

BUCS RUGBY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

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RUL i The BUCS Rugby League Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the [RFL Laws of the Game](#).

RUL ii In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.

RUL iii In the event that these regulations contradict the [RFL Laws of the Game](#), these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.

RUL iv The gender eligibility criteria for the BUCS Rugby League Championships will be determined as per [REG 4.3](#).

RUL 1 There shall be a Team Championships for Men. The programme shall include leagues and knockout competitions as per BUCS general regulations, Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points') and Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information').

RUL 2 All BUCS rugby league competitions sit within Tier 4 of the RFL competition structure. As a result, and for the avoidance of doubt, any Institution/Playing Entity participating in BUCS Rugby League is subject to the [RFL's Tiers 3-4 \(Community Game\) Operational Rules](#), except where these are varied by these BUCS regulations as agreed with the RFL.

RUL 3 Membership, affiliations, player registrations and personnel

RUL 3.1 All institutions/Playing Entities must be an associated member of the RFL and all teams must be affiliated to the RFL as per the requirements of the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document by the deadline stated in the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document. Failure to do so will lead to sanctions as outlined in the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document and possibly further disciplinary action.

RUL 3.2 All players must be registered with the RFL prior to playing in any BUCS Rugby League fixture, as per the requirements of the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document. Failure to do so will lead to sanctions as outlined in the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document and possibly further disciplinary action.

RUL 4 Fixture administration

RUL 4.1 Should a fixture have a change of start time or venue, with such a change being made less than seven days before the fixture is scheduled to take place, the first named (home) team must communicate this, without delay, to the [RFL Competition Officer](#) and any appointed referee.

RUL 4.2 Should a fixture have a change of date, with this change being made less than seven days before the fixture was scheduled to take place, the first named (home) team must communicate this, without delay, to the [RFL Competition Officer](#) and any appointed referee.

RUL 4.3 Should a fixture be cancelled or postponed less than seven days before the fixture is scheduled to take place, the first named (home) team must communicate this, without delay, to the [RFL Competition Officer](#) and any appointed referee.

RUL 4.4 Any team desiring to arrange a friendly must seek permission from the [RFL Competition Officer](#). No friendly fixtures shall be arranged on a league fixture date without prior approval of the RFL Competition Officer.

RUL 5 Match officials Match officials should be appointed as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').

RUL 5.1 The RFL (Rugby Football League) endeavours to appoint referees to as many BUCS Rugby League fixtures as possible. The minimum appointment is outlined in Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements').

RUL 5.2 To ensure that appointments can be made, institutions/Playing Entities must comply with REG 9.3.6–REG 9.3.10 and RUL 4 regarding the inputting of start times and venues on BUCS Play and any changes to fixture dates, times or venues.

RUL 5.3 All appointments made by the RFL will be detailed on GameDay. Teams must ensure that they are signed up to GameDay to access appointment details and therefore be able to communicate directly with any appointed referees to confirm fixture details.

RUL 5.4 The RFL will put any appointment details on GameDay at least two working days before a fixture is scheduled to take place, for example, by 17:00 on the Friday before a Wednesday fixture. If there are no appointment details on GameDay for a fixture at least two working days before it is scheduled to take place, then, as per RUL 5.5, the first named (home) team shall be responsible for trying to source a referee.

RUL 5.5 In the event that the RFL have not made an appointment for a fixture at least two working days before it is scheduled to take place, then it shall be the responsibility of the first named (home) team to source a suitable alternative referee. This referee must hold the relevant qualifications required in Appendix 5. Teams are recommended to contact their local Referees Society to help. For a list of the Referees Society contact details, please see [here](#). Teams can also contact the [RFL Competition Officer](#) to see if the RFL may be able to offer any support. If the first named (home) team are unable to source an appropriate referee and no alternative agreement is made with the opposition (away) team, then the fixture shall be considered as postponed and should be rearranged in accordance with REG 14.

RUL 5.6 It is the responsibility of the first named (home) team to confirm details of the fixture (including kit colours) with the appointed referee no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time. In the event of the referee not receiving communication before the stated deadline, the designated referee will not be required to fulfil the fixture. In such circumstances, if the home team are unable to find a suitable alternative referee by following the process outlined in RUL 5.5, then it shall be deemed that they have forfeited the game rather than the match being postponed.

RUL 5.7 Unqualified Touch Judges are only to indicate touch/touch in goal, and kicks at goal from penalties/conversion attempts. Unqualified Touch Judges cannot indicate knock-ons and forward passes; have no jurisdiction over foul play; cannot enter the field of play, other than to judge goal kicks; are at all times subject to the authority of the referee who may overrule and may also dispense with their services if they consider they are acting in a partisan manner.

RUL 5.8 If a club provides a qualified Touch Judge, bearing accreditation, that Touch Judge has full Touch Judge powers and responsibility, i.e. they will be used as a qualified official. This applies even if there is only one qualified Touch Judge present.

RUL 6 Match Day operations

RUL 6.1 Each team is responsible for the behaviour of its players, committee and spectators.

RUL 6.2 Each team should appoint a Game Day Manager whose responsibility lies in the control and monitoring of spectators for the smooth running of the day and to ensure that Match Officials are escorted to and from their dressing rooms.

RUL 6.3 Medical requirements

RUL 6.3.1 Premier Tier/National Championship As a minimum, both teams for each match must ensure that they have a dedicated qualified first aider pitchside to provide immediate care. It is highly recommended that there is also a dedicated sports therapist pitchside.

RUL 6.3.1.1 Any institution/Playing Entity found to be in breach of RUL 6.3.1 for reasons deemed to be within their reasonable control by the BUCS Executive will be subject to the following sanctions:

- 1st offence per team: £250 fine
- 2nd offence per team: £750 fine
- 3rd offence per team: Team suspended from participating in fixtures until proof of plan for compliance can be provided for future fixtures

RUL 6.3.2 Tier 1/National Trophy and Tier 2 and below/Conference Cup As a minimum, the host institution/Playing Entity for each match must ensure that there are ample first aiders within close enough proximity of the pitch to provide immediate emergency care as and when required. Any host venue must demonstrate on request a risk assessment and plan in the event that each first aider at the venue is providing care (e.g. stopping matches from progressing until resource is available). It is recommended that a dedicated qualified first aider is pitchside for each match, but this cannot be a player named on the fixture team sheet.

RUL 6.3.2.1 Any institution/Playing Entity found to be in breach of RUL 6.3.2 for reasons deemed to be within their reasonable control by the BUCS Executive will be subject to the following sanctions:

- 1st offence per team: £100 fine
- 2nd offence per team: £400 fine
- 3rd offence per team: Team suspended from participating in fixtures until proof of compliance can be provided by way of an updated risk assessment

RUL 6.3.3 Head injuries and concussion Sub-section 6 of the First Aid Standards (Section F6) of the [RFL's Tiers 3-4 \(Community Game\) Operational Rules](#) should be referred to for managing any head injuries or concussion.

RUL 6.3.4 Any serious injury, including any suspected or confirmed concussion/head injury, must be recorded on the RFL Team Sheet (RUL 9) and reported to the RFL within 24 hours of the completion of the match or training activity in which it occurred. Teams must:

- Provide appropriate care advice before the player leaves;
- Complete the relevant RFL reporting form(s) as soon as possible; and
- Support the player/parent through the required medical assessment process.

The RFL reporting forms are [the Head Injury Form \(for reporting a Head Injury or Suspected Concussion\)](#) and [the Serious Injury Notification Form](#). Submission of a Head Injury Report will result in a GameDay concussion restriction being applied and initiates the mandatory minimum 21-day stand down period. NHS 111 advice alone does not clear a player to return to play.

***Teams/individuals are not expected to provide their own medical advice if they are not qualified to do so. Providing appropriate care advice could, for example, simply involve signposting the player to appropriate approved guidance, information or a healthcare service.**

RUL 7 Match balls In compliance with the RFL Laws of the Game, size 5 balls must be used in all matches and shall be submitted to and approved by the Match Official before the commencement of the match.

RUL 8 Duration of play All matches shall consist of two periods of 40 minutes and a half-time interval of 10 minutes. Teams shall change ends at half-time.

RUL 8.1 Ties in knockout competition matches The “Golden Point” ruling will come into play, and so the first team to score points of any kind will be declared the winners. Teams are to toss a coin at the start of the “Golden Point” extra time period to determine who kicks-off and who receives.

RUL 9 RFL Team Sheets

RUL 9.1 In addition to teams completing BUCS Team Sheets (as per REG 11.2), teams and referees are also responsible for completing RFL Team Sheets for each fixture.

RUL 9.2 The first named (home) team shall be responsible for supplying a hard copy of the RFL Team Sheet for completion.

RUL 9.3 Prior to the match commencing, the full names (first name and last name, no initials) of all players shall be recorded and the RFL Team Sheet shall be signed by a recognised official from each team and the referee.

RUL 9.4 Immediately following the match, the referee and recognised team officials shall complete the rest of the RFL Team Sheet.

RUL 9.5 The referee shall be responsible for sending the completed RFL Team Sheet to the [RFL Competition Officer](#) within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

RUL 10 Team

RUL 10.1 Each team shall have no more than 13 players on the field at any one time.

RUL 10.2 The minimum number of players on the field a team shall be permitted to start a match with shall be nine. After a match has started, should a team have less than nine players currently participating in the match then, for safety reasons, the match shall be terminated. Current participants are players on the field and players who have been temporarily suspended (sin bin). Dismissed players are not deemed as current participants.

RUL 10.3 A team may only nominate replacements if they will have 13 players starting on the field. A team with only 9-13 players shall not be permitted to nominate any replacements and all of their players must start on the field. Limits on the number of replacements that can be named are as follows:

RUL 10.3.1 Premier Tier league matches and National Championship knockout competition matches Each team may nominate up to a maximum of four replacements before the start of the match.

RUL 10.3.2 Tier 1 and below league matches and National Trophy/Conference Cup knockout competition matches Each team may nominate up to a maximum of four replacements before the start of the match. However, a team may nominate more replacements, up to a maximum of seven, if agreed with their opposition at least 24 hours in advance of the fixture start time. If there is no agreement, then they shall be limited to four replacements.

RUL 10.4 All substitutions are rolling, with an unlimited number of interchanges.

RUL 10.5 Each team is required to list all starting players and replacements (substitutes) on their BUCS Team Sheet (REG 11.2) and on the RFL Team Sheet (RUL 9) for the match.

RUL 10.6 Player matching The following applies to Tier 2 and below league matches and Conference Cup knockout competition matches only:

RUL 10.6.1 If a team informs their opposition via email, at least 24 hours in advance of the advertised kick-off time, that they will be fielding less than 13 players (but at least a minimum of nine in accordance with RUL 10.2) then their opposition shall be obliged to only field the same number of starting players, however they may still bring replacements as per RUL 10.3.2. The [RFL Competition Officer](#) and BUCS (discipline@bucs.org.uk) should also be copied in to any such communications. Both teams must also inform the referee before the start of the match of the player matching arrangements.

RUL 10.6.2 Where at least 24 hours notice in advance of the advertised kick-off time is not given, if a team is fielding less than 13 players (but at least a minimum of nine in accordance with RUL 10.2), then their opposition is not obliged to only field the same number of starting players, but they may still agree to do so. In this circumstance, the opposition team may name those players who will no longer be starting as additional replacements to the maximum stated in RUL 10.3.2. Both teams must also inform the referee before the start of the match of the player matching arrangements.

RUL 10.7 Supported Teams

RUL 10.7.1 Where an institution/Playing Entity has a second team and/or any lower ranked team(s) within the lowest tier in their Conference, then they can apply for their lowest ranked team to be recognised as a Supported Team.

RUL 10.7.2 An application for a Supported Team must be submitted by email to fixtures@bucs.org.uk by 1 October of the respective season, or the first working day following this if it falls on a weekend.

RUL 10.7.3 A Supported Team will be permitted to field up to five players per match who have established normality for a higher ranked team (Note REG 11.1).

RUL 10.7.4 A Supported Team will not be eligible for promotion under any circumstances. Should a supported team occupy a promotion spot at the end of the season, the opportunity for promotion will be offered to the highest finishing team that is not a Supported Team. For the avoidance of doubt, once a team has been confirmed and recognised as supported team, in the instance that team does not field any players who have established normality for a higher ranked team throughout the season, this regulation will still apply.

RUL 10.7.5 A Supported Team will not be permitted to compete in any knockout competition.

RUL 11 Reporting results to the RFL

RUL 11.1 The home team, in consultation with the Match Official and designated officer from the opposition, must agree the result immediately on completion of the game and report it to the [RFL Competition Officer](#) no later than 10:00 on the first working day following the fixture.

RUL 11.2 All postponements must be notified to the [RFL Competition Officer](#).

RUL 12 Discipline The RFL shall be responsible for all on-field disciplinary issues. All disciplinary matters, suspensions, fines, and appeals shall be dealt with in accordance with Section D of the [RFL's Tiers 3-4 \(Community Game\) Operational Rules](#) and the F9 On Field Sentencing Guidelines.