audit in January/February with any Premier North/South 1 teams who are in potential contention for the playoff of any venue(s) they would wish to host at. Any existing Men's BUCS Super Rugby team who might be eligible to participate in the playoff 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/RUU 3.6.1, then they will automatically be designated as the away team.	achieved by the BUCS Executive undertaking an audit in January/February with any Premier North/South 1 teams who are in potential contention for the playoff of any venue(s) they would wish to host at. Any existing Men's BUCS Super Rugby team who might be eligible to participate in the playoff 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 2.7.2/RUU 3.6.2, then they will automatically be designated as the away team. RUU 2.7.2/RUU 3.6.2 The home team for the Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff match must host at a venue that meets the requirements outlined in the Men's BUCS Super Rugby Playoff Minimum Operating Standards. Institutions/Playing Entities are encouraged to use neutral venues, but this is not mandatory. RUU 2.7.3/RUU 3.6.3 Notwithstanding RUU 2.7.1/RUU 3.6.1 and RUU 2.7.2/RUU 3.6.2, the BUCS Executive reserves the right to host the Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff at a venue determined by the BUCS Executive that meets the requirements outlined in the Men's BUCS Super Rugby Playoff Minimum Operating Standards. When the BUCS Executive chooses to exercise this right, this will be communicated to the institutions/Playing Entities who may be involved in the Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff by 1 February of the respective season, the BUCS Executive shall be responsible for all hosting requirements (including appointment of officials) which would usually sit with the first named (home) team, and the BUCS Executive shall conduct a coin toss to decide which team shall be the first named team.	to host the Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff on the same day and at the same venue as the Men's National Championship Final, which will also provide the opportunity for an enhanced experience for those teams participating in the playoff. This change will enable BUCS to host the Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff match where possible but maintains the current situation where BUCS hosting is not considered a viable option by BUCS.
Rugby Union	RUU 6.5 (NEW)	RUU 5 Men's Tier 2-Tier 4 leagues and Conference Cup/Trophy knockout competition specific regulations	RUU 6 Men's Tier 4 leagues and Conference Trophy knockout competition specific regulations	Front row requirements for Men's Tier 4 leagues and Conference Trophy knockout competitions

	RUU 5.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage RUU 5.5.1 For all matches, all starting front row players AND replacements must be ticked as Front Row on the BUCS Play scorecard (or if hard copy team sheets are being used denoted by having '(FR)' written next to their names) as part of the team sheet completion and verification processes of REG 11.2. They must also be identified to the referee before that start of play. RUU 5.5.2 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. The number of suitably trained and experienced front row players of the nominated squad (maximum 22 players) must conform to the following: Number of Suitably Trained and Experienced Front Row Players = Number of Players in Squad Three players who can play in the front row = 15 or less Four players who can play in the front row = 16, 17 or 18 Five players who can play in the front row = 19, (20, 21 or 22) When 19, 20, 21 or 22 players are nominated in a team there must be five players who can play in the front row to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and, on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums. If at the second time of asking there is no suitably trained front row replacement then the World Rugby Laws will be followed, even if with a 22 player squad. RUU 5.5.3 A team unable to start the match with at least three suitably trained front row players will be deemed to have conceded a walkover. If the above requirements were met pre-match but	RUU 6.5 Replacements, front row requirements and scrummage RUU 6.5.1 For all matches, all starting front row players AND replacements must be ticked as Front Row on the BUCS Play scorecard (or if hard copy team sheets are being used denoted by having '(FR)' written next to their names) as part of the team sheet completion and verification processes of REG 11.2. They must also be identified to the referee before that start of play. RUU 6.5.2 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. The number of suitably trained and experienced front row players of the nominated squad (maximum 22 players) must conform to the following: Number of Suitably Trained and Experienced Front Row Players = Number of Players in Squad Three players who can play in the front row = 15 or less Four players who can play in the front row = 16, 17 or 18 Five players who can play in the front row = 19, (20, 21 or 22) When 19, 20, 21 or 22 players are nominated in a team there must be five players who can play in the front row to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and, on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums. If at the second time of asking there is no suitably trained front row replacement then the World Rugby Laws will be followed, even if with a 22 player squad. RUU 6.5.3 Priority must be given to the highest placed team from an institution/Playing Entity downwards. Therefore, a higher placed team may not start a match with uncontested scrums whilst any lower teams are starting matches on the same	separated from those for Men's Tier 2-3 leagues and Conference Cup knockout competitions, with amendments made to relax them in line with what is in place for Women's North/South leagues, Women's Tier 1 leagues, Women's National Vase knockout competition and Women's National Trophy knockout competition. The intention is to ensure that more matches are fulfilled at this level, but still trying to incentivise front row development and recruitment. Please note: Requirements for Men's Tier 2-3 leagues and Conference Cup knockout competitions are to remain unchanged as RUU 5.5.
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		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 5.5.4 All matches will be played using the under-19 variations of the World Rugby scrum laws. RUU 5.5.4.1 In England and Wales, teams can opt to play their matches using the standard World Rugby scrum laws. This must be agreed in writing and signed by each team's captain and the match referee. There will be no option to submit a 'Playing Under Protest' form, and the result will stand. RUU 5.5.5 Uncontested scrums An uncontested scrum is defined as the same as for normal scrummages except that: - There is no contest for the ball. - The team putting the ball in must win it. - Neither team is permitted to push. - Normal rules regarding offside and binding still apply.	day with contested scrums. RUU 6.5.4 If a team is unable to start a match with at least three suitably trained front row players, the following shall apply: RUU 6.5.4.1 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. RUU 6.5.4.2 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. RUU 6.5.4.3 Teams that play more than three matches with uncontested scrums will be deducted three league points. Non-offending teams should report offending teams here. RUU 6.5.5 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 6.5.6 All matches will be played using the under-19 variations of the World Rugby scrum laws. RUU 6.5.6.1 In England and Wales, teams can opt to play their matches using the standard World Rugby scrum laws. This must be agreed in writing and signed by each team's captain and the match referee. There will be no option to submit a 'Playing Under Protest' form, and the result will stand. RUU 6.5.7 Uncontested scrums An uncontested scrum is defined as the same as for normal scrummages except that: - There is no contest for the ball.	
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			- The team putting the ball in must win it. - Neither team is permitted to push. - Normal rules regarding offside and binding still apply.	
Rugby Union	RUU 8.2.5 (NEW)	N/A	RUU 8 Women's BUCS Super Rugby (Women's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations RUU 8.2 Fixture Administration RUU 8.2.5 Playing colours In an exception to REG 9.4, for televised 'feature games', the first named (home) team is permitted to wear their usual 'home' colours where a kit clash exists. This must be communicated to the opposition seven days prior to the fixture taking place.	To align the Women's BUCS Super Rugby regulations with the Men's BUCS Super Rugby regulations.
Rugby Union	RUU 8.2.6 (NEW)	N/A	RUU 8 Women's BUCS Super Rugby (Women's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations RUU 8.2 Fixture Administration RUU 8.2.6 Teams shall not be permitted to reschedule a Women's BUCS Super Rugby fixture such that it would mean that fewer than 36 hours have elapsed since the kick-off time of the last Women's BUCS Super Rugby fixture played by either team, or that fewer than 36 hours would remain between the kick-off time of said fixture and that of the next Women's BUCS Super Rugby fixture scheduled for either team.	To align the Women's BUCS Super Rugby regulations with the Men's BUCS Super Rugby regulations.
Rugby Union	RUU 8.2.7 (NEW)	N/A	RUU 8 Women's BUCS Super Rugby (Women's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations RUU 8.2 Fixture Administration RUU 8.2.7 Notwithstanding REG 9.3.5.1, the BUCS Executive reserves the right to determine as they	A regulation proposal from the BUCS Executive following discussions with Members with teams in Women's BUCS Super Rugby and Premier North/South regarding increasing commercial potential of BSR. The regulation will give BUCS the ability within the

			see fit the start time for one Women's National league match per match week, for broadcasting purposes. When the BUCS Executive chooses to exercise this right, the chosen start time for a selected match will be communicated to the institutions/Playing Entities involved no less than six weeks before the scheduled date of the match.	schedule to have a fixture at a consistent time each week, which would be essential for any broadcast partnership. BUCS intends to work with Members as much as possible when selecting matches and start times, to ensure the best possible situation for all involved, and to provide notification of chosen matches and start times well before the six-week deadline.
Rugby Union	RUU 8.7/RUU 9.6 (Formerly RUU 7.7/RUU 8.6)	RUU 7 Women's BUCS Super Rugby (Women's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations/RUU 8 Women's North/South leagues and National Vase knockout competition specific regulations RUU 7.7/RUU 8.6 Women's BUCS Super Rugby playoffs RUU 7.7.1/RUU 8.6.1 The home team for each of the Women's 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.	RUU 8 Women's BUCS Super Rugby (Women's National league and National Championship knockout competition) specific regulations/RUU 9 Women's North/South leagues and National Vase knockout competition specific regulations RUU 8.7/RUU 9.6 Women's BUCS Super Rugby playoffs RUU 8.7.1/RUU 9.6.1 The home team for each of the Women's 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 8.7.2/RUU 9.6.2. Confirmation will be achieved by the BUCS Executive undertaking an audit in January/February with any Premier North/South teams who are in potential contention for the playoff of any venue(s) they would wish to host at. Any existing Women's BUCS Super Rugby team who might be eligible to participate in the playoff 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 8.7.2/RUU 9.6.2, then they will automatically be designated as the away team.	For the 2026-27 season, it has been necessary to bring the Women's National Championship final to earlier in the season due to external scheduling clashes with the U21 Six Nations, however the scheduling of this does not work with the MBSR fixture calendar, resulting in the decision to hold the Men's and Women's National Championship finals on different dates. Because of this, in order to make the hosting of the finals financially and commercially viable, the intention is to host the second Women's BUCS Super Rugby playoff on the same day and at the same venue as the Women's National Championship Final, which will also provide the opportunity for an enhanced experience for those teams participating in the playoff. This change will enable BUCS to host the Men's BUCS Super Rugby playoff match where possible but maintains the current situation

			RUU 8.7.2/RUU 9.6.2 The home team for each of the Women's BUCS Super Rugby playoff matches must host at a venue that meets the requirements outlined in the Women's BUCS Super Rugby Playoff Minimum Operating Standards. Institutions/Playing Entities are encouraged to use neutral venues, but this is not mandatory. RUU 8.7.3/RUU 9.6.3 Notwithstanding RUU 8.7.1/RUU 9.6.1 and RUU 8.7.2/RUU 9.6.2, the BUCS Executive reserves the right to host one or both Women's BUCS Super Rugby playoff matches at a venue determined by the BUCS Executive that meets the requirements outlined in the Women's BUCS Super Rugby Playoff Minimum Operating Standards. When the BUCS Executive chooses to exercise this right, this will be communicated to the institutions/Playing Entities who may be involved in the Women's BUCS Super Rugby playoff matches by 1 February of the respective season, the BUCS Executive shall be responsible for all hosting requirements (including appointment of officials) which would usually sit with the first named (home) team, and the BUCS Executive shall conduct a coin toss to decide which team shall be the first named team.	where BUCS hosting is not considered a viable option by BUCS. A Women's BUCS Super Rugby Playoff Minimum Operating Standards is being introduced to align with there being one for Men's BUCS Super Rugby.
Sailing	SAI 2.1.1-SAI 2.1.2	SAI 2 Team formats SAI 2.1 Fleet Racing Championships SAI 2.1.1 Open Team Teams are made up of the top three boats from each institution/Playing Entity (not including any boats which have opted to be eligible for the Women's Team category) who have raced in fleets of 15 or more, who have the combined lowest score, calculated at the end of the event. Following the entry deadline; if a class has less than 15 entries and is merged with another class, all boats in the merged class will be awarded points as if they had initially entered that merged class. SAI 2.1.2 Women's Team Teams are made up of	SAI 2 Team formats SAI 2.1 Fleet Racing Championships SAI 2.1.1 Open Team Teams are made up of the top three boats from each institution/Playing Entity (not including any boats which have opted to be eligible for the Women's Team category) who have raced in fleets of eight or more, who have the combined lowest score, calculated at the end of the event. Following the entry deadline; if a class has less than eight entries and is merged with another class, all boats in the merged class will be awarded points as if they had initially entered that merged class. SAI 2.1.2 Women's Team Teams are made up of the	This proposed change was put forward following it being supported at the British Universities Sailing Association (BUSA) AGM by the members of BUSA who are sailing clubs that compete in BUCS's competitions. Often, the ILCA, Slow, and Fast handicap fleets do not meet the current fleet size requirement of 15. Therefore, many competitors are sailing in fleets that do not count towards the Team categories. Reducing the eligible fleet size to

		the top three boats from each institution/Playing Entity (of all women, which have opted to be eligible for the Women's Team category) who have raced in fleets of 15 or more, who have the combined lowest score, calculated at the end of the event. Following the entry deadline; if a class has less than 15 entries and is merged with another class, all boats in the merged class will be awarded points as if they had initially entered that merged class.	top three boats from each institution/Playing Entity (of all women, which have opted to be eligible for the Women's Team category) who have raced in fleets of eight or more, who have the combined lowest score, calculated at the end of the event. Following the entry deadline; if a class has less than eight entries and is merged with another class, all boats in the merged class will be awarded points as if they had initially entered that merged class.	eight will increase the number of competitors' results that are eligible to count towards the results of the team categories and could increase the number of institutions/Playing Entities that will therefore be ranked in each category.
Sailing	SAI 2.1.4 (NEW)	N/A	SAI 2 Team formats SAI 2.1 Fleet Racing Championships SAI 2.1.4 Team category scoring SAI 2.1.4.1 Each boat's score shall be calculated using the following formula which accounts for differing fleet sizes: Score = Position x (Max Fleet Size/Fleet Size). Within this formula: - Position = The boat's finishing position in its fleet, regardless of whether it is eligible for the Open or Women's category - Fleet Size = The number of boats in that fleet - Max Fleet Size = The number of boats in the largest fleet SAI 2.1.4.2 The three boats from each institution/Playing Entity eligible for a category, who have raced in fleets of eight or more, with the lowest scores shall have their scores summed. The lower the summed team score, the higher the ranking of the team. SAI 2.1.4.3 In the event of a tie on scores when calculating the rankings of the Open or Women's Team categories, it shall be split using the following sequential system: - The teams shall be compared based on the combined score of their two lowest scoring boats. The lower the summed team score, the higher the ranking of the team.	This proposed change was put forward following it being supported at the British Universities Sailing Association (BUSA) AGM by the members of BUSA who are sailing clubs that compete in BUCS's competitions. The use of this formula adjusts scores to account for differences in fleet sizes, with the same position in a larger fleet receiving a better (lower) score than in a smaller fleet. Example of formula in use: If a boat finishes 2nd in a fleet of 15 boats, and the largest fleet has 60 boats, their adjusted score would be calculated as $(2) \times (60 \div 15) = 8$, meaning their result is equivalent to finishing 8th in the 60-boat fleet.

			- If still tied, the teams shall be compared based on the score of their lowest scoring boat. The lower the score, the higher the ranking of the team.	
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