

BUCS GENERAL REGULATIONS - SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR 2023-24 (VERSION 1)

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SUMMARY

This document highlights some of the changes to BUCS' General Regulations for the 2023-24 season that institutions/Playing Entities should be aware of.

It is not a record of all changes, as it does not contain details of any minor editorial changes, such as wording changes which do not affect the purpose of the regulations, or changes to numbering where regulations have been reordered.

Updated versions of this document will be published should there be further updates to regulations following its initial publication.

Regulation Number	Previous Regulation	New Regulation	Reason
REG 4.2.1	<p>REG 4.2 Special cases for participation The following individuals are classified as eligible to represent their institution in BUCS competitions:</p> <p>REG 4.2.1 A sabbatical officer of an Athletic Union or equivalent who has paid the appropriate Athletic Union or equivalent subscription.</p>	<p>REG 4.2 Special cases for participation The following individuals are classified as eligible to represent their institution in BUCS competitions:</p> <p>REG 4.2.1 A sabbatical officer of an Athletic Union, Students' Union, or equivalent body, who has paid the appropriate Union (or equivalent body) subscription.</p>	<p>Following queries received by the BUCS Executive regarding this regulation, there is a need for more clarity to be provided.</p> <p>The BUCS Executive's current application/interpretation of REG 4.2.1 is that each institution/Playing Entity can have an unrestricted number of sabbatical officers compete for them each season, regardless of their role - for example VP Sports or Education and Welfare Officer - and regardless of whether the institution/Playing Entity has more than one such body and if the one they are an officer for is responsible for the delivery of sport and/or BUCS activity. For example, if there is a separate Athletic Union and Students' Union, but both have sabbatical officers, then all these officers would be eligible.</p> <p>This allowance for sabbatical officers to compete if they have "paid the appropriate...subscription" has been in place since at least the 1997-98 (then BUSA) season. Prior to the 2018-19 season the wording was: "A sabbatical officer of either a Students' Union or an Athletic Union who has paid the appropriate Union or Athletic Union subscription.". In an explanation of terminology section of the regulations, there was no mention of Students' Unions, but references to Athletic Union were said to be referring to: "The body within a University or Institute of Higher Education recognised by BUSA being responsible for the organisation of student sport within that institution.". This would support the view</p>

			<p>that separate mention of Students' Unions in the eligibility regulations would enable a wider set of sabbatical officers eligible to compete.</p> <p>In the absence of a terminology section of the regulations for a number of years, the wording of REG 4.2.1 was amended as part of a wider effort to recognise throughout the regulations that not all institutions have an 'Athletic Union', however, it is acknowledged that in this case the removal of the reference of a Students' Union may lead to the assumption that this regulations is only an option for Athletic Union officers.</p> <p>The intention of this update to the wording is to provide clarity over eligibility, not to change who is eligible.</p> <p>A review of whether all such individuals should remain eligible, will be part of a wider review of REG 4 which the BUCS Executive intend to form a working group to support during the 2023-24 season.</p>
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<p>REG 4.3</p>	<p>REG 4.3 Transgender athletes BUCS supports equal opportunities in sport for all, to include transgender athletes on the basis of the gender with which they identify. BUCS promotes a zero tolerance approach to transphobia and any person or institution found to be in contravention of this regulation will face disciplinary action under REG 5.</p> <p>The participation of a transgender athlete in competitive sport must not be restricted unless it is proportionate to the aim of securing safe and/or fair competition.</p> <p>REG 4.3.1 Where the International or National governing body has a policy on transgender participation in sport this shall be followed, as per the Sport Specific Regulations. Where the International or National Governing Body have no such policy REG 4.3.2 through to REG 4.3.3 shall apply. Where the relevant International or National Governing Body have a policy, but it has not been reviewed within a 3 year period, the BUCS regulation may apply.</p> <p>REG 4.3.2 Transgender athletes not taking hormone treatment Any transgender athlete who is not taking hormone treatment related to gender transition may participate in BUCS competitions in accordance with their gender as assigned at birth.</p> <p>REG 4.3.2.1 A trans male (female to male) who is not taking testosterone relating to gender transition may participate in male or female competition. However they may not compete in both categories within 1 BUCS season. For example, if a trans male chooses to compete in male competition, they may not compete in any female competition in any sport in the same season.</p> <p>REG 4.3.2.2 A trans female (male to female) who is not taking hormone treatment related to gender transition may not compete in female competition, but may participate in a male competition.</p> <p>REG 4.3.3 Transgender athletes undergoing hormone treatment for gender transition The</p>	<p>REG 4.3 Transgender athletes The participation of a transgender athlete in competitive sport must not be restricted unless it is proportionate to the aim of securing safe and/or fair competition. The following sub-regulations outline the processes for determining eligibility for each sport.</p> <p>REG 4.3.1 Where the National Governing body for the sport where the activity is taking place has a policy on transgender participation in sport this shall be followed. If the National Governing Body does not have a policy on transgender participation the International Federation policy on transgender participation shall be followed. Where both the National Governing Body and International Federation have no such policy, REG 4.3.2 through to REG 4.3.3 shall apply.</p> <p>REG 4.3.2 Transgender athletes not taking hormone treatment Any transgender athlete who is not taking hormone treatment related to gender transition may participate in BUCS competitions in accordance with their gender as assigned at birth.</p> <p>REG 4.3.2.1 A trans male (female to male) who is not taking testosterone relating to gender transition may participate in male or female competition. However they may not compete in both categories within 1 BUCS season. For example, if a trans male chooses to compete in male competition, they may not compete in any female competition in any sport in the same season.</p> <p>REG 4.3.2.2 A trans female (male to female) who is not taking hormone treatment related to gender transition may not compete in female competition, but may participate in a male competition.</p> <p>REG 4.3.3 Transgender athletes undergoing hormone treatment for gender transition The following will determine in which category a transgender athlete is eligible to compete.</p> <p>REG 4.3.3.1 A trans male (FTM) who has received medical treatment with testosterone related to gender transition may compete in male competition</p>	<p>It is important for BUCS programmes to continue to provide inclusive opportunities for all students to compete and to reflect the wider development and implementation of the sport in line with National Governing Body and International Federation policy advances. These changes to REG 4.3 remove wording which is covered in the BUCS Transgender Policy and provide clarity on the sequential process that is currently followed (and reference within the BUCS Transgender Policy) when determining which policy documentation to follow to determine eligibility of athletes.</p> <p>The updated regulation wording also clarifies that reference to a National Governing Body policy relates to where the activity is taking place, as not every sport has a British or UK governing body, with many having separate NGBs for each nation.</p> <p>These changes do not alter the eligibility of individuals ahead of the upcoming season as BUCS does not want to make changes of such a nature without significant consultation, to allow for informed documentation. BUCS asks that the membership support the BUCS Executive over the next season while we work to better understand the demographics of the athletes taking part in our competitions and events and consult across the stakeholder network to inform changes ahead of the 2024-25 season.</p>
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	<p>following will determine in which category a transgender athlete is eligible to compete.</p> <p>REG 4.3.3.1 A trans male (FTM) who has received medical treatment with testosterone related to gender transition may compete in male competition but is no longer eligible to compete in female competition.</p> <p>REG 4.3.3.2 A trans female (MTF) being treated with testosterone suppression medication related to gender transition is eligible to compete in male competition and is not eligible to compete in female competition until completing 1 calendar year of testosterone suppression treatment.</p> <p>REG 4.3.4 Mixed events A transgender athlete will be eligible to compete in mixed competitions in their affirmed gender, subject to REG 4.3.2 through to REG 4.3.3.</p> <p>REG 4.3.5 Medical evidence BUCS may request medical evidence in order to ascertain the eligibility of a transgender athlete to compete in a category. Such medical evidence will be treated confidentially. Any costs associated with obtaining such information cannot be covered by BUCS.</p> <p>REG 4.3.6 Anti-Doping Drug testing procedures and prohibitions, as outlined in REG 4.5, also apply to athletes who identify as transgender. Any athlete receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a standard Therapeutic Use Exemption.</p>	<p>but is no longer eligible to compete in female competition.</p> <p>REG 4.3.3.2 A trans female (MTF) being treated with testosterone suppression medication related to gender transition is eligible to compete in male competition and is not eligible to compete in female competition until completing 1 calendar year of testosterone suppression treatment.</p> <p>REG 4.3.4 Mixed events A transgender athlete will be eligible to compete in mixed competitions in their affirmed gender, subject to REG 4.3.2 through to REG 4.3.3.</p> <p>REG 4.3.5 Medical evidence BUCS may request medical evidence in order to ascertain the eligibility of a transgender athlete to compete in a category. Such medical evidence will be treated confidentially. Any costs associated with obtaining such information cannot be covered by BUCS.</p> <p>REG 4.3.6 Anti-Doping Drug testing procedures and prohibitions, as outlined in REG 4.5, also apply to athletes who identify as transgender. Any athlete receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a standard Therapeutic Use Exemption.</p>	
REG 4.6	<p>REG 4.6 Allowing ineligible participants to represent an institution/Playing Entity will result in a charge of misconduct being raised against the institution/Playing Entity and appropriate disciplinary action taken in accordance with REG 5. Athletic Union or equivalent staff should in cases of doubt refer the circumstances to the BUCS Sport Compliance and Governance Manager.</p>	<p>REG 4.6 Allowing ineligible participants to represent an institution/Playing Entity will result in a charge of misconduct being raised against the institution/Playing Entity and appropriate disciplinary action taken in accordance with REG 5. Athletic Union or equivalent staff should in cases of doubt refer the circumstances to the BUCS Executive.</p>	<p>Not appropriate for it to be only one individual who can be contacted and/or provide support. Any member of the BUCS Executive may be contacted, but will refer to the newly expanded Governance and Compliance Team where clarification needed.</p>

<p>REG 9.2.1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REG 9.2 Fixture dates</p> <p>REG 9.2.1 League matches All league matches must take place on the fixture date as set by BUCS, unless agreed by both institutions/Playing Entities to move the fixture to an alternative date in writing (once agreed, BUCS Play must be updated immediately) or by way of an accepted fixture change request on BUCS Play.</p> <p>REG 9.2.1.1 Teams from the same institution/Playing Entity in the same league Where two teams from the same institution/Playing Entity are in the same league, BUCS will not schedule a fixture between the two teams for the last week of competition. Institutions/Playing Entities are also forbidden to reschedule fixtures between their own teams to be the last league fixture for either of their teams. Should an institution/Playing Entity be found to have done so, the result will be voided, and no points will be awarded to either team.</p> <p>REG 9.2.1.2 All fixtures must take place by the relevant league deadline date as identified in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines'). Please note REG 13 for result entry and amendment processes and deadlines.</p> <p>REG 9.2.1.3 Matches not completed by the date stated in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines') shall be declared void with no points being awarded to either side, unless a walkover is claimed or conceded by the relevant deadline.</p> <p>REG 9.2.1.4 All Premier Tier league fixtures must be fulfilled. Any team failing to complete their Premier Tier programme may be subject to disciplinary action.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REG 9.2 Fixture dates</p> <p>REG 9.2.1 League matches All league matches must take place on the fixture date as set by BUCS, unless agreed by both institutions/Playing Entities to move the fixture to an alternative date in writing (once agreed, BUCS Play must be updated immediately) or by way of an accepted fixture change request on BUCS Play.</p> <p>REG 9.2.1.1 Where two or more teams from the same institution/Playing Entity are in the same league, BUCS will not schedule any fixtures between any of these teams to be their last league fixture. Institutions/Playing Entities must not reschedule fixtures for any of their teams that would result in the last scheduled league fixture for one of them being against another of their teams. Should an institution/Playing Entity be found to have done so, and it is no longer possible for the fixture to be rescheduled to not be the last scheduled league fixture for either team, then the fixture shall be declared void with no points awarded to either side.</p> <p>REG 9.2.1.2 Institutions/Playing Entities are forbidden to reschedule fixtures to after the relevant league deadline date as identified in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines'). Please note REG 13 for result entry and amendment processes and deadlines.</p> <p>REG 9.2.1.3 Fixtures not completed by the relevant league deadline date as identified in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines') shall be declared void with no points being awarded to either side, unless a walkover is claimed or conceded by the relevant deadline.</p> <p>REG 9.2.1.4 All Premier Tier league fixtures must be fulfilled. Any team failing to complete their Premier Tier programme may be subject to disciplinary action.</p>	<p>REG 9.2.1.1 updated to provide clarity that teams can end up being scheduled to play each other last by their institution moving other fixtures, rather than that specific fixture, as well as that if identified early enough - before all other fixtures have passed/been completed - then it will still be possible for the match to be rescheduled.</p> <p>Wording of REG 9.2.1.2 and REG 9.2.1.3 updated to better work together as there may be reasons that matches cannot take place.</p>
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<p>REG 9.2.3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REG 9.2 Fixture dates</p> <p>REG 9.2.3 Playoff matches All playoff matches must take place on the date as set by BUCS, unless agreed in writing by both institutions/Playing Entities, and approved in writing by the BUCS Executive, to move the fixture to an alternative date. Once agreed and approved, BUCS Play must be updated immediately.</p> <p>REG 9.2.3.1 All fixtures must take place by the relevant playoff deadline date as identified in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts - Dates and Deadlines'). Please note REG 13.6 for result entry and amendment processes and deadlines.</p> <p>REG 9.2.3.2 Matches not completed by the relevant playoff deadline date stated in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts - Dates and Deadlines') shall be declared void with no points being awarded to either side, unless a walkover is claimed or conceded by the relevant deadline.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REG 9.2 Fixture dates</p> <p>REG 9.2.3 Playoff matches For 'round robin'/mini league' format playoff matches, REG 9.2.1 shall apply with references to the "league deadline date" replaced with "playoff deadline date". For 'knockout' format playoff matches, REG 9.2.2 shall apply, with the addition that all matches must take place by the relevant playoff deadline date as identified in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts - Dates and Deadlines').</p>	<p>Updated to ensure that both formats of playoffs have appropriate deadlines and processes, by following what is already in place for leagues and knockout competitions.</p>
<p>REG 9.2.4.3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REG 9.2 Fixture dates</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REG 9.2.4 Elective central venue/tournament format</p> <p>REG 9.2.4.3 If support from the BUCS Executive is desired to assist with the scheduling of these fixtures on BUCS Play, for example to avoid the need to submit a fixture change request for each fixture, a request for this support must be communicated to the BUCS Executive in writing as far in advance of the first central venue/tournament date as possible, along with evidence of the majority decision for the format change. At this time all proposed fixture dates, start times and venues should be supplied. If a request is submitted within 14 days of the first proposed fixture date, assistance from the BUCS Executive may not be available and in such a case</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REG 9.2 Fixture dates</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REG 9.2.4 Elective central venue/tournament format</p> <p>REG 9.2.4.3 If support from the BUCS Executive is desired to assist with the scheduling of these fixtures on BUCS Play, for example to avoid the need to submit a fixture change request for each fixture, a request for this support must be communicated to the BUCS Executive by email to fixtures@bucs.org.uk as far in advance of the first central venue/tournament date as possible, along with evidence of the majority decision for the format change. At this time all proposed fixture dates, start times and venues should be supplied using Appendix 16 ('BUCS Central Venue Fixture Request') to ensure all required information has been submitted. If a request is submitted within 14 days of the first proposed fixture date, assistance from the BUCS</p>	<p>Added wording requiring a template to be used to help streamline the process and reduce risks of errors.</p>

	the individual teams shall be responsible for updating BUCS Play.	Executive may not be available and in such a case the individual teams shall be responsible for updating BUCS Play.	
REG 9.3.4/REG 9.8	<p>REG 9.3.4 Duration of matches The duration of all matches shall be as laid down in the relevant BUCS sport specific regulations, or where there is no BUCS regulation, in the appropriate rules of the International/National Governing Body of the sport concerned (as identified in the sport specific regulations) for senior matches. For knockout competition matches, because a result must be obtained on the day of the fixture, attention must be paid to REG 8.4.4 when booking facility time.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.1 In normal circumstances, all matches should be completed as per REG 9.3.4 (note REG 9.3.4.2). However, in exceptional circumstances, and where the correct playing conditions have been satisfied, the duration of a match may be reduced with the written consent of both teams and the agreement of the match official(s) where appropriate.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.1.1 Once agreement has been reached, and regardless of start time, the result from this fixture will stand and cannot be appealed.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.1.2 If agreement cannot be reached, and the duration of a match is reduced, the match should take place following the completion of a 'Playing Under Protest' form (note REG 12).</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.2 Results from matches abandoned by the match official(s) before the completion of 75% of normal time as per REG 9.3.4 will not stand unless alternative provision is made under the sport specific regulations.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.3 The BUCS Executive reserves the right to adjust as they see fit the duration of any matches hosted by BUCS.</p> <p>REG 9.8 Late arrivals Where a team arrives late to a fixture every effort should be made for the fixture to be played in full. If the match cannot be</p>	<p>REG 9.3.4 Duration of matches</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.1 The duration of all matches shall normally be as laid down in the relevant BUCS sport specific regulations, or where there is no BUCS regulation, in the appropriate rules of the International/National Governing Body of the sport concerned (as identified in the sport specific regulations) for senior matches. For knockout competition matches, because a result must be obtained on the day of the fixture, attention must be paid to REG 8.4.4 when booking facility time.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.2 In exceptional circumstances, and where the correct playing conditions have been satisfied, the duration of a match may be reduced before it starts with the written consent of both teams and the agreement of the match official(s) where appropriate.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.2.1 Once agreement has been reached, and regardless of start time, the result cannot be appealed against based on the reduced duration.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.2.2 If agreement cannot be reached, and the duration of a match is reduced, the match should take place following the completion of a 'Playing Under Protest' form (note REG 12).</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.3 If a league match is abandoned by the match official(s) after the completion of at least 75% of normal time as per REG 9.3.4.1 or any agreement under REG 9.3.4.2, then a result can be taken at this time and will stand.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.4 If a league match is abandoned by the match official(s) before the completion of 75% of normal time as per REG 9.3.4.1 or any agreement under REG 9.3.4.2, then a result cannot be taken unless alternative provision is made under the sport specific regulations, and the fixture should be rearranged in accordance with REG 14.3/REG 14.4/REG 14.5.</p>	<p>Clarity provided that if at least 75% of a league match has been completed before being abandoned by the match official(s) then the result shall stand. This has also been clarified to be the case for knockout competition matches where at the point of abandonment (if at least 75% of the match has been completed) one team is in the lead, but that where the scoreline is a draw, then a result would not be able to be taken, so a replay will take place.</p> <p>Late arrivals regulation which can affect duration of play moved to sit with these other regulations and also updated to provide more clarity on when a result can be taken.</p>

	<p>played to a full conclusion, it should be played to 75%. Where the team arrives too late for a minimum of 75% of the fixture to be played, if the lateness of the team was caused through no fault of the team the fixture should be rearranged in line with REG 14.3/REG 14.4/REG 14.5. The venue of the rearranged match will be determined in line with REG 14.2, unless an alternative is agreed between the institutions/Playing Entities concerned. Where the lateness was caused by the team, or one its members, that team shall concede a walkover.</p>	<p>REG 9.3.4.5 If a knockout competition match is abandoned by the match official(s) after the completion of at least 75% of normal time as per REG 9.3.4.1 or any agreement under REG 9.3.4.2, and the scoreline at this time is not a draw, then a result can be taken at this time and will stand. If the scoreline at this time is a draw, then a result cannot be taken, unless alternative provision is made under the sport specific regulations, and the fixture should be rearranged in accordance with REG 14.3/REG 14.4/REG 14.5.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.6 If a knockout competition match is abandoned by the match official(s) before the completion of at least 75% of normal time as per REG 9.3.4.1 or any agreement under REG 9.3.4.2, then a result cannot be taken, unless alternative provision is made under the sport specific regulations, and the fixture should be rearranged in accordance with REG 14.3/REG 14.4/REG 14.5.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.7 Late arrivals Where a team arrives late to a fixture every effort should be made for the fixture to be played in accordance with REG 9.3.4.1. If the match cannot be played to a full conclusion:</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.7.1 In the case of a league match: If it can be played to at least 75% of normal time, then a result can be taken at this time and will stand. Where the team arrives too late for a minimum of 75% of the fixture to be played, if the lateness of the team was caused by the team, or one its members, that team shall concede a walkover, but if the lateness of the team was caused through no fault of the team the fixture should be rearranged in line with REG 14.3/REG 14.4/REG 14.5. The venue of a rearranged match will be determined in line with REG 14.2, unless an alternative is agreed between the institutions/Playing Entities concerned.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.7.2 In the case of a knockout competition match: If it can be played to at least 75% of normal time, then, if the scoreline is not a draw when time has elapsed, a result can be taken at this time and will</p>	
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		<p>stand. Where the team arrives too late for a minimum of 75% of the fixture to be played, if the lateness of the team was caused by the team, or one of its members, that team shall concede a walkover, but if the lateness of the team was caused through no fault of the team the fixture should be rearranged in line with REG 14.3/REG 14.4/REG 14.5. The venue of a rearranged match will be determined in line with REG 14.2, unless an alternative is agreed between the institutions/Playing Entities concerned. The venue of a rearranged match will be determined in line with REG 14.2, unless an alternative is agreed between the institutions/Playing Entities concerned.</p> <p>REG 9.3.4.8 The BUCS Executive reserves the right to adjust as they see fit the duration of any matches hosted by BUCS.</p>	
<p>REG 9.3.5.2</p>	<p>REG 9.3.5.2 The time stated on BUCS Play will be the match time, unless specified otherwise in the sport specific regulations, or the fixture notes.</p>	<p>REG 9.3.5.2 The time stated on BUCS Play will be the match start time, unless specified otherwise in the sport specific regulations.</p>	<p>Since the move to BUCS Play from BUCScore this wording regarding 'fixture notes' is misleading/unhelpful as there is no such section anymore, only venue notes or result notes. It is also now only Volleyball that has a sport specific regulation that requires a formal warm-up to be provided and this be the fixture start time. Allowing institutions to put other times for any other sports creates unnecessary confusion. Provision of practice or warm up time not required by the regulations can be communicated as part of fixture confirmations.</p>

<p>REG 9.6</p>	<p>REG 9.6 Double headers BUCS will not recognise any matches played as double headers (one match cannot produce the result for two league fixtures or a league and knockout competition fixture), with the exception of REG 9.6.1.</p> <p>REG 9.6.1 Teams in Tier 1 and below may request for a double header to be recognised in exceptional circumstances. Such a request must be submitted and approved by the BUCS Executive in advance of the fixture. Exceptional circumstances may include (but is not exclusive to) bad weather or facility availability due to unusual circumstances. Double headers between teams from the same institution/Playing Entity will not be permitted. The last league fixture for either team may not be played as a double header.</p>	<p>REG 9.6 One match cannot be used to produce the result for two league fixtures or a league and knockout competition fixture. For example, where two teams are scheduled to play each other home and away in a league, they cannot agree to only play once but with the result of this match being recognised for both scheduled matches.</p>	<p>From the 2005-06 (then BUSA) season until the end of the 2015-16 season, so called 'Double Headers' were not permitted. This was changed for the 2016-17 season, with the ability for teams in Tier 1 and below to make a request for these to be recognised - if approved by the BUCS Executive.</p> <p>Since 2016-17, the most requests in a season has been 13. In recent seasons, more requests have been rejected than accepted. Some of these rejections have been because the request was for the last league fixture for one (or both) of the teams, others because they were for Premier Tier fixtures. However, others have been rejected based on the BUCS Executive's judgement as to whether there are 'exceptional circumstances'.</p> <p>The guidance in the regulation as to what might be considered 'exceptional circumstances' doesn't seem clear or to fit with other regulations, given that bad weather and unforeseeable facility issues for a single fixture are covered under REG 14 as a reason for a postponement, so institutions would need to be demonstrating a longer-term weather or facility issue and explaining how they are not able to find other options that would be required otherwise by teams not able to request a double header because their remaining fixtures don't enable this. As a general point, very few 'double header' requests before January are approved given that there is a lot of the season still to use for a potential rearrangement.</p> <p>The 'double header' option is only an option for those teams whose fixture schedule and</p>
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			<p>chance situations enable. Whilst it gives the data that more fixtures have been 'completed' they haven't, so this regulation is not enabling more sport to happen, just more results to be recorded. The BUCS Executive have at times received complaints from teams in a league where others have been granted a 'double header' in order to "complete" their fixture schedule, when they are having fixture challenges which can't be addressed using this, seeing it as an unfair option. A 'double header' of a league and knockout competition match may be seen as less controversial, however the chances of this being an option that arises are very slim.</p> <p>For these reasons, the option of 'double headers' has been removed from the regulation as well as the term itself, given that this is more commonly used to refer to when two matches are played in succession at a venue.</p>
REG 10.6	<p>REG 10.6 Failure to obtain officials Failure to obtain the appropriate officials, as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements'), may lead to the forfeiture of the affected match, unless there is written notification from the appropriate officials appointments body that they were unable to provide officials and this is communicated at least 48 hours before the fixture start time, or where officials withdraw from the fixture on the day (written evidence required, refer to REG 10.6.3).</p> <p>REG 10.6.1 For all competitions, if at least 48 hours' (outside of weekends and bank holidays) notice ahead of the start time of the fixture has been given and the appropriate written evidence provided, then the away institution/Playing Entity may choose to host the match provided it can supply the appropriate officials and facilities, and notifies the opposition and the BUCS Executive by</p>	<p>REG 10.6 Failure to obtain officials Failure to obtain the appropriate officials, as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements'), may lead to the forfeiture of the affected match, unless there is written notification from the appropriate officials appointments body that they were unable to provide officials and this is communicated at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture start time, or where officials withdraw from the fixture within 48 hours of the fixture start time (written evidence required, refer to REG 10.6.3).</p> <p>REG 10.6.1 For all competitions, if at least 48 hours' (outside of weekends and bank holidays) notice ahead of the start time of the fixture has been given and the appropriate written evidence provided, then the away institution/Playing Entity may choose to host the match provided it can supply the appropriate officials and facilities, and notifies the</p>	<p>Wording of REG 10.6 updated to address conflicting 'on the day' of REG 10.6 and '48 hours' of REG 10.6.3.</p>

	<p>11:00 on the last working day before the fixture. In this case the original home institution/Playing Entity is obliged to travel.</p> <p>REG 10.6.1.1 Where the away institution/Playing Entity chooses not to host and agreement cannot be reached between the institutions/Playing Entities for rescheduling, the match shall be replayed at a venue and on a date determined by the BUCS Executive.</p> <p>REG 10.6.2 Any institution/Playing Entity failing to notify the opposition of the failure to obtain the appropriate officials at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture start time will forfeit the match and concede a walkover.</p> <p>REG 10.6.3 Non-provision of officials due to being let down by an appointed/booked official within 48 hours of the fixture start time</p> <p>REG 10.6.3.1 If the away team has arrived at the venue and the home team is let down by an appointed/booked official and can prove in writing that the official was appointed/booked, the original home team will be obliged to travel to a rescheduled match.</p> <p>REG 10.6.3.2 If the away team has not yet travelled, and the home side notifies them that they have been let down by an appointed/booked official within 48 hours of the fixture start time (providing written evidence as per REG 10.6.3.1) the match shall be rescheduled to be played at the original home team venue.</p>	<p>opposition and the BUCS Executive by 11:00 on the last working day before the fixture. In this case the original home institution/Playing Entity is obliged to travel.</p> <p>REG 10.6.1.1 Where the away institution/Playing Entity chooses not to host and agreement cannot be reached between the institutions/Playing Entities for rescheduling, the match shall be replayed at a venue and on a date determined by the BUCS Executive.</p> <p>REG 10.6.2 Any institution/Playing Entity failing to notify the opposition of the failure to obtain the appropriate officials at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture start time will forfeit the match and concede a walkover.</p> <p>REG 10.6.3 Non-provision of officials due to being let down by an appointed/booked official within 48 hours of the fixture start time</p> <p>REG 10.6.3.1 If the away team has arrived at the venue and the home team is let down by an appointed/booked official and can prove in writing that the official was appointed/booked, the original home team will be obliged to travel to a rescheduled match.</p> <p>REG 10.6.3.2 If the away team has not yet travelled, and the home side notifies them that they have been let down by an appointed/booked official within 48 hours of the fixture start time (providing written evidence as per REG 10.6.3.1) the match shall be rescheduled to be played at the original home team venue.</p>	

<p>REG 11.1.3</p>	<p>REG 11.1.3 Where a Playing Entity has more than one team in a Championships (for example Men's Football), teams must be selected as if all teams are playing on a given day, at the same time, and in a match of equal importance. It would be expected that the first team would always be the strongest team available to represent that Playing Entity, with consideration to establishment of 'normality'.</p> <p>For example, if the first team does not have a match but the second team do, players who would normally* represent the first team are NOT eligible to play for the second team.</p> <p>*Normally is defined by an individual establishing 'normality' by being listed on the team sheets for a majority (more than 50%) of a particular team's total league fixtures. In the rare case that an individual has been listed on the team sheets for multiple higher ranked teams, then the totals of these will be combined and counted against the lowest of these teams' total league fixtures to identify if they are eligible to represent any lower ranked team. 'Normality'/majority is established through league fixtures only, however this regulation still applies to knockout competition fixtures unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>REG 11.1.3.1 Where a Playing Entity has more than one fixture scheduled across its teams in a Championships on a given day, priority must be given to the highest ranked team and then in descending order through their teams should the Playing Entity be unable to fulfil all scheduled fixtures. Matches played in contravention of this regulation will be awarded to the opposition, or in certain circumstances, be voided. For example, an institution/Playing Entity may NOT concede a walkover at second team level, while continuing to field a lower ranked team on the same day.</p> <p>REG 11.1.3.1.1 For possible exceptions to REG 11.1.3.1 due to 'Ring Fencing' of teams, refer to REG 11.1.7.</p>	<p>REG 11.1.3 Where a Playing Entity has more than one team in a Championships (for example Men's Football) it would be expected that the first team would always be the strongest team available to represent that Playing Entity, followed by the second team and so on, with consideration to establishment of 'normality*', and teams must be selected as if all teams are playing on a given day, at the same time, and in a match of equal importance. For example, if the first team does not have a match but the second team do, players who would normally* represent the first team are NOT eligible to be selected for the second team.</p> <p>*Normally is defined by an individual establishing 'normality' by being selected for a majority (more than 50%) of a particular team's total league fixtures. In the rare case that an individual has been selected for multiple higher ranked teams, then the totals of these will be combined and counted against the lowest of these teams' total league fixtures to identify if they are eligible to represent any lower ranked team. 'Normality'/majority is established through league fixtures only, however this regulation still applies to knockout competition fixtures unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>REG 11.1.3.1 Where a Playing Entity has more than one fixture scheduled across its teams in a Championships on a given day, priority must be given to the highest ranked team and then in descending order through their teams should the Playing Entity be unable to fulfil all scheduled fixtures. Matches played in contravention of this regulation will be awarded to the opposition, or in certain circumstances, be voided. For example, an institution/Playing Entity may NOT concede a walkover at second team level, while continuing to field a lower ranked team on the same day.</p> <p>REG 11.1.3.1.1 For possible exceptions to REG 11.1.3.1 due to 'Ring Fencing' of teams, refer to REG 11.1.8.</p>	<p>Wording of REG 11.1.3 has been updated to try and help provide more clarity.</p> <p>The new REG 11.1.3.2 has been formulated following a discussion at the July 2023 meeting of National Competitions Group.</p> <p>A specific penalty is needed for a breach of REG 11.1.3 as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currently the match appeals route being the only way in which a team might face a sanction puts a lot of work on the non-offending team: They must first suspect/identify a breach before the appeal deadline passes, then investigate this to build a case/raise with the opposition. On the other hand, the offending institution only need respond if an appeal is made. 2. The outcome of a fixture involving a breach could negatively affect other teams. Without this change, such teams are unable to do anything about it directly or have a process through which to require BUCS to. <p>Note: Does not apply to Badminton (Premier) as has own regulation on team selection, Squash, Table Tennis or Tennis as their ranking list regulations say that they supersede REG 11.1.3.</p>
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	<p>REG 11.1.3.1.2 Involuntary walkovers may be granted if applied for in accordance with walkover regulations in REG 13 meaning that REG 11.1.3.1 would be suspended in some instances, for example on health and safety grounds. Application to suspend REG 11.1.3.1 must be made to the BUCS Executive in advance of affected fixtures.</p>	<p>REG 11.1.3.1.2 Involuntary walkovers may be granted if applied for in accordance with walkover regulations in REG 13 meaning that REG 11.1.3.1 would be suspended in some instances, for example on health and safety grounds. Application to suspend REG 11.1.3.1 must be made to the BUCS Executive in advance of affected fixtures.</p> <p>REG 11.1.3.2 Where an institution/Playing Entity is found to have fielded (including as an unused substitute) an individual for a team below one which they have established 'normality' for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the case of a league match: If a breach of REG 11.1.3 has been identified before the relevant league deadline date as identified in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines') for the fixture for which there was a breach, the fixture shall be conceded as a walkover win to the opposition. - In the case of a knockout competition match: If a breach of REG 11.1.3 has been identified before the following round, the fixture shall be conceded as a walkover win to the opposition. If, due to the proximity to the following round of the breach being identified, the team awarded the walkover win is not able to fulfil the following round fixture, this shall be recorded as an involuntary walkover win to the opposition, unless both teams agree to reschedule the fixture. <p>- NOTE: An institution/Playing Entity wishing to report a breach of REG 11.1.3 to the BUCS Executive should do so via email to discipline@bucs.org.uk and will be expected to ensure that there is validity to any claims before they make their report. Reports deemed to be frivolous or not containing adequate information may result in disciplinary action against the institution/Playing Entity.</p>	
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REG 11.1.4	<p>REG 11.1.4 Individuals may not be selected (listed on a team sheet) for different teams in the same sport on the same day.</p>	<p>REG 11.1.4 Individuals may not be fielded (including as an unused substitute) for multiple teams in the same sport on the same day. Where an institution/Playing Entity is found to have fielded an individual for multiple teams in the same sport on the same day, the following shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the case of a league match: If a breach of REG 11.1.4 has been identified before the relevant league deadline date as identified in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines') for the fixture for which there was a breach, the fixture shall be conceded as a walkover win to the opposition. - In the case of a knockout competition match: If a breach of REG 11.1.4 has been identified before the following round, the fixture shall be conceded as a walkover win to the opposition. If, due to the proximity to the following round of the breach being identified, the team awarded the walkover win is not able to fulfil the following round fixture, this shall be recorded as an involuntary walkover win to the opposition, unless both teams agree to reschedule the fixture. <p>- Note: The first fixture an individual is fielded for is not affected as at this point REG 11.1.4 has not been breached, only any subsequent fixture(s) shall be affected.</p>	<p>A specific penalty is needed for this breach as it is unlikely to be spotted by teams at the time, so they won't be able to Play Under Protest or Appeal regarding it - it is more likely to be identified post-fixture on BUCS Play or when BUCS conducts team sheet checks.</p>
REG 11.1.6	N/A	<p>REG 11.1.6 Playoff team selection Standard team selection regulations apply (REG 11.1.1 – REG 11.1.4) with the below additional restrictions specifically for knockout competitions:</p> <p>REG 11.1.6.1 Medical exemptions Medical exemptions (REG 11.1.7) are not permitted for playoff fixtures.</p>	For clarity.
REG 11.2.9	<p>REG 11.2.9 Institutions/Playing Entities not completing team sheets adequately will be subject to sanctions by BUCS as detailed in Appendix 11 ('BUCS Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines'). Checks will be conducted by the BUCS Executive throughout the season to monitor compliance.</p>	<p>REG 11.2.9 Institutions/Playing Entities not completing team sheets adequately will be subject to sanctions by BUCS as detailed in Appendix 11 ('BUCS Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines') and in these regulations. Checks will be conducted by the BUCS Executive throughout the season to monitor</p>	<p>Wording brought into regulations, rather than being in a linked file.</p>

		<p>compliance, with specific correlating sanctions for breaches identified through these checks as follows:</p> <p>REG 11.2.9.1 Squad Size Checks On the dates listed in Appendix 18 ('BUCS Squad Size Check Dates'), the BUCS Executive will run an export from BUCS Play to assess the current numbers of participants registered to each team's squad. If the number of participants in a team's squad is less than the minimum number of participants required to start the fixture as per the Sport Specific Regulations, then the team will receive a one-point deduction in their league competition.</p> <p>REG 11.2.9.2 Spot Checks The BUCS Executive will undertake spot checks on individual teams' team sheets throughout the season (after the dates of the squad size checks - SEE REG 11.2.9.1). A team will not be spot checked after their league's results submission deadline has passed. If any breaches are found during spot checks, then the following sanctions will be applied to the team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-2 missing/incomplete team sheet(s) - written warning from BUCS. - 3 missing/incomplete team sheets - a one-point deduction in their league competition. - 4+ missing/incomplete team sheets - a three-point deduction in their league competition. <p>Any missing/incomplete knockout competition team sheets will not count towards the above sanctions, but teams not correctly completing team sheets for knockout competition matches could still face consequences such as not being able to appeal or losing appeals because of this.</p> <p>REG 11.2.9.3 Issued raised through appeals/by other institutions If the BUCS Executive become aware of missing/incomplete team sheets, either through a BUCS Match Appeals Process or via a report from another institution, then sanctions will be applied. Any issues to be raised must be lodged with the BUCS Executive prior to the respective league results submission deadline for a team, unless</p>	
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		<p>being raised as part of a match appeal which is in progress or for which an appeal submission or response deadline extension has been granted. If any breaches are found during spot checks, then the following sanctions will be applied to the team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-2 missing/incomplete team sheet(s) – written warning from BUCS. - 3 missing/incomplete team sheets – a one-point deduction in their league competition. - 4+ missing/incomplete team sheets – a three-point deduction in their league competition. <p>Any missing/incomplete knockout competition team sheets will not count towards the above sanctions, but teams not correctly completing team sheets for knockout competition matches could still face consequences such as not being able to appeal or losing appeals because of this.</p> <p>REG 11.2.9.4 End of Season Review The BUCS Executive will undertake a review of team sheet compliance on a team-by-team basis. Institutions with teams found to have completed less than 60% of their league team sheets throughout the season, will incur a £100 fine per team, capped at a maximum of £500. As part of this check, the BUCS Executive will not retrospectively apply any sanctions which would have been imposed for missing/incomplete team sheets if found during the season.</p> <p>REG 11.2.9.5 For the purposes of REG 11.2.9.2-REG 11.2.9.4, an "incomplete team sheet" shall be one which has named on it less than the minimum number of participants required to start the fixture as per the Sport Specific Regulations. However, teams should be following REG 11.2 and listing all individuals selected for a fixture and may lose appeals or face other disciplinary action for not having done so.</p>	
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<p>REG 12.1</p>	<p>REG 12.1 If a team feels, upon arrival or during a fixture, that the conditions do not adhere to those outlined in the BUCS rules and regulations, they should complete a 'BUCS Playing Under Protest Form' (Appendix 8) as soon as the grievance is noted. All teams are advised to carry with them at least two hard copies of the form so that they are adequately prepared for any such scenario. If a team does not have a BUCS Playing Under Protest Form with them, any equivalent paperwork used/produced must meet the requirements of REG 12.3.</p> <p>REG 12.1.1 If a team travels to, begins or continues a fixture with knowledge of conditions that amount to a breach of regulations but fails to complete a Playing Under Protest form they are deemed to have accepted the conditions of play and can therefore not later 'play under protest' regarding them, nor submit a match appeal (REG 15) based on those grounds.</p>	<p>REG 12.1 If a team feels, upon arrival or during a fixture, that the conditions do not adhere to those outlined in the BUCS rules and regulations, they should complete a 'BUCS Playing Under Protest Form' (Appendix 8) as soon as the grievance is noted. All teams are advised to carry with them at least two hard copies of the form so that they are adequately prepared for any such scenario. If a team does not have a BUCS Playing Under Protest Form with them, any equivalent paperwork used/produced must meet the requirements of REG 12.3.</p> <p>REG 12.1.1 If a team travels to a fixture with prior knowledge of conditions that amount to a breach of regulations, they are deemed to have accepted these conditions of play and can therefore not later 'play under protest' regarding them, nor submit a match appeal (REG 15) based on those grounds.</p> <p>REG 12.1.2 If a team begins or continues a fixture with knowledge of conditions that amount to a breach of regulations but fails to complete a Playing Under Protest Form when the grievance was noted, they are deemed to have accepted the conditions of play and can therefore not later 'play under protest' regarding them, nor submit a match appeal (REG 15) based on those grounds.</p>	<p>Wording updated to clarify that if a team travels, they cannot play under protest about something they have been made aware of prior to travelling.</p>
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