

BUCS TENNIS SAG – MINUTES

Date 23/04/2026
Time 10:00 – 12:00
Location Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Matt Wildt (MW)
Alistair Higham (AH)
Harrison Fernandez Lewis (HFL)
Mike Castle (MC)
Sean Berthelson (SB)
Carl Baldwin (CB)
Arum Akom (AA)

APOLOGIES

Sophie Kitson (SK)
Claire McCulloch (CM)

ORGANISATION

Chair, Nottingham
NGB Rep, LTA
Workforce Development, Nottingham Trent
Welsh & Recreational Representative, Cardiff Met
Scottish Representative, Edinburgh
Competition Representative
EDIA Representative

ORGANISATION

BUCS
Parasport Representative, St Andrews

Item	Action*
1. Welcome and Apologies MW sent apologies for Sophie Kitson & Claire McCulloch.	
2. Minutes and Matters Arising The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.	
3. BUCS Update - Inaugural BUCS Padel Championships will be held on 09–10 May at Slazenger Padel Leeds (final entry numbers – Men – 28 teams, Women – 9 teams). - LTA League Planner: - Now available for teams to backfill results. - Results contribute to WTN rankings. - Initial delays due to new LTA registration system. - University registration now confirmed free, removing previous barrier. - Expectation: improved real-time result entry next season.	
4. LTA Update - Funding: - Existing universities requested £128k additional funding beyond allocation. - Final decision pending (expected soon). - Workforce: - Strong progress with activator training. ~10 trained tutors across universities. - Participation: - Participation numbers continue to grow. - Key challenges: - Competition structures and systems remain a concern. - Development: - Encouraging new universities to join LTA Partner University Programme (entry level from ~£900). - New coaching and competition resources in development.	
5. LMC Update - Draft National League calendar presented. - Doubles Championships key principle: - Avoid clashes with professional tournaments (October window). - Action: - Identify new doubles event date (likely later in season). - Concerns: - Early October seen as too early (teams not yet finalised). - Suggested window: - Late November/early December (subject to clashes). Action: BUCS to look to move Doubles back to late November/early December date.	BUCS

6. Rules & Regs Review • Doubles Key Issue: ◦ Whether doubles pairs must be played in strength order or can be played in any order. • Viewpoints: ◦ Maintain current rule: ▪ Aligns with BUCS regulations (play in strongest order). ▪ Risk of ambiguity on defining “strongest pair.” • Allow any order: ◦ Introduces tactical flexibility. ◦ Reflects difficulty of defining best doubles pair. • Challenges identified: ◦ Difficulty ranking doubles objectively. ◦ Strong doubles players not always top singles players. ◦ Potential unintended consequences for team selection. • Agreed Outcome: ◦ Proposal to: ▪ Trial “any order” rule in National League only. ▪ Review after one season. ◦ Rationale: ▪ Allows testing without impacting all leagues. ▪ Limits risk of unintended consequences. Additional Rule Updates • Ranking issue: Players leaving institutions should be removed from ranking lists and cannot be re-added in the same season. • Ball usage in shootouts: ◦ Clarify rule to use existing balls, not new. • Ball change (National League & Cup): ◦ Introduce new balls at change of sets (singles only). ◦ Optional for doubles if both captains agree. ◦ Aimed at improving match quality. • Shootouts timing: ◦ Recommendation to play matches simultaneously where possible. ◦ Will sit in guidance (not mandatory rule). Action: MW to share Rules & Regs Tracker with BUCS to be taken to National Comps Group.	MW
7. AOB Nothing raised.	
8. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 03 September 2026 – 10:00am-12:00pm	