

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

Date Thursday 14 August 2025  
Time 10:00-12:00  
Location Microsoft Teams

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## ATTENDEES

## ORGANISATION

## APOLOGIES

## ORGANISATION

## BUCS NETBALL SAG MEETING SUMMARY

### 1. Welcoming & Introductions

- New members from Netball Scotland, Wales Netball, England Netball, universities, and student reps introduced their roles.
- Continued collaboration across national governing bodies (NGBs) emphasized.

### 2. Key Discussion Areas

#### A. Venue & Facility Standards

- Performance coach feedback highlighted the need for rule clarity on:
  - Electronic scoreboards.
  - Wooden sprung floors for top-premier leagues.
  - Clear guidance on umpire identification and level.
- Agreement to consult Charlotte (England Netball facilities lead) to align on reasonable and achievable standards. Action for KR
- Recognised gap in shared understanding among club administrators about why these standards are set.
- Potential link to Sport England for overarching facility guidelines.

#### B. Workforce Development & Recruitment

- Ongoing recruitment for new workforce positions, SAG South, Wales rep, and men's student rep.
- Opportunities for education and skill-building within universities highlighted.
- Consideration of better role clarity for club coordinators.

#### C. Policy Alignment & Competition Rules

- Updates needed on trans policies
- Debate and review of the 50% rule for player eligibility, particularly:
  - Impact on international athletes.
  - Need for logging players who are in the squad but do not take the court.
  - Potential exemptions and notification processes for unavailable players.
- Examination of international player availability regulations and their effect on fixture rescheduling.
- Need for strategic alignment with England Netball Super League and BUCS competition structures.

#### D. Fixtures, Scheduling & Player Load Management

- Challenges with rescheduling due to international commitments.
- Suggestion that games proceed without absent internationals to preserve league timelines.
- Recognition of high completion rates for netball fixtures (highest among major BUCS sports).
- Call for better load management and mental health support for student-athletes. – Kath Tetley is creating load management guidance for universities. Netball Scotland can support mental health in universities with resources through their SAMH partnership.

### **E. Men's Netball Development**

- Tristan to continue as BUCS men's netball representative.
- Men's BUCS tournament at Warwick: no facility costs, fees covering umpire costs; exploring use of two courts if entries exceed six teams.
- Positive exposure of men's netball during recent showcase events.

### **F. Event Management & Communication**

- Feedback from recent high-profile events:
  - Miscommunication between volunteers and BUCS around live streaming and commentary quality.
  - Need for high-quality media, promotion, and professional presentation on par with Super League standards.
- Proposal to use university netball championships as a curtain-raiser for main events.
- Importance of timely promotion, accurate event information, and strong social media campaigns.

### **G. Promotion & Participation**

- Need for stronger social media presence from BUCS for netball.
- Suggestion to share performance stats and success stories to boost engagement. – This is through the England Netball campaign
- Use of polls and feedback forms with netball societies to strengthen student voice.

## **3. Consolidated Action Items**

### **1. Facilities & Standards**

- Katie Sykes & Sarah to meet Charlotte (England Netball) to set reasonable facility standards.
- Clarify top-premier league venue requirements with BUCS.
- Katie Sykes to follow up with Maz on NGB feedback process.
- Katie Ryan to share "How to Score a Netball Match" YouTube resource.

### **2. Policy & Rules**

- Develop formal request to BUCS to record whether players took court for 50% rule reviews.
- Review 50% rule in detail; draft potential exemptions for international commitments.
- Review BUCS regulations on international player availability and rescheduling impact.
- Investigate historical application frequency of international player rules.

### **3. Workforce & Governance**

- Advertise open positions: workforce, SAG South, men's student rep, Wales rep.
- Circulate Performance South position advert to premier southern universities.

### **4. Events & Promotion**

- Obtain and review BUCS project plan for major events.
- Explore university netball championships as a curtain-raiser event.
- Follow up on umpiring course date releases.
- Create infographic on BUCS netball completion statistics for promotion.
- Increase direct social media engagement with netball societies and presidents.
- Push for early and high-quality streaming and commentary for showcase events.

### **5. Men's Netball**

- Finalise men's BUCS tournament details (budget, entry fee, advertising).
- Engage with student reps on further men's netball opportunities.

### **6. NGB Updates**

- Katelyn, Adrian, and Katie to continue providing updates from Netball Scotland, Wales Netball, and England Netball.
- Sarah to research BUCS netball league history for England Netball centenary.

**Action Item Responsible Person(s) Notes/Progress**

- Meet England Netballs Charlotte to agree facility standards Katie Sykes, Sarah for Prem leagues; discuss wooden floors, scoreboards
- Clarify venue requirements with Bucks Katie Sykes, Sarah Ensure top league standards are practical
- Follow up with Maz re: NGB feedback process Katie Sykes Feedback from performance coaches
- Share a How to Score a Netball Match YouTube
- resource Katie Ryan to support officials and learners
- Develop formal 50% rule squad logging request Nick Burley Document player presence vs. actual play
- Review 50% rule in detail; draft exemption
- proposal Nick Burley and performance SAG reps Focus on internationals, notifications
- Review BUCS international player regulation &
- scheduling Nick Burley and SAG reps Assess frequency, impact on fixtures
- Advertise open roles: workforce, SAG
- Performance South, men's rep, Wales rep Maz Target university networks and NGB channels
- Circulate Performance South position advert Maz Engage directors of sport at southern unis
- Obtain and review BUCS event project plan BUCS Event leads for streamlined event responsibility
- Explore Uni Championships as curtain-raiser for
- main event Em Harvey Assess logistic feasibility, player crossover
- Follow up on umpiring course date releases Katy Ryan Keep clubs/officiating bodies informed
- Create infographic of completion statistics
- (BUCS netball) BUCS (Maz) Share online, use for stakeholder engagement
- Increase direct social media engagement with
- netball societies/presidents Eva with BUCS Use polls, forms, success stories
- Finalise men's BUCS tournament details Tristan Budget, entry fee, court bookings, advertising
- Research BUCS netball league history for
- Centenary activities Sarah Support England Netballs celebrations
- Regular NGB updates from Scotland, Wales,
- England Netball Katelyn, Adrian, Katie for committee records and strategic alignment