

# 2025-26 BUCS BADMINTON SAG - MEETING 1 - MINUTES

**Date** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**Time** 11-1pm  
**Location** Microsoft Teams

## ATTENDEES

Martyn Lewis  
 Donal O'Halloran  
 Martin Wells  
 Alvaro Vazquez-Gonzalez  
 Alison Odell  
 Sue Orwin  
 Dave Lindley  
 Mark Downie  
 Hannah Underhill

## APOLOGIES

Kyra Simpson

## ORGANISATION

Chair (Nottingham)  
 NGB – Badminton Wales  
 Comp Rep (Bournemouth)  
 Men's Student Rep  
 Vice President of Badminton England  
 Consultant – Tournament Rep  
 Performance Rep (Loughborough)  
 Head of Comps – Badminton England  
 BUCS

## ORGANISATION

Women's Student Rep

Item	Action
<b>1. Apologies / Welcome</b> Apologies were received from Kyra Simpson	ML
<b>2. Review of Rules and Regs</b> Request from Derby Uni (and Warwick in the previous years) to review Reg 8.3.8.4.3 regarding BUCS Premier Promotion Eligibility, which is currently blocking them from being promoted into the Premier Division due to the first two teams in Midlands Tier 1 not being eligible for promotion, but the current reg not allowing 3 <sup>rd</sup> place to be eligible for promotion if the 2 above them are ineligible due to already having a 1 <sup>st</sup> team in the Premier tier. <b>Discussion re: Reg 8.3.8.4.3</b> following points raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midlands Tier 1 is much stronger than all other regions – Stats from Nationals to support this statement from Sue Orwin:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 24 out of the 32 medallists came from the Midlands Division, others from UCL (2), UWS (3), Queen Mary (1), Kings College (1), Strathclyde (1).</li> <li>○ For the Open seedings:</li> <li>○ Open Singles – Derby had 2 singles players seeded in the 17-32 bracket, neither Durham or Manchester had any seeded players.</li> <li>○ Open Doubles – Derby had 2 doubles pairs seeded in the 9-16 bracket and 1 doubles pair in the 17-32 bracket.</li> <li>○ Durham had 2 doubles pairs seeded in the 17-32 bracket</li> <li>○ Manchester had no seeded pairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	All

- Question was asked if the rule should be changed for one institution or is it a wider problem. If so, should it be a regulation change or a structural change to the leagues
- Point raised that if we were to make a structural change e.g. to a 2-tiered Prem, which would allow more than one team from an institution to enter the premier team, would that then mean the Prem tier would be dominated by 1-2 institutions.
- Point raised re: would a National league be a better move – but agreed more consultation needed to if there is a want/wider need for this
- Group consensus was that we want to see the top 6 best first teams in the premier division, therefore initially a reg review would open up playoffs to best 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers, if 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> were ineligible for promotion allow this, which would help to account for the high level of competition seen in Midlands Tier 1, which isn't an issue across other regions. Then in the longer term it would be useful for the group to explore if there is an appetite for a National league from the membership.

**Reg BAD 7.2** -It was also raised by Derby that the current rules regarding player movement disproportionately affect the badminton leagues. In badminton, the movement of even two players from a first team into a second team can significantly alter match outcomes. With six players per fixture and ten league fixtures per season, the strategic movement of first-team players can effectively guarantee wins or draws for second teams without breaching player-tie regulations.

- Raised that badminton is actually safeguarding more than other sports, who only have the normality ruling.
- Group agreed locking in 6 players at the start of the season is unreasonable as there is then an issue with players who join late not being able to play in the first team for the whole season.
- Group believes locking 4 is reasonable as allows some room for new players coming in to join as well as normality to be achieved but questioned the need to be clearer with the regulation regarding manipulating rankings.
- Moving to squash ranking list was considered but rejected as moving to a ranking list like squash would be too challenging due to having both singles and doubles competitors.
- It was suggested that BUCS therefore reviews the wording of 7.2.3 Regarding manipulation of rankings to try and ensure that the rules are adhered to as much as possible, and that there is less wiggle room for manipulation.
- Also discussed if there should be an amendment to rule that would allow a better player coming in during the season to be ranked in top 4.

Discussion of other regs changes brought to group: [Badminton Reg Review.xlsx](#):

- **BAD i – BAD iv** – Decided to review in next meeting. Pointed out that 8.1.2 should only be applied in prelim rounds not in main drawer
- **8.1.2** – group agreed to change
- **Bad 11** – Martin Wells also brought forward the fact that Hybrid shuttlecocks are also currently being brought into the conversation. BE will be looking at synthetic but nothing confirmed yet. Therefore, group feels a consultation is needed to see what institutions would be comfortable following considering cost implications, playing quality etc.

**Action:**

8.3.8.4.3 - HU with NB look to change reg: to allow 3<sup>rd</sup> team to be promoted based on Midlands Tier 1 holding the majority of the best players (supported by Nationals stats)

SAG to conduct a full structural review for next year

<p>Reg 7.2 – SAG to Review wording of 7.2.3, potentially making similar to 7.6.5 - Regarding manipulation of rankings to try and account for reason regarding issue being raised. As well as looking at potential for changes to top 4 being made if higher ranked player's come in mid-season (e.g. Jan Masters students).</p> <p>BAD i – BAD iv – continue to review at next meeting with Sue Orwin and team</p> <p>8.1.2 – agree that change should be made</p> <p>BAD11 – Consultation needed to determine what the best fit is across each tier. Feeling is tier 2 and below doesn't need to be so strongly worded, but consultation is needed. SAG group to put together survey questions, so that HU can then send out to the membership.</p>	
<p><b>3. Use of Hybrid shuttles in BUCS</b></p> <p>Discussed above regarding BAD 11</p> <p><b>Action:</b> as above re: survey questions</p>	All
<p><b>4. BUCS Para National Update</b></p> <p>Para Nationals in Nottingham on 29<sup>th</sup> April alongside Para GB</p> <p>BUCS delivered event supported by Martyn Lewis (SAG Chair) and James Farmer who is the Para Pathway Manager at Badminton England. James Farmer will run the event, almost like a Tournament Director. All entries will go through BUCS Play.</p>	ML
<p><b>5. BWF Scoring &amp; BE Rating System</b></p> <p>BE currently trialling Best of 3 to 15 points – looking at potentially adapting all comps they run to new scoring system therefore discussions need to be had re: if BUCS will follow and when.</p> <p>If scoring system changed in December, that would be mid-season for BUCS so what would we do from a BUCS perspective?</p> <p>MD to update group and BUCS once timelines are decided so we can then review potential BUCS implementation.</p> <p>Grading system takes tournaments and league based player into account. The rating system that BE want to use would replace grading and be more accurate, utilising the same system as Squash Levels etc.</p> <p>Looking at launching later this year, therefore MD to enter a conversation to bring in BUCS Rating system once details are confirmed.</p> <p><b>6. Action:</b> Mark Downie to reach out again once timelines are confirmed by BE</p>	MD
<p><b>7. A.O.B.</b></p> <p>Meeting 2 confirmed for 28<sup>th</sup> April 11am</p> <p>Agenda Items for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BUCS Nationals Streaming</li> <li>• BUCS Individuals Ranking</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Martyn to add to the agenda for Meeting 2 and send out meeting invite to the group</p>	All

**Dates and times of meetings for 2025-26 season.**

Meeting 1 – 24/02/26 11am

Meeting 2 – 28/04/26 11am

Meeting 3 – TBC

Meeting 4 – TBC