BUCS GENERAL REGULATIONS – TEMPORARY COVID-19 CHANGES FOR 2020-21 (V2)

PUBLISHED | 17 MARCH 2021 (UPDATED 31 MARCH 2021)



SUMMARY

This document highlights some new temporary regulations in place for the 2020-21 season as a result of COVID-19.

Please note: It is not possible for BUCS to predict or account for all the ways in which COVID-19 may impact the 2020-21 season. BUCS has addressed some of the potential issues that may occur through additional regulations and amendments to existing regulations (both general and sport specific). However, it is possible that further changes will be required during the season. If regulation changes are required, they will be communicated to all institutions/Playing Entities with teams entered.

Regulation Number	Previous Regulation	New Regulation	Reason for Change
REG 3.2	REG 3.2.1 Team Championships (Leagues/Knockouts) REG 3.2.1.1 Annual Team Entry Fees These are the fees for the main set of entries to BUCS Team Championships (Leagues/Knockouts) made on BUCS Play in the spring for the following season. Entries must be received on BUCS Play by the date set by the BUCS office and fees are to be paid annually by 1 October. REG 3.2.1.2 Other Team Entry Fees Entries for League and Knockout sports not covered by the Overall Team Entries will be charged when the relevant entry set closes. REG 3.2.1.3 The BUCS Executive may, at their discretion and where competition structures allow, accept late entries in to Team Championships (Leagues/Knockouts). However, institutions that submit three or more late entries will be subject to an administration charge which will be based on the number of teams entered after the deadline: - Three to nine – An administration charge of £50. - 10 or more – An administration charge of £100. REG 3.2.2 Individual and Team Championships (Events) Entry fees for BUCS Individual and Team Championships (Events) will be billed after the relevant event closing date. REG 3.2.2.1 Where an event offers 'Stage 2' entries, where these are accepted they will be subject to an additional 20% fee on top of the standard entry fee, as detailed in the relevant event entry information. REG 3.2.3 Should an institution withdraw an entry from any BUCS Championships after the	REG 3.2 Entry Fees REG 3.2.1 Team Championships (Leagues/Knockouts) Entry fees for BUCS Team Championships (Leagues/Knockouts) will be billed after the relevant entry set closes and are to be paid in line with BUCS' payment terms. REG 3.2.1.1 The BUCS Executive may, at their discretion and where competition structures allow, accept late entries into Team Championships (Leagues/Knockouts). However, institutions/Playing Entities that submit three or more late entries will be subject to an administration charge which will be based on the number of teams entered after the deadline: Three to nine – An administration charge of £50. 10 or more – An administration charge of £100. REG 3.2.2 Individual and Team Championships (Events) Entry fees for BUCS Individual and Team Championships (Events) will be billed after the relevant event entry closing date and are to be paid in line with BUCS' payment terms. REG 3.2.2.1 Where an event offers 'Stage 2' entries, where these are accepted they will be subject to an additional 20% fee on top of the standard entry fee, as detailed in the relevant event entry information. REG 3.2.3 Should an institution/Playing Entity withdraw an entry from any BUCS Championships after the relevant entry closing date, whether they will be eligible for an entry fee refund will be subject to the 2020-21 season specific Withdrawal Policy.	TEMPORARY CHANGE FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC LEADING TO TEAM ENTRIES NOT CLOSING UNTIL LATER THAN USUAL AND MORE FLEXIBLE WITHDRAWAL POLICIES BEING PUT IN PLACE

	relevant entry closing date, they will not be eligible to receive an entry fee refund.		
REG 3.3	REG 3.3 BUCS may suspend from participation in all BUCS activities any Member and/or Playing Entity which has not paid the Annual Subscription (REG 3.1) or the Annual Team Entry Fees (REG 3.2.1.1) as of 1 October. Furthermore, any payments received after this date will be subject to a 5% fine.	REG 3.3 BUCS may suspend from participation in all BUCS activities any Member and/or Playing Entity which has not paid the Annual Subscription (REG 3.1) as of 1 October and/or any Team Championships (Leagues/Knockouts) Entry Fees (REG 3.2.1) in line with BUCS' payment terms. Furthermore, any payments received after these deadlines will be subject to a 5% fine.	TEMPORARY CHANGE FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC LEADING TO TEAM ENTRIES NOT CLOSING UNTIL LATER THAN USUAL
REG 6.1	REG 6.1 BUCS Points As published, including all sub-regulations.	REG 6.1 BUCS Points For the 2020-21 season only, there shall be no BUCS Points allocated or awarded.	TEMPORARY CHANGE FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOLLOWING FEEDBACK RECEIVED DURING MEMBERSHIP CONSULTATION
REG 8.1	REG 8.1 The BUCS Executive reserves the right to make final decisions on the structures of all competitions, based on the geographical location of the teams eligible to compete at that level and the number of entries received.	REG 8.1 The BUCS Executive reserves the right to make final decisions on the structures of all competitions, based on the geographical location of the teams eligible to compete at that level and the number of entries received. For the 2020-21 season the BUCS Executive reserves the right to change structures in response to the impact of COVID-19. Examples of changes in response to COVID-19 include but are not limited to: Removal of cross-border competitions, national leagues being split into pools, more than the standard number of leagues in each tier in each Conference from Tier 1 down. Some of these changes will result in teams being placed in a league or tier for the 2020-21 season which is different to that which their position at the end of the previous season would have indicated.	TEMPORARY CHANGE FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY IN RESPONSE TO NEED TO MAKE CHANGES TO LEAGUE STRUCTURES AND PLACEMENT OF TEAMS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19
REG 8.3.2	REG 8.3.2 League sizes Unless stated otherwise in the relevant BUCS sport specific regulations or Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information'), the following league size restrictions shall apply: REG 8.3.2.1 For leagues above the lowest tier, the league size will typically be six teams. REG 8.3.2.2 The minimum number of teams in	REG 8.3.2 League sizes Further to REG 8.1, the BUCS Executive reserves the right to set leagues sizes as they deem appropriate based on those teams entered and taking into consideration the impact of COVID-19 on the programme. However, the following league size restrictions shall apply: REG 8.3.2.1 When finalising the leagues, the minimum number of teams required in a league for	TEMPORARY CHANGES FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY IN RESPONSE TO FIXTURE SCHEDULING CHALLENGES, CHANGES TO LEAGUE STRUCTURES AND PLACEMENT OF TEAMS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

any league will be four. REG 8.3.2.3 The maximum number of teams in any one lowest tier league can be 10. If entries increase to the point that there are more than 10 teams to fit in a bottom Tier league, the league will be split. The existing league will maintain six teams and the remaining teams will either: - Where the maximum number of leagues in that tier has not been met, form an additional league in that tier alongside the existing league, or; - Form a new lower tier league (up to a maximum of 10). For example, in a Conference which only goes as low as Tier 1, where there would be 11 teams in Tier 1, the top six teams will remain in Tier 1A, and the remaining teams will form Tier 2A. REG 8.3.2.3.1 Where creation of a new lower tier is required, teams previously entered will be ranked based on their league finishing position in the previous season, with the higher ranked teams maintaining their place and the lower ranked teams joining any new teams in the new lower tier.	BUCS to run it will be three. However, should there be a situation where there are just two teams, if they both agree they wish to compete, then a two team league shall be facilitated. Should teams withdraw after league finalisation, leaving less than three teams in a league then the remaining teams shall have the option to continue with their season, or to withdraw without penalty. REG 8.3.2.2 The maximum number of teams in any league will be eight.	
REG 8.3.4 Withdrawal of teams Institutions wishing to withdraw a team once team entries for the season are closed are required to e-mail appsupport@bucs.org.uk with this request, as well as where applicable contacting all other teams in the league and any knockout opposition, to inform them of this withdrawal. REG 8.3.4.1 If one third or more of scheduled fixtures, as they were originally scheduled by the BUCS office, have passed, a team will not be permitted to withdraw from the competition. Any subsequent fixtures will be deemed as walkovers and the results logged prior to their withdrawal will remain. Please note the penalties incurred for multiple walkovers, dependent on tier of competition in REG 13.7.5.1 – REG 13.7.5.4.	REG 8.3.4 Withdrawal of teams Institutions wishing to withdraw a team once team entries for the season are closed are required to e-mail appsupport@bucs.org.uk with this request, as well as where applicable contacting all other teams in the league and any knockout opposition, to inform them of this withdrawal. REG 8.3.4.1 If one third or more of scheduled fixtures, as they were originally scheduled by the BUCS Executive, have passed, a team will not be permitted to withdraw from the competition. Any subsequent fixtures will be deemed as walkovers and the results logged prior to their withdrawal will remain. Please note the penalties incurred for multiple walkovers, dependent on tier of competition in REG 13.7.5.1 – REG 13.7.5.4.	TEMPORARY CHANGES FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY IN RESPONSE TO IT BEING AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND LEAGUES FOR 2021- 22 BEING BUILT BASED ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 2019-20 SEASON (2018-19 FOR CRICKET)

	REG 8.3.4.1.1 An exception to this is when, as per REG 9.2.4, a league or knockout competition has been agreed to be hosted in a central venue round robin format. In this case, a team can withdraw at any time prior to 10 working days before the first agreed fixture date for the competition. Once this deadline passes, teams cannot withdraw. REG 8.3.4.2 Withdrawal without completing fixtures Teams withdrawing having not completed any fixtures in a season will be removed from the competition structure and treated as a new team (note REG 8.3.3) should they wish to re-enter in future seasons. REG 8.3.4.3 Withdrawal having completed at least 1 fixture Teams withdrawing having completed at least 1 fixture in a season will be relegated to the tier below should they wish to re-enter the following season. If they do not re-enter the following season, then at any future point they wish to re-enter they will be treated as a new team (note REG 8.3.3).	REG 8.3.4.1.1 An exception to this is when, as per REG 9.2.4, a league or knockout competition has been agreed to be hosted in a central venue round robin format. In this case, a team can withdraw at any time prior to 10 working days before the first agreed fixture date for the competition. Once this deadline passes, teams cannot withdraw. REG 8.3.4.2 For the 2020-21 season, withdrawals will not have any impact on a team's placement in the competition structure for 2021-22.	
REG 8.3.8	REG 8.3.8 Promotion and relegation As published	REG 8.3.8 Promotion and relegation There will not be any promotion or relegation at the end of the 2020-21 season. Instead, the BUCS Executive will be using the finishing positions (i.e., promotion and relegation) from the end of the 2019-20 season (or 2018-19 in the case of Cricket), to determine what leagues teams will play in for 2021-22, subject to their institution having maintained its annual affiliation to BUCS (note REG 3.1) for the 2020-21 season. This applies regardless of whether a team is entered for 2020-21. However, if an institution does not maintain their annual affiliation for 2020-21, including if they cancel their membership and then reapply during the season, then their teams shall be placed in the lowest tier of each structure for 2021-22.	TEMPORARY CHANGE FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY IN RESPONSE TO IT BEING AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON AND LEAGUES FOR 2021- 22 BEING BUILT BASED ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 2019-20 SEASON (2018-19 FOR CRICKET)

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REG 8.4	REG 8.4 Knockout competitions As published	REG 8.4.1 For the 2020-21 season, knockout competitions will only be offered at Premier Tier level. These shall be organised in conjunction with the league programmes and as part of the same entry for each team. REG 8.4.2 The format of all knockout competition draws, and the dates of the various rounds will be determined by the BUCS Executive. REG 8.4.3 The qualification criteria for all knockout competitions shall be contained in the relevant sport specific regulations. REG 8.4.3.1 When there is the requirement to establish the next best first team or best performing team across multiple leagues the following processes will be used: REG 8.4.3.1.1 Where the leagues involved are all the same size/the same number of fixtures were scheduled, league points attained will be compared. If this does not determine an individual team the appropriate performance indicator(s) to the sport will be used. REG 8.4.3.1.2 Where the leagues involved are of differing sizes/differing numbers of fixtures were scheduled, a mini league table consisting of the relevant teams' results against the top three teams of their respective league will be created for comparison. If this does not produce a single team then the teams that are 'performance tied' shall have the top four teams per league compared, then top five teams and so on until a clear 'best performer' is determined. REG 8.4.3.1.3 The processes of REG 8.4.3.1.1 and REG 8.4.3.1.2 shall also be used in relation to other	TEMPORARY CHANGES FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY IN RESPONSE TO FIXTURE SCHEDULING CHALLENGES, CHANGES TO LEAGUE STRUCTURES AND PLACEMENT OF TEAMS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19
		five teams and so on until a clear 'best performer' is determined.	

		knockout competition match, then the appropriate tiebreaker method (E.g. extra time) as laid down in the sport specific regulations shall be applied to achieve a winner. Should further rules be required then the appropriate rules of the International Governing Body or National Governing Body of the sport concerned (as identified in the sport specific regulations) shall be used. As such, facilities must be booked for an appropriate length of time to allow for the possibility of a tiebreaker being required at the end of 'normal time'.	
REG 9.2.1.1	REG 9.2.1.1 Teams from the same institution/Playing Entity in the same league Where two teams from the same institution/Playing Entity are in the same league, BUCS will not schedule a fixture between the two teams for the last week of competition. Institutions/Playing Entities are also forbidden to reschedule fixtures between their own teams to be the last league fixture for either of their teams. Should an institution/Playing Entity be found to have done so, the result will be voided, and no points will be awarded to either team.	TEMPORARILY REMOVED/SUSPENDED	TEMPORARY CHANGE FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY IN RESPONSE TO FIXTURE SCHEDULING CHALLENGES AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND CHANGES TO LEAGUE STRUCTURES AND LIMITS ON NUMBER OF TEAMS IN LEAGUES
REG 11.1	REG 11.1 Team selection REG 11.1.1 All individuals in a team must be from the same Playing Entity and meet the individual eligibility requirements of REG 4. REG 11.1.2 In order to be selected in a team, all individuals must be registered on BUCS Play as a participant. REG 11.1.3 Where a Playing Entity has more than one team in a Championships (for example Men's Football), teams must be selected as if all teams are playing on a given day, at the same time, and in a match of equal importance. It would be expected that the first team would always be the strongest team available to represent that Playing Entity, with consideration to establishment of 'normality'. For example, if	REG 11.1 Team selection REG 11.1.1 All individuals in a team must be from the same Playing Entity and meet the individual eligibility requirements of REG 4. REG 11.1.2 In order to be selected in a team, all individuals must be registered on BUCS Play as a participant. REG 11.1.3 Where a Playing Entity has more than one team in a Championships (for example Men's Cricket), individuals are free to move between teams during the season, however an individual may not be selected (listed on a team sheet) for different teams in the same sport on the same day. This freedom of movement has been enabled to support fixture fulfilment where individuals who would have normally been selected for a team may be	TEMPORARY CHANGES FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS THAT TEAM SELECTION COULD BE COMPLICATED BY COVID-19 For example, it is possible that individuals may need to move between teams more often than usual in response to others contracting COVID-19, having to self-isolate etc., or that government and/or NGB rules/guidance could not allow for individuals to move between teams, for example because they

the first team does not have a match but the second team do, players who would normally* represent the first team are NOT eligible to play for the second team.

*Normally is defined by an individual establishing 'normality' by being listed on the team sheets for a majority (more than 50%) of a particular team's total league fixtures. In the rare case that an individual has been listed on the team sheets for multiple higher ranked teams, then the totals of these will be combined and counted against the lowest of these teams' total league fixtures to identify if they are eligible to represent any lower ranked team. 'Normality'/majority is established through league fixtures only, however this regulation still applies to knockout competition fixtures unless specifically stated otherwise.

REG 11.1.3.1 Where a Playing Entity has more than one fixture scheduled across its teams in a Championships on a given day, priority must be given to the highest ranked team and then in descending order through their teams should the Playing Entity be unable to fulfil all scheduled fixtures. Matches played in contravention of this regulation will be awarded to the opposition, or in certain circumstances, be voided. For example, an institution/Playing Entity may NOT concede a walkover at second team level, while continuing to field a lower ranked team on the same day.

REG 11.1.3.1.1 For possible exceptions to REG 11.1.3.1 due to 'Ring Fencing' of teams, refer to

REG 11.1.3.1.2 Involuntary walkovers may be granted if applied for in accordance with walkover regulations in REG 13 meaning that REG 11.1.3.1 would be suspended in some instances, for example on health and safety grounds. Application to suspend REG 11.1.3.1

REG 11.1.7.

unavailable because of COVID-19 without those replacing them being at risk of becoming ineligible for selection for their normal team. It is however expected that otherwise Playing Entities would make team selections as if all teams were playing on the same day, at the same time, and in a match of equal importance.

REG 11.1.4 Where a Playing Entity has more than one fixture scheduled across its teams in a Championships on a given day, priority does not have to be given to the higher ranked team(s) if the Playing Entity should be unable to fulfil all scheduled fixtures. For example, an institution/Playing Entity MAY concede a walkover at second team level, while continuing to field a lower ranked team on the same day.

REG 11.1.5 Ring Fenced teams Ring Fenced teams will be denoted by their specific group being named in brackets, e.g. (Medics). Information on how to apply for Ring Fencing can be found in REG 2.6.7, however for the 2020-21 season there are no variations to the standard BUCS Team Selection regulations and REG 11.1.1 - REG 11.1.4 shall apply.

train in a different 'bubble'.

These changes allow individuals to move between teams where appropriate to increase the likelihood of fixture fulfilment, but also stop institutions/Playing Entities being required to fulfil fixtures from their first team down and so if not appropriate to be moving individuals between teams they are not at risk of conceding multiple walkovers where they don't.

must be made to the BUCS Executive in advance of affected fixtures.

REG 11.1.4 Individuals may not be selected (listed on a team sheet) for different teams in the same sport on the same day.

REG 11.1.5 Knockout competition team selection Standard team selection regulations apply (REG 11.1.1 – REG 11.1.4) with the below additional restrictions specifically for knockout competitions:

REG 11.1.5.1 Knockout round robins Teams may use an extended squad, including individuals from lower tiered teams at tournament style knockout competitions. However, once an individual is selected (listed on a team sheet) for more than 49% of tournament fixtures they are 'cup-tied' and may not move back down to their 'normal' team. For example, if the knockout round robin consists of four games, an individual may only be selected (listed on a team sheet) for one game outside of their 'normal' team.

REG 11.1.5.2 Medical exemptions Medical exemptions are not permitted for knockout competition fixtures.

REG 11.1.6 Medical exemptions Individuals returning from injury who have established majority for a team may be authorised to be selected (listed on a team sheet) for a lower ranked team by their Athletic Union (or equivalent) for league fixtures only. A medical exemption form, completed and verified by an Athletic Union (or equivalent) representative prior to the fixture, must be presented at the league fixture in question when team sheets are being verified and 'M.E.' marked against the name(s) of the applicable individual(s) on the team sheet to indicate their status. For a copy of a medical exemption form, please see Appendix 4 ('BUCS Medical Exemption Pro Forma').

REG 11.1.6.1 Exemptions only apply to one league fixture in a lower ranked team while returning to fitness. **REG 11.1.6.2** An individual may only be granted a medical exemption if they are returning following a period of absence from competition, they cannot take part in successive fixtures. I.e. they must have been unable to take part in a fixture due to injury prior to the medical exemption being required. **REG 11.1.6.3** Medical exemptions may only be applied if the return from injury is being overseen by an acceptable medical professional. **REG 11.1.6.3.1** Institutions/Playing Entities are advised that BUCS may request a formal letter from said medical professional(s) to verify the validity of the exemption. In doing so no confidential details will be required. Named medical professionals must therefore be prepared to confirm validity of the exemption. **REG 11.1.6.3.2** The named individual must be prepared to permit the treating medical professional identified on the medical exemption form to verify that they are; Treating the individual, and; It is upon their medical advice the individual is acting. **REG 11.1.6.4 Multiple medical exemptions** Where an individual requires an extended period to return to fitness, within a season, their Athletic Union (or equivalent) can apply to the BUCS Executive for clearance. Such an application must be made before the individual in question participates in any further fixtures. An extended period is anything beyond one fixture. **REG 11.1.7 Ring Fenced teams** Ring Fenced teams will be denoted by their specific group being named in brackets, e.g. (Medics).

Information on how to apply for Ring Fencing

	can be found in REG 2.6.7. Ring Fencing of teams allows for a variation to the standard BUCS Team Selection regulations within the BUCS Team Championships (Leagues/Knockouts) by allowing a Playing Entity to identify separate groupings of student-athletes such as 'Medics' and as a result have separate groupings to which the Team Selection regulations shall apply.		
REG 14.1	REG 14.1 Postponed matches Postponed matches are matches called off up to and including the day of the match, due to bad weather, ground conditions, bad light or other extenuating circumstances (force majeure). Should a match have to be postponed, this match shall be rearranged at the venue of the first named (home) team, except in cases where REG 14.1.1.3 applies. REG 14.1.1 Late postponed matches Late postponed matches are those which are postponed within 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) of the fixture start time. REG 14.1.1.1 The first named (home) institution/Playing Entity are required to give reasonable notice to the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity if there is any likelihood of the playing area being pronounced unfit for play. However, if the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity have concerns that a match may be postponed (i.e. heavy rain is forecast), they are to ask that a decision be made about whether the match will take place before their team's intended departure time (note REG 9.5). REG 14.1.1.2 Where a late cancellation is required, the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity must notify, in writing, the main Athletic Union (or equivalent) contact of the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity. Confirmation that notification has been received	REG 14.1 Postponed matches Postponed matches are matches called off up to and including the day of the match, due to bad weather, ground conditions, bad light, COVID-19 affecting a team's ability to fulfil a fixture, or other extenuating circumstances (force majeure). Should a match have to be postponed, this match shall be rearranged at the venue of the first named (home) team, except in cases where REG 14.1.1.3 applies. Where an institution/Playing Entity cites COVID-19 as affecting their team's ability to fulfil a fixture this would be deemed to cover anything COVID-19 related and their opposition are expected to accept this in good faith and without going into specific details. REG 14.1.1 Late postponed matches Late postponed matches are those which are postponed within 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) of the fixture start time. REG 14.1.1.1 The first named (home) institution/Playing Entity are required to give reasonable notice to the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity if there is any likelihood of the playing area being pronounced unfit for play. However, if the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity have concerns that a match may be postponed (i.e. heavy rain is forecast), they are to ask that a decision be made about whether the match will take place before their team's intended departure time (note REG 9.5). REG 14.1.1.2 Where a late cancellation is required, the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity	TEMPORARY CHANGES FOR 2020- 21 SEASON ONLY IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS THAT FIXTURE FULFILMENT COULD BE COMPLICATED BY COVID-19 AND INSTITUTIONS SHOULD NOT BE AT RISK OF WALKOVERS FOR THIS

must be obtained either by phone or in writing from said contact to constitute adequate notification.

REG 14.1.1.2.1 Where late cancellation is required the match official(s) must be notified immediately by the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity.

REG 14.1.1.3 Where the opposition (away) team has started their journey, only for the fixture to be postponed by either the match official(s) or grounds staff (written evidence required), the fixture shall be replayed at the venue of the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity.

must notify, in writing, the main Athletic Union (or equivalent) contact of the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity. Confirmation that notification has been received must be obtained either by phone or in writing from said contact to constitute adequate notification.

REG 14.1.1.2.1 Where late cancellation is required the match official(s) must be notified immediately by the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity.

REG 14.1.1.3 Where the opposition (away) team has started their journey, only for the fixture to be postponed by either the match official(s) or grounds staff (written evidence required), or in the case of COVID-19 reasons a recognised Athletic Union (or equivalent) contact, the fixture shall be replayed at the venue of the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity.