

2025-26 BUCS AMERICAN FOOTBALL SAG - MEETING 3- MINUTES

Date 09/02/2026
Time 16:00
Location Google Meets

ATTENDEES

Tonye Dokubo
 Sam Johnson
 Chris Winrow
 Peter Laird
 Danylo Blackburn
 Dion Karl Duke
 Amanda McDonald

ORGANISATION

BUCS
 UCL
 BUCS Consultant
 Edinburgh Napier
 UoN
 ARU
 BAFA

APOLOGIES

Matthew Kellam
 Dan Maher

ORGANISATION

UCLAN
 UWE

Item	Action
<p>1. Apologies / Welcome Welcomed all to AF SAG 2025-26 Apologies were received from Matt Kellam Introduced Amanda who works with BAFA and will be invited to join all future SAGs as BAFA rep and to give insight into NGB matters</p>	CW
<p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising (Meeting 1 25-26)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of the Meeting (MoM) for the National League were sent to all members of the SAG. Since the last SAG, contact has been made with BAFA and BAFCA. Representatives from BAFA/BAFCA have attended this SAG meeting and will attend future SAG meetings as available and appropriate. Amanda was available to join today's SAG to provide BAFA insight and will continue to be invited going forward. 	CW
Action: Nil	
<p>3. Rules and Regulations Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUCS has sent C. Winrow an email requesting submissions for suggested changes to rules and regulations. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This email will be attached alongside: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The minutes from this meeting ◦ A BUCS copy of the current rules and regulations (for reference) • All members are requested to submit suggestions individually to C. Winrow. • C. Winrow will collate submissions and forward them to BUCS. • Deadline for submissions: 19th April <p>Action: Chris to send out rules and regs along with submission for rules and regs change request</p>	CW
<p>4. 10-Year Helmet Safety Rule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAFA is currently reviewing the language in the playing rules regarding helmet safety. • It is acknowledged that several teams are using helmets that are now over 10 years old. • BUCS/SAG will await BAFA's formal wording on helmet safety and age-of-use regulations. • Action will be taken once clarification is received. • A note was made to alert teams as early as possible should helmet regulations change, allowing sufficient time for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Equipment purchasing ◦ Fitting and logistics <p>Action: Await BAFA update in Playing rules and discuss if further action required</p>	TD
<p>5. Programme Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helmet safety review – see item above. 2. Discussion on American Football sport safety in relation to concerns raised with BUCS. 3. Flag Football Series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ To begin this year ◦ Five regional events planned ◦ SAG will absorb the Flag Football competition ◦ A Flag Football representative will be added to SAG 4. No further comments or concerns raised. 	CW

6. NGB Updates

NGB not rules and regs review and looking into language around Helmet and equipment use and safety past a certain age. Will be adjusting playing rules.

NGB noted they have also received concerns regarding higher-level players competing in the UK game, particularly. Similar to SAG in aim to continue to promote playing and participation in the sport as a whole there this does not fit with aims and would exclude individuals due to nationality or prior experience. Group noted in this mainly being

- a. American players following university seasons
- b. Players associated with US Air Force bases

CW/AM

Currently preparing for the National League schedule.

Planning to add Flag Football Finals to the National League Finals:

- c. To provide a consistent finals experience across both formats

7. BUCS American Football Safety

- Concerns have been raised to BUCS regarding safety within the sport, including:
 - Increased concussion rates
 - Concerns around postgraduate international students participating
- SAG noted these concerns but reiterated that:
 - This is a student sport
 - Limiting participation would not be in the best interests of students
- It was noted that:
 - Determining prior playing experience as a safety metric is difficult
 - Limiting participation based on nationality is problematic, particularly for students with no prior experience
- SAG is unaware of data supporting an increase in concussions.
- It was noted via the LMC (National League) that an injury surveillance study is being conducted by a member at Leeds Beckett University.
 - Once available, this data will be shared with SAG.
- SAG agreed that injury prevention is a key focus.
 - Improved coaching in fundamentals and technique is believed to reduce injury risk.
- A member highlighted a falling/tackling coaching model currently being trialled to reduce injury.

DM

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaching review is underway within BAFCA, aiming to improve coaching quality. • SAG position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The sport carries inherent risk due to its contact nature ◦ British American Football is actively working to improve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coaching standards ▪ Equipment awareness 	
<p>BUCS Big Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitations to be sent out this week. • Event scheduled for 24th March, Loughborough. • Additional events include the Flag Football Series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Five regional events planned 	CW
<p>BUCS League and Knockout Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season progressing well in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Scheduling ◦ League structure and format • Recent adverse weather has caused some delays. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Some teams may need to schedule midweek fixtures. • BUCS plans a review of Tier 2 at the end of the season. 	DM
<p>League Sponsorship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUCS confirmed a dedicated Commercial Marketing Team manages sponsorship opportunities. • Current strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Focus on an overall BUCS sponsor rather than individual league sponsors. • BUCS American Football is currently sponsored by Football America. • Any organisations wishing to explore BUCS league sponsorship should liaise with the BUCS Commercial Marketing Team. 	
<p>8. 7. Any Other Business (AOB)</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Action Point:</p>	SAG

Dates and times of meetings for 2025-26 season.

Meeting 1 – 03/11/2025 16:00

Meeting 2 – 15/12/2025 16:00

Meeting 3 – 09/02/2026 16:00

Meeting 4 – TBC