

2025-26 BUCS BASKETBALL SAG - MEETING 1 - MINUTES

Date Friday 24 October 2025
Time 10:00 – 11:30
Location Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES	ORGANISATION
Duncan Mackenzie Johnathan Macleod Callum Jones Iain Molyneux Rob Fairley Dan Cox Keira Boucher Fin Lachlan Martin Ford Sten Mayunga Kevin Coleman Hannah Underhill Neal Kington	
APOLOGIES	ORGANISATION
Fin Lachlan Tosin Oyelese Maz Veater	

Item	Action
1. Apologies / Welcome See above for attendees and apologies	
2. Minutes and Matters Arising (Meeting '4' 2024-25) BUCS Big Wednesday Discipline process 3x3 – support from BE	All items covered in agenda
3. BUCS update Update from HU / NK Increase in number of basketball teams being registered – up to 350 this season	

4. Competition Format –

Structure of Premier leagues / Tier 1

DM – Proposal put forward to BUCS Competitions group to form a National League. Reasons included following structure of other sports, focusing the best teams in a smaller league and improving competitive balance of leagues.

Proposal rejected by BUCS and institutions – reasons included cost, travel and player welfare.

Additional material for context:

These are the minutes from the Competitions Group outlining their decision to reject the proposal:

12. Competition Format – Proposal for Change – Basketball Structure

NK Introducing: This paper is proposing the introduction of a six team Premier (National) League to sit above the current Premier (North/South) leagues – Men's and Women's for the 2025-26 season.

FK: Need to go back to understand how many of these institutions are totally against the implementation of a national league, as opposed to how many were against the proposed format and implementation.

DK: Player travel and player welfare doesn't seem to have been considered for this paper and the feeling is that for those institutions affected it might not fit the student experience we would require for a national league. Looking at our governing body support for other national leagues, especially with the demands that this paper is going to introduce, there isn't enough historical buy in or proposed buy-in from the governing body within the paper for this paper to be accepted.

2024-25 BUCS National Competitions Group – Meeting 2 – Minutes

Concerns from the institutions that there's not any consideration for the effects on lower league development.

Outcome: NCG Recommends Revision and Resubmission. Complete review of all feedback given, and all points need to be addressed.

What next?

Competitive imbalance still exists in Women's Prem, less so in Men's Prem. Prem teams surveyed in 2021(?).

MF – competitive imbalance has existed for many years.

RF – look at scores in tier 1.

NK – some prem tier programmes do run smaller leagues (table tennis). Softball programme teams meet four times (inside and outdoor), but very different model, Hockey prem – eight teams, play each other once only.

IM – Wrote the paper, wanted to increase standards and create an attractive offer. Protect the standard of competition and increase the profile of the sport.

SM – Introduce some player restrictions to reduce imbalance. Speak to BCB, which is targeting British players. Look at developing a partnership with BCB / SLB teams.

NK – No ring-fencing in BUCS comps, always based on performance. This has not been challenged. Look at Super rugby model? The group should look to introduce minimum operating standard within the current Prem structure rather than waiting to re-apply for a National League

JM – wants this discussion to continue, even without introducing a National League. We should focus on what BUCS needs rather than consider the impact on other leagues that teams might play in.

KC – Is BUCS a standalone league or in partnership with other leagues (SLB / BCB)?

NK – Can review and resubmit paper. **Concern from members – need to sort issues before implementing national league, not afterwards e.g. fixtures, relationship with NGBs, leagues, etc.** NK will share details of decision-making process.

IM – Approach was identifying support, not the first time a national league has been proposed

NK – need an implementation stage after getting approval for the idea. Land the message better with Members. Need to spend this season speaking the clubs, make proposal next season for introduction in the following season.

Will share documents (see attachments in email)

DM – speak to NK / HU about surveying all prem institutions

NK – looking at findings of survey. Men's basketball is big enough to introduce more regionalisation at Tier 2/3. BUCS wants to start conversation with institutions. Proposal paper for Meeting 3 of Competitions group, change for 26/27 season.

Set-up a project group to look at this (Football does this). **Minutes to ask for volunteers.**

Include link of current structures of all sports.

Calendar

KB – season is very short, hardly any fixtures after Christmas. Trials are only one week before first game

KC – Season starts too close to start of term

NK – Fixtures are linked to Big Wednesday date and works backwards from there – four knockout rounds from 04/02/26 to 25/03/26 for Big Wednesday. Need to provide gaps between playoff rounds to allow institutions to arrange national travel (appendix 2a)

Proposed fixtures dates sent to SAGs in Q3 for following season

Lower tiers play 5 before Xmas and 5 afterwards

Big Wednesday pushed back one week this year (BUCS have looked at historical dates), Easter is a big factor. Tender to host Big Wednesday is a three year contract and dates are set in advance as part of this process.

Big Wednesday and Conference Finals

DM to write framework for speaking to Premier League institutions

Discuss with NK / HU

Group Members to volunteer to support process of speaking to institutions

Sub-group to review previous submission in advance of decision to re-submit

General discussion. Part of a bigger structure / day. Anything we can do to improve profile of our finals MF / NK – no funding for finals being played away from Big Wednesday (RFL and Super rugby are examples). Sport needs to fund external finals.	
5. Regulations update - Licensing of players, coaches and officials New system for BE this season, no licence numbers. Licence number still exist in BS and BW. Update to playing regulations? Officiating standards and required levels JM – different rates paid across the country, should not be linked to NBL / BCB. Some sports at a national level have an agreement for national appointments. Most sports require institutions to appoint. Some sports with a GB NGO have a national rate applied (BWB). MF – serious issue around availability and discrepancy in fees being requested by officials and paid by institutions Discipline process Explain current process – using BE platform, panel from all three NGOs if possible	DM to work with NK / HU to develop amendments to playing regulations to reflect changing in Basketball England licencing process DM to seek volunteers from group to be part of rotations for discipline matters
6. 3x3 development opportunities Discussed last season, LUSL run a Summer outdoor competition. Opportunity to introduce a pilot event (regional rather than by Teir?) to test the water before formal submission to BUCS for a new competition NK – new process for introducing pilot / new competitions KB – would be very popular within student population	DM to work with NK / HU to discuss options for setting up a regional tournament this season as a trial
7. AOB JM – Use of live scoring system for higher leagues	To be included in discussions with institutions

Dates and times of meetings for 202X-XX season.

Meeting 1 – 24/10/25

Meeting 2 – 05/12/25, 10.00am to 10.30am

Meeting 3 – TBC

Meeting 4 – TBC