2026-27 MEN'S BUCS SUPER RUGBY

MINIMUM OPERATING STANDARDS



BUCS SUPER RUGBY

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INTRODUCTION

Institutions competing in Men's BUCS Super Rugby (MBSR) must conform to the Minimum Operating Standards (MOS). These are outlined in this document and governed by BUCS. This MOS document is to be adhered to in conjunction with BUCS's General Regulations and Rugby Union Sport Specific Regulations.
The MOS apply to MBSR, which consists of the following competitions:

- BUCS Men's Rugby Union National League
- BUCS Men's Rugby Union National Championship
- BUCS Men's Rugby Union National League Playoff

Upon paying the entry fee to join and compete within MBSR, each member institution is agreeing to adhere to these MOS and work with BUCS to facilitate an annual audit.

These MOS will be reviewed annually by BUCS, in collaboration with the League Management Committee (LMC) and the Sport Advisory Group (SAG) for Rugby Union. While collaboration is key to defining the contents of the MOS, the final decision on implementation will remain with BUCS as the competition owner.

Audit Process

BUCS will administer an annual audit to assess each member institution for its fulfilment of the MOS set out in this document. This process is mandatory for all member institutions. Failure to comply may result in admittance to MBSR being denied or withdrawn.

The audit will be conducted across several parts of the year:

- **Pre-Season**: BUCS will have a virtual meeting with the programme manager of each team to assess compliance in the pre-season section of the MOS.
- **Mid-Season**: During the season, a site visit may be required, and a BUCS internal audit will be conducted. Should a site visit occur, this will consist of the BUCS Executive checking against a set number of items from the MOS rather than an audit of all requirements.
- **Post-Season**: Scores will be reviewed and communicated to institutions.

The exact timeline for the audit process will be decided by BUCS on an annual basis.

Measurement Process

1. There are 3 varying levels of Minimum Operating Standards. All items in the MOS are a MR, unless specified. These are:
    a. **Minimum Requirements (MR)**: Institutions participating in MBSR must meet each of the Minimum Requirements.
    b. **Silver**: These are standards that are additional extras on top of the minimum requirements. You will not be negatively marked for not meeting Silver requirements. You will receive recognition in the final score if you demonstrate compliance in all standards of this level. For example, section 1.4:
        i. MR- A nominated Head Coach who is the primary deliverer of coaching, and who is either working towards*, UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent, or has a development plan provided by the institution. The Head Coach must be qualified to UKCC Level 2 or overseas equivalent.
        ii. Silver- A nominated Head Coach who is the primary deliverer of coaching, and who is working towards*, UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent. The institution will also provide a development plan for the Head Coach.
    c. **Gold**: These are the highest level of Operating Standards that would be expected within MBSR. You will not be negatively marked for not meeting Gold requirements. You will receive recognition in the final score if you demonstrate compliance in all standards of this level. For example, section 1.4 extended:

i. MR - A nominated Head Coach who is the primary deliverer of coaching, and who is either working towards*, UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent, or has a development plan provided by the institution. The Head Coach must be qualified to UKCC Level 2 or overseas equivalent.
ii. Silver - A nominated Head Coach who is the primary deliverer of coaching, and who is working towards*, UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent. The institution will also provide a development plan for the Head Coach.
iii. Gold- A nominated Head Coach who is the primary deliverer of coaching and who is qualified to* UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent. The institution will also provide a development plan for the Head Coach.

2. The attainment of each requirement is measured on the following scale.
   - 1 = Compliant
   - 0 = Not fully compliant

3. The final score for each section will be given as either a pass or a fail. In order to pass the audit, an institution must be fully compliant on all Minimum Requirements within the Pre-Season and Facilities sections. Following the Pre-Season meeting, each institution will be issued a projected audit score which will be ratified following ongoing compliance with the Pre-Season and Facilities sections of the MOS upon conclusion of the season. An institution will not fail the audit for non-compliance with any Tier 1 Minimum Requirements or any Silver or Gold Standards.

4. If an institution fails a Minimum Requirement in the pre-season audit, an action plan will be put together with a deadline set to become compliant on a case-by-case basis. Following this, an institution may still pass the audit come the end of the season if they are able to demonstrate compliance by the deadline set. Should an institution not be compliant prior to the deadline set by BUCS, the institution will fail the audit for that season. Should an institution fail the audit in two consecutive seasons then they may face expulsion from MBSR following the second season of audit failure. The final decision will be made by the BUCS Executive.

5. The final audit score will be issued following the conclusion of the season. All MBSR Silver and Gold programmes will be listed on the BSR website.
   - An institution which meets all the Minimum Requirements, all of the Silver requirements and has not breached a Tier 1 MOS more than 12 times will achieve MBSR Silver Programme status.
   - An institution which meets all the Minimum Requirements, all of the Silver requirements, all of the Gold requirements and has not breached a Tier 1 MOS more than 5 times will achieve MBSR Gold Programme status.

Sanctions

The severity of sanctions imposed on institutions for breaches of the requirements of the MOS will be based on two factors:

1. The sanction tier to which the requirement is aligned.
2. The number of breaches of an individual requirement or a combination of requirements.

Each requirement within the MOS will be graded in line with a different sanction tier:

- Tier 3
- Tier 2
- Tier 1

The following tables are advisory as to the maximum sanction imposed:

Tier 1

Number of collective breaches	Sanction
1-5	Written warning
6-12	£100 fine and no possibility of Gold status
13-19	£250 fine and no possibility of Silver status
20+	£250 fine + £10 per additional breach and failure of audit

Breaches will be cumulative across all Tier 1 standards. For example, a breach of 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.4.1, 3.4.4 and 3.4.5 once would result in a £100 fine and no possibility of Gold with the fine issued at the end of the season. For Tier 1 requirements, any breaches do not carry over to the following season.

Tier 2

Number of breaches	Sanction
First breach	Written warning
Second breach	Fine of up to £100
Third breach	Fine up to £250 + £100 fine per additional breach

For Tier 2 requirements, breaches are specific to each MOS and are not carried over to the following season. For example, if an institution commits one breach of 1.7.6 in the 2026-27 season, this will not carry over to the 2027-28 season.

Tier 3

Number of breaches	Sanction
First breach	Fine of up to £500
Second breach	Fine of up to £2,000
Third breach	Points deduction or fine of up to £5,000

For Tier 3 requirements, breaches are specific to each MOS and carried over to the following season. For example, if an institution commits one breach of 1.5.9 in the 2026-27 season, this will carry over to the 2027-28 season and on the first instance 1.5.9 should be breached during the 2027-28 season this would be considered the institution's second breach for sanctioning purposes. A breach will only carry over into the following season and will not carry over indefinitely. For example, if an institution commits one breach of 1.5.9 in the 2026-27 season, this will carry over to the 2027-28 season and, if there is not a breach of 1.5.9 during the 2027-28 season but a breach of X during the 2028-29 season this would be considered the institution's first breach again.

If, after the third breach of a single requirement, the offending institution refuse to comply, they will be referred to a disciplinary panel to decide on the next stage of sanctioning which may include a further fine, points deduction or expulsion from BSR. This process will consider the number of breaches, the sanction tier, and the cooperation/willingness to comply.

Each time there is an alleged breach of a Tier 2 or 3 MOS identified by BUCS, the following shall apply:

- BUCS will communicate the alleged breach to the institution by email within five working days of it being identified.
- The institution will have five working days to respond, by email, either acknowledging or denying the breach.
    - If the institution acknowledges the breach:
        - BUCS will work with the institution to agree an action plan so that the relevant requirement can be met, with compliance demonstrated by an agreed deadline following the acknowledgement.
        - BUCS will determine the appropriate sanction(s) for the breach and communicate this to the institution by email within five working days of the acknowledgement.

- The institution shall have the right to appeal against the sanction(s) by following the BUCS Full Appeal in accordance with REG 15.9 of the BUCS General Regulations. Institutions are advised that as well as having the discretion to reduce or uphold the sanction(s), the disciplinary panel which shall rule on the appeal shall also have the discretion to increase the sanction(s) and/or impose an additional fine or award costs against the institution if they find the appeal not to have grounds.

- If the institution denies the breach:
  - BUCS will raise a charge for the alleged breach, and a Disciplinary Hearing will take place at which a Panel shall confirm if there has been a breach and if so, what the appropriate sanction(s) shall be. These disciplinary proceedings will follow those detailed in Appendix 21 (BUCS Misconduct Disciplinary Policy and Procedure).

Future Members

Teams competing in North 1 and South 1 are eligible for promotion to MBSR through the playoff system outlined in REG 8 and Appendix 10 of the BUCS General Regulations and RUU 2.7/RUU 3.6 of the BUCS Rugby Union Sport Specific Regulations. Ahead of the MBSR Playoff, if the fixture isn't hosted by BUCS, the institutions due to compete will be subject to an audit against 'Appendix 4 - BSR Playoff MOS'. Should an institution fail the Playoff Audit, they will be designated as the away team for the Playoff. Should a team be successful in gaining promotion through the playoffs, a full audit will take place to ensure compliance with the MOS. We recognise that it may take some time for newly promoted teams to put systems in place which enable them to meet all MOS criteria, and therefore BUCS is happy to discuss an implementation timeline for newly promoted. However, any MOS relating to safety and player welfare would not be subject to this exception, this would include equipment, facilities, personnel, and institution policies.

PRE-SEASON

1.1 Programme Management

No.	MOS	Sanction Tier
1.1.1	All participating institutions will provide BUCS with the names and contact details for individuals who fulfil the following roles within BSR management/operations. This will be requested before the start of the season: • Programme Manager • Director of Rugby/Head Coach • BSR Team Captain • Clinical Governance Lead (CGL) • Marketing/Media Lead from the University Marketing Department • Marketing/Media Lead from rugby club • Analyst	2
1.1.2	Each team must submit the following information to BUCS ahead of an agreed deadline, so that a league handbook may be provided to teams in advance of the season: • Home pitch name and address, including any local travel advice and directions to enter the facility; and directions to changing rooms upon arrival. • Home and away kit colours (Shirt, shorts and socks) • Name and phone number of Director of Rugby/Head Coach • Name and phone number of Clinical Governance Lead and medical provision at the home ground	2
1.1.3	Member institutions will support BUCS with any further data collation as and when required, in line with GDPR.	3
1.1.4	A management structure/steering group which manages, delivers, interprets and develops the institution's participation in BSR. There should be an integrated plan for rugby within the institution, which combines a rugby development plan mapping the growth of the game with a performance development plan linked to participation in BSR.	2
1.1.5	A scholarship system aligned with broader institutional strategies for performance sport.	2
1.1.6	Work with the institution's respective union and/or one or more professional or semi-professional clubs to encourage talent identification for the purposes of academy and professional opportunities.	2

1.2 Documentation

1.2.1	The CGL must have available, upon request, the following: • A risk assessment of the Primary match day facility • A risk assessment of the training facility • A list of medical equipment available at the match day facility • An emergency action plan detailing the match day process for the assessment, resuscitation, and extrication of a player(s) with both traumatic and non-traumatic life and limb-threatening injuries.	3
1.2.2	In the event that an institution changes their regular home pitch for more than two matches then a risk assessment must be completed.	3

1.3 Player Welfare

1.3.1	Demonstrate good relationships with academic and support staff to support players in managing their time. A support network should be in place for all players, providing dual-career information and guidance to ensure academic commitments are managed alongside their sport programme.	3
1.3.2	No player or staff member will use or distribute a prohibited substance – as defined by the most up-to-date WADA prohibited list. All players and staff will comply with UKAD testing procedures where required.	3
1.3.3	No player or staff member will: • Place a bet (or asking someone to place a bet) on any BUCS fixture. • Misuse or pass on information to any third party, such as injuries or selection, that is not already public knowledge. • Accept money or gifts from any third party in return for inside information or performance manipulation in a match.	3

Any player, student or staff member associated with a BSR institution found to be actively involved in match fixing could result in the associated institution having their membership of BSR revoked. This is in accordance with REG 5: Misconduct and Bringing BUCS into Disrepute.

1.4 Player Development

1.4.1	A nominated Head Coach who is the primary deliverer of coaching, and who is either working towards*, UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent, or has a development plan provided by the institution. The Head Coach must be qualified to UKCC Level 2 or overseas equivalent. **Silver** A nominated Head Coach who is the primary deliverer of coaching, and who is working towards*, UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent. The institution will also provide a development plan for the Head Coach. **Gold** A nominated Head Coach who is the primary deliverer of coaching and who is qualified to* UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent. The institution will also provide a development plan for the Head Coach.	3
1.4.2	All assistant coaches qualified to UKCC Level 2 or overseas equivalent. **Silver** All assistant coaches qualified to UKCC Level 2 or overseas equivalent, with at least one coach working towards* UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent. **Gold** All assistant coaches working towards* UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent, with at least one coach qualified to UKCC Level 3 or overseas equivalent.	3
1.4.3	Head Coach to have completed the UKAD Coach Clean e-learning module.	3
1.4.4	Performance analysis support for the BSR squad, through the filming of matches and the use of recordings in individual and group coaching. **Silver** Performance analysis support for the BSR squad, through the filming of matches and training sessions, and the use of recordings in individual and group coaching.	2
1.4.5	Appropriate strength and conditioning (S&C) programme, led by an S&C coach that has an undergraduate degree in S&C. The programme should	3

	run throughout the year, and account for position specific and individual athlete requirements. **Silver** Appropriate S&C programme, led by an S&C coach that has a masters degree in S&C or is a UKSCA Accredited Coach (ASCC). The programme should run throughout the year, and account for position specific and individual athlete requirements. **Gold** Appropriate S&C programme, led by an S&C coach that has a masters degree in S&C and is a UKSCA ASCC. The programme should run throughout the year, and account for position specific and individual athlete requirements.	
1.4.6	The institution to provide performance lifestyle support. This must be by an individual who has achieved, or is working towards, APDL qualification (formerly TALSQ), or equivalent experience/qualifications in this field. **Silver** The institution to provide performance lifestyle and sport psychology support. Where sport psychology support is provided, this should be provided by an individual who possesses one of the following qualifications: • BPS Stage 2/CASES SEPAR Trainee (or above) • Registered HCPC • CASES Accredited and HCPC registered	3
1.4.7	Individual development plans (IDP) in place for 50% of BSR squad members, based on regular, periodic, and interactive process of review/feedback/action planning. The remainder of BSR squad members should have a basic development plan, accounting for position-specific and individual development requirements, and balancing rugby and academic study priorities. An IDP should encompass: • Factors relating to preparation, behaviour, fitness, tactical and technical elements of performance • Monitoring the number of matches played and the amount of game time per season. • The management of individual players' health, welfare and balance between rugby and academic study priorities. **Silver** IDPs in place for 75% of BSR squad members, based on regular, periodic, and interactive process of review/feedback/action planning. The remainder of BSR squad members should have a basic development plan, accounting for position-specific and individual development requirements, and balancing rugby and academic study priorities. **Gold** IDPs in place for 100% of BSR squad members, based on regular, periodic, and interactive process of review/feedback/action planning.	2

*'working towards' a qualification is defined as - a coach being enrolled on a course and completion is expected within 12 months of the audit date.

1.5 Medical

1.5.1	Each institution will appoint a CGL who is the primary individual responsible for all clinical matters relating to BSR. This includes, but should not be limited to: The maintenance of records of the names and qualifications of all medical personnel employed by the institution that have contact with BSR players. The maintenance of a register of medical personnel on duty on BSR match days. The injury register for BSR players and tracking concussion Return to Play protocol. The safe storage and maintenance of all medical equipment required by the MOS for BSR. The CGL must demonstrate an understanding of established concepts, e.g., commitment to high standards, evidence-based practice, personal and team development and risk management of all venues The CGL does not have to be a doctor and can be another health care professional as long as they are registered in their speciality.	3
1.5.2	The CGL will ensure they, or an appropriately qualified medical practitioner, leads a short briefing prior to kick-off to ensure opposition, match officials and venue staff (where appropriate) have received and understood the documents outlined above. Any changes to action plans or arrangements should be communicated at this briefing. The CGL will assume responsibility for ensuring the availability of sufficient personnel who have been appropriately trained to use the equipment required for safe extrication from the field of play.	3
1.5.3	Immediate care provision at all contact training sessions and pitch-side at all home and away fixtures, by a healthcare practitioner who has a current RFU PHICIS, SRU SCRUMCAPS, WRU ICIR Level 2 qualification (or above) or equivalent Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh endorsed Sports Specific Immediate Care course certificate. *Note: certificates are awarded to successful candidates and instructors on a season-by-season basis. **For the avoidance of doubt: i. The season for certification purposes starts on 1 September and runs until 31 August the following year. ii. Successful completion of a course in a season provides cover until the end of the following season. For example, an approved course completed in the 2025-26 season enables a practitioner to work until the end of the 2026-27 season.	3
1.5.4	One member of the coaching/management team must hold a Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work qualification, or equivalent.	3
1.5.5	Maintenance of an injury register in which all player injuries are recorded.	3
1.5.6	If requested, report anonymised injury data to a designated academic partner to contribute to injury surveillance studies. Any designated partner will be identified in advance of the season commencing, and purposes and storage of this data outlined to all institutions.	3
1.5.7	The provision of a structured concussion management programme for all players within the institution's rugby union programme with a recovery and return to play and study programme consistent with NGB guidance to be	3

	supervised by a medical professional with training and experience in concussion management.	
1.5.8	All BSR squad members to have undertaken baseline testing via SCAT 6 as set out by World Rugby. This is required to be done in advance of the first game of the season, or before an individual's first game. For further reference, please see: Sport Concussion Assessment Tool 6 (SCAT6) (bmj.com)	3
1.5.9	During matches and contact training sessions the home team must ensure the following medical equipment is available pitch side: • Split long board (EXL Scoop or equivalent) with Head Immobiliser and appropriately trained stretcher bearers. • Cervical Stiff Neck Collar(s) - 2 adjustable collars or an assortment of collars to fit every player within the Club (extrication collar). Soft neck collars are not suitable. • Splints (For immobilisation of the upper and lower limbs). • Stethoscope and Sphygmomanometer. • Airways (selection of ALL the below must be present) - Oropharyngeal airway (assorted sizes) - Nasopharyngeal airway (assorted sizes) - Pocket mask with one-way valve. • Bag valve mask. • Magill forceps. • Oxygen cylinder - to include variable flow rate oxygen, bag valve mask, non-rebreathing mask, and purpose-made carrier • Portable Suction (can be hand-held or powered). • Penlight torch. • AED Cardiac Defibrillator – ideally with a manual override and monitor. • Nebuliser mask and tubing. The following list of equipment is only required if appropriately trained personnel are present: • Emergency Cricothyrotomy Device/Kit and needle Cricothyroidotomy equipment • Entonox with patient self-administration system in a purpose-made carrier. (Penthrox may be used as an alternative to Entonox for players aged 18 and above - Penthrox must not be used for players aged 18 and under) • IV giving sets - 1l crystalloid (not 5% dextrose) - IV Cannulae (14G-22G) This list is consistent with the immediate care equipment used in the PHICIS Lv.2 course following consultation with physios and doctors involved in rugby union across the UK.	3
1.5.10	Each Club must provide a dedicated medical treatment room for players at its Principal Home Ground and any other ground hosting first team games. The minimum physical requirements for a medical treatment room are: • access available to both teams • access for a stretcher from the pitch and to an external exit accessible by ambulance, with a minimum corridor and door width of 1.2m • in exceptional circumstances where it is not possible for 1.2m door width, a minimum of 0.8m door width is accepted if an ambulance cot is provided pitch-side to allow movement of injured/ill player with extrication team member at either end of the cot. There must be access from the pitch to the medical room for an ambulance cot and equally access to the ambulance from either the pitch-side or medical room to the ambulance for the ambulance cot.	3

	• floors to be non-slip, impervious and washable • wall linings and worktops to be easily cleaned, to comply with hygiene and infection control requirements • a sink with hot and cold running water • direct access to a WC (where WC provision is located within 20m of the medical room and does not require access through a public area). • adequate lighting and heating The minimum equipment requirements of a medical treatment room are: • drinking water and disposable cups • soap and paper towels • adequate arrangements for the safe and proper disposal of clinical waste and sharps, e.g. needles • contain at least one examination couch with waterproof protection, clean pillows and blankets or towels • contain at least one lockable cabinet for medicines, and adequate storage facilities for other equipment • a chair • The room must be cleaned regularly in accordance with national guidelines and health and safety regulations	

1.6 Education

1.6.1	Each BSR institution will ensure players are receiving, on an annual basis, education on how to avoid contact with prohibited substances and ensure they are competing as clean athletes. Additionally, Players are advised to access GlobalDRO and 'Informed Sport' and download the '100% me' App.	3
1.6.2	Prior to a player playing their first fixture, they must have completed World Rugby 'Keep Rugby Onside' online course (World Rugby Passport - Keep Rugby Onside) and each team provide access to certificate database as per BUCS request.	3
1.6.3	Concussion education on an annual basis for all players and management staff in accordance with World Rugby and home union guidelines.	3

1.7 Media and Commercial

1.7.1	Each institution will have a designated media and marketing representative that will active marketing on social media including on matchdays.	2
1.7.2	Full and appropriate social media activation – as a minimum, every team must have their own Instagram account. Additional social media accounts are optional.	3
1.7.3	Have an up-to-date club or team website, or section on institution website which features key information regarding BUCS Super Rugby and provides a clear hyperlink to the BUCS Super Rugby website.	1
1.7.4	The ability to accommodate BUCS media staff, broadcast partners and other media delegations through fixed or temporary facilities. This should include access to Wi-Fi.	2
1.7.5	Upon request, provide the institution's sport department logo, where required, in all formats (AI/EPS/PNG) including primary and secondary colours.	1
1.7.6	Provide their first team BUCS Super Rugby captain and coach for pre-season media launch (if requested)	2
1.7.7	Produce pre-season individual player headshots and share these with BUCS prior to the first fixture. These should meet the following requirements: • Wearing the home kit • Shot from the waist upwards	2

	• Clear plain and white coloured background which contrasts to shirt colour • Submitted in high resolution JPEG format	
1.7.8	If an institution wishes to print the BUCS Super Rugby logo on their playing kit, they must get prior approval from BUCS.	3
1.7.9	Each institution must adhere to the conditions outlined in 'Appendix 1 – Commercial Rights'	3

1.8 Feature Event

1.8.1	Use its best endeavours to find a suitable stadium that meets standards for Tier 1 and 2 professional Rugby in the UK (Prem Rugby, Champ Rugby or the United Rugby Championship). Should this not be possible, the host institution should share the marketing and promotion plan with BUCS for approval. This venue should comply with all player welfare and facility requirements as written in this document.	2
1.8.2	Execute a robust marketing and promotion plan, engaging home and away supporters as well as the wider non-student community. This should include increased social media activity to advertise the match and increase awareness of the BSR programme.	2
1.8.3	Manage match day operations with the venue, ensuring the venue is compliant with all areas of the minimum operating standards. The host institution will be responsible for providing BUCS with a contact for the host venue.	3
1.8.4	The match must be ticketed, with an accurate attendance report shared with BUCS within 5 days of the fixture	3

FACILITIES

2.1 Training

2.1.1	The provision of training facilities and equipment to support the development of players in a safe environment.	3
2.1.2	The presence of appropriately trained medical staff and immediate care equipment at all contact training sessions.	3
2.1.3	Access to a team meeting room with audio-visual capability for performance analysis.	3
2.1.4	Access to an indoor strength & conditioning suite with free and fixed weights, cardiovascular machines, appropriate ventilation and a supply of drinking water.	3
2.1.5	Access to physio support/clinic to support injury rehabilitation and physical development on non-matchdays.	3

2.2 Match Day

2.2.1	A permanent or temporary 1-meter-high barrier surrounding the field of play in its entirety and separating the field of play from supporters.	3
2.2.2	Designated technical areas with pitch-side seating for staff and players of both teams.	3
2.2.3	Appropriate run-off areas beyond the touchlines and dead-ball lines to a minimum of 5 metres. (Any distance less than 5 metres must be risk-assessed by a competent person and managed including through taking into account inter alia the nature and extent of the hazards outside the perimeter of the pitch).	3
2.2.4	Flag posts and flags in line with World Rugby Law 1.	3
2.2.5	A means of ingress to the pitch wide enough to accommodate an ambulance.	3
2.2.6	Barriers separating non-participants from the field of play, running from minimum of 10m from the entrance to the pitch ensuring that the minimum width between barriers is at least 3-metres to prevent tunnelling.	3
2.2.7	Separate changing facilities for both teams on match-day, adequate to accommodate 25 players with appropriate shower and toilet provision, and space for a physio table.	3
2.2.8	Separate match-day facilities for referees, with appropriate shower and toilet provision.	3
2.2.9	Spectators should have access to toilets and first aid, including toilets with disabled access.	3
2.2.10	Access to a separate room which can serve as a doping control room on match-day if required (which may or may not also serve another purpose), with appropriate toilet facilities.	
2.2.11	Provision of dedicated spectator areas with standing space. **Silver** Provision of dedicated spectator areas with raised standing or seating space and a permanent or temporary public address system audible in the main player and spectator areas within the ground. **Gold** Provision of dedicated spectator areas with standing space and raised seating space for 250 people and a permanent or temporary public address system audible in the main player and spectator areas within the ground.	3
2.2.12	A fixed or temporary scoreboard easily visible from the main player and spectator vantage points within the ground.	3

	Silver A fixed or temporary electric scoreboard easily visible from the main player and spectator vantage points within the ground. **Gold** A fixed electric scoreboard, featuring a match clock (as a minimum with the minutes played or remaining in the match), easily visible from the main player and spectator vantage points within the ground.	
2.2.13	The pitch which the match is due to take place on must be booked for a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off to allow time and space for a warm-up to take place. If this is not possible, due to unexpected circumstances, then a warm-up time of 30 minutes must be allocated on a different pitch with both teams having equal space on a surface that is the same as the match pitch. **Silver** The pitch which the match is due to take place on booked for a minimum of 1 hour prior to the scheduled kick off to allow time and space for a warm-up to take place.	3
2.2.14	**Silver** Floodlighting to an average maintained lux reading of 200, with a uniformity level of >0.6*.	
2.2.15	**Silver** Access to an alternative pitch in the event that the primary facility is unavailable, the alternative pitch must be on a different site, unless the pitch is of a different surface, to the primary pitch to reduce the risk of both pitches being unplayable. As a minimum, this should meet the aforementioned standards for: • Playing area and environment • Changing facilities for teams and referees • Medical facilities and emergency service access	

3.1 Match Day Bibs

<table>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1</td>
<td>All staff entering the field of play, or staff fulfilling certain roles around the perimeter of the pitch, must be wearing the correct colour bib.
<table>
<tr><th>Colour</th><th>Role</th><th>Description</th><th>Allocation</th></tr>
<tr><td>Blue</td><td>Water carrier</td><td>Any member of staff that takes water onto the pitch during breaks in play.</td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>Red</td><td>Physio</td><td>The physio for the team, as detailed in MOS 1.5.3</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Orange</td><td>Physio Support</td><td>Any other medical support staff (including those in training)</td><td>2</td></tr>
<tr><td>Green</td><td>Media</td><td>Any media staff appointed by BUCS or the institution</td><td>0</td></tr>
</table>
</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</table>

3.2 Administration

3.2.1	The results of all Men's BUCS Super Rugby matches, including the number of tries, conversions and penalties, must be entered by the home team on BUCS Play no later than 2 hours after a match finishing.	1
3.2.2	All complete and accurate 'Match Data' form must be submitted to BUCS within 24 hours of a match finishing.	1
3.2.3	Away teams must sign off the match data form that has been submitted to BUCS within 36 hours of the fixture finishing.	1
3.2.4	A high-quality match day video recording must be submitted to BUCS via upload to Elitehub within 24 hours of the match finishing. This should include the entire match, and footage must be filmed from the halfway point, a minimum of 2 meters above pitch level and from a wide-angle camera. **Silver** Two high-quality match day video recordings must be submitted to BUCS via upload to Elitehub within 24 hours of the match finishing. This should include the entire match, and footage must be filmed from the halfway point, a minimum of 2 meters above pitch level and from a wide-angle and tight-angle camera.	2
3.2.5	Share team and player specific performance/match data with BUCS for the purposes of improving recognition and profile of the league. This should include, but is not limited to; • Tackle statistics • Set play statistics • Open play statistics	2

3.3 Hospitality

3.3.1	The travelling team must contact the home team at least 6 days before a match asking whether travelling supporters can be accommodated at the venue. The travelling team must send the name and contact information (phone number) of at least 1 responsible leader for every 50 travelling spectators to the home institution's fixture administrator. This communication must be sent at least 6 days before the fixture.	2
3.3.2	The home team provides post-match catering to an away team that has travelled in excess of 150 miles to the fixture. This should be a hot, takeaway or sit-down meal for: • All 23 squad members • At least 4 support staff **Silver** The home team provides post-match catering to all away teams. This should be a hot, takeaway or sit-down meal for: • All 23 squad members • At least 4 support staff	3
3.3.3	The away team declines the offer of post-match catering and/or fails to confirm whether they would like to have a sit-down meal or take-away without giving the home team 48-hours' notice.	3
3.3.4	All 3 match officials appointed to a fixture should receive post-match catering.	3

3.4 Media

3.4.1	Each institution must adhere to 'Appendix 2 – BSR Brand Guidelines'	1
3.4.2	Provide access to training sessions and/or players or coaches throughout the season for media coverage upon agreement on timings with institution and BUCS.	2
3.4.3	Create social and wider media content on associated university sport channels and within local media where possible to showcase the league.	1
3.4.4	Announce team sheets prior to kick off on social media. For matches being broadcast, teams should be announced 24 hours in advance of kick off and with @BUCSSuperRugby tagged on Instagram.	1
3.4.5	The home team will provide live social media coverage of the game. This should be done via Instagram (story and/or feed post), and needs to include the score in every post, as well as appropriate social media tags/hashtags. The home team should post half time and full-time scores on their Instagram feed within the half-time period and within 30 minutes of the full-time whistle. **Silver** The home team should post all score updates as an Instagram story as well as half time and full-time scores on their Instagram feed within the half-time period and within 30 minutes of the full-time whistle. **Gold** The home team should post regular updates throughout the match, in addition to all scores, as an Instagram story as well as half time and full-time scores on their Instagram feed within the half-time period and within	1

	30 minutes of the full-time whistle. All update graphics should include the BUCS Super Rugby logo.	
3.4.6	An institution must supply a minimum of 20 high-definition images from three separate matches throughout the season. These will be requested at intervals throughout the season as listed below: Week following Round 6 Week following Round 12 Week following Round 18 **Silver** An institution supplies a minimum of 20 high-definition images from six separate matches throughout the season. These should be sent at intervals throughout the season as listed below: Week following Round 3 Week following Round 6 Week following Round 9 Week following Round 12 Week following Round 15 Week following Round 18 **Gold** An institution supplies a minimum of 20 high-definition images from at least eight matches throughout the season. These should be sent within 48 hours of each fixture taking place.	2

3.5 Broadcast

3.5.1	Matches cannot be broadcast by any institutions unless it has been approved by BUCS, to ensure quality and consistency across the product. For avoidance of doubt this includes but not limited to an institutions' own social media, any online platform or broadcast channels. Institutions are responsible for ensuring there is no third-party live broadcast operation at any of their home fixtures and will work with BUCS to pull down any breach of this requirement.	3
3.5.2	If an institution is responsible for a broadcast not going out as per the agreed schedule, they will be responsible for covering the cost of the broadcast provider's expenses.	3
3.5.3	Provide coaches and captain or Player of the Match for pre- and post-match live interviews when requested. The institution must confirm this with BUCS 24 hours prior to kick off.	2
3.5.4	At matches being broadcast, where possible provide a selected space for BUCS staff to work from. This should include access to Wi-Fi and power.	2

Should an institution wish to broadcast a fixture, they should refer to 'Appendix 3 - BUCS Broadcast Standards'. Any institution which broadcasts a fixture, without approval from BUCS, will be liable to sanction.

3.6 The BSR Challenge

3.6.1	The current holders of the BSR Challenge shield must make the shield available for each of their home matches.	2
3.6.2	If a team retains the BSR Challenge after a successful home game, the team's head coach and/or a player from the matchday squad should be photographed with the BSR Challenge post-match. This photo should be posted on social media within 60 minutes of the final whistle, and the BSR account should be tagged and/or collaborated with.	1
3.6.3	If a team wins the BSR Challenge (i.e., an away team wins against the BSR Challenge holding home team), a full team photograph should be taken with the BSR Challenge after the match. This photo should be posted on social media within 60 minutes of the final whistle, and the BSR account should be tagged and/or collaborated with.	1
3.6.4	Teams holding the BSR Challenge shield are responsible for its safekeeping and must ensure it does not get lost or damaged.	3

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Commercial Rights

This appendix sets out the commercial rights framework for BUCS Super Rugby (BSR), outlining the respective rights and responsibilities of BUCS and participating institutions. It is intended to provide clarity on the ownership of commercial assets, the management of commercial partnerships, and the processes for protecting league-wide commercial interests while enabling institutions to develop their own commercial opportunities. All member institutions competing in BSR are expected to comply with the requirements set out below to ensure a consistent approach to commercial activity across the competition.

BUCS seeks to maximise the commercial value of BUCS Super Rugby for the benefit of the competition and its member institutions. Institutions remain free to develop local commercial partnerships, provided these do not conflict with rights expressly reserved by BUCS or adversely impact league-wide commercial programmes. BUCS will work collaboratively with institutions to achieve commercially beneficial outcomes wherever possible.

Each member institution competing in BSR will agree to support BUCS in the following ways:

- To liaise with all match venues to ensure where possible, any branding that is deemed to be inappropriate, places BUCS into disrepute or conflicting with BUCS Super Rugby commercial partners is not displayed during the matches (for example but not limited to gambling brands, tobacco brands and other).
- To liaise with BUCS when considering commercial agreements impacting any rights referred to as BUCS owned or have any reason to doubt the rights they are committing to.
- To notify BUCS of current and new commercial partnership agreements impacting their BUCS Super Rugby team. The information needed will be commercial partner name, their sector, and key involvements/sponsored assets (e.g., Endsleigh, insurance company and main shirt sponsor).
- To reference commercial partners with league promotion and promote activations as set out by BUCS.
- To work with BUCS and Commercial/Media Partners to accommodate activations and physical branding from the league's commercial partners for all games.
- To utilise kit and equipment from providers engaged by BUCS Super Rugby in the capacity of official suppliers.

In addition to REG 16, BUCS owns the commercial rights to the following assets:

- All digital activations associated with a BSR broadcast
- All digital activations associated with the BSR website, social media pages and any other forms of digital platforms created and owned by BUCS
- Post protectors for all matches
- The match ball for all matches
- The league Player of the Match award for all games
- Pitch side branding for all matches (e.g., perimeter promotional boards)
- Naming rights to the BUCS Men's Rugby Union National League, BUCS Men's Rugby Union National Championship and BUCS Men's Rugby Union National League Playoff

Where provided by BUCS, each institution is to use BUCS Super Rugby or a commercial partner's branding at home fixtures. This may include post protectors, perimeter promotional boards and interview boards where appropriate. BUCS will allow institutions to utilise 25% of pitch side branding at all times (for clarity even with a partner in place). When these assets are not utilised by BUCS, institutions may utilise these assets, upon approval by BUCS, for any branding and/or partner activations. However, please note that BUCS may onboard a partner at any stage of the season to utilise these assets, institutions will need to ensure their agreements reflect this.
In the case of BUCS or the institution signing a conflicting sponsor, an effort will be made to resolve the matter so both parties may benefit.

In the first instance, there is no intent to restrict who institutions work with or limit the sectors BUCS could partner with regarding league level or BUCS level sponsorship (the same would apply to front of shirt sponsors).

While BUCS owns and reserves the right to utilise these assets, institutions may seek partnerships for the following in the event BUCS does not utilise these; post protectors, match ball, pitch-side branding.

Please note that BUCS may onboard a partner at any stage of the season to utilise these assets, and institutions will need to ensure their agreements reflect this. Approval must be sought by BUCS before utilising these commercial assets, and BUCS reserves the right to reclaim these at any time.

Appendix 2 – BSR Brand Guidelines

Competition Naming:

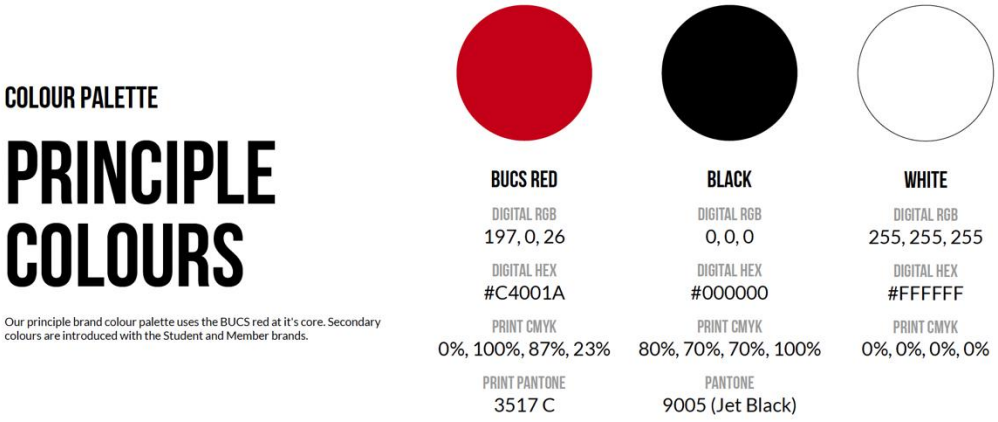
League Season: Men's BUCS Super Rugby / "MBSR" / BUCS Super Rugby / "BSR"

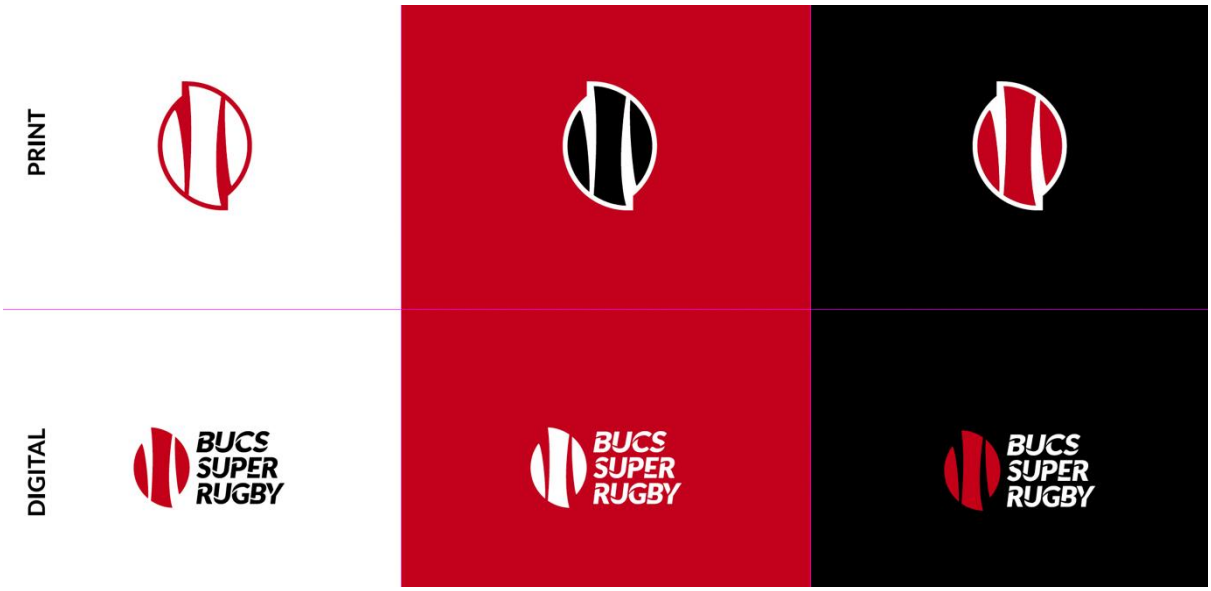
League Season Main Logo:

National Championship (knockout) 2026-27: Men's BUCS Super Rugby Milk Championships / Men's Milk Championships / Milk Championships

National Championship (knockout) 2026-27 Logo:

Logos download **here** – **This link will also contain all photos taken at media days for the 2026-27 season.** If any other variations of logo colourings or file types are required please contact Jack Hodgetts (Digital and Engagement Manager) - jack.hodgetts@bucs.org.uk.

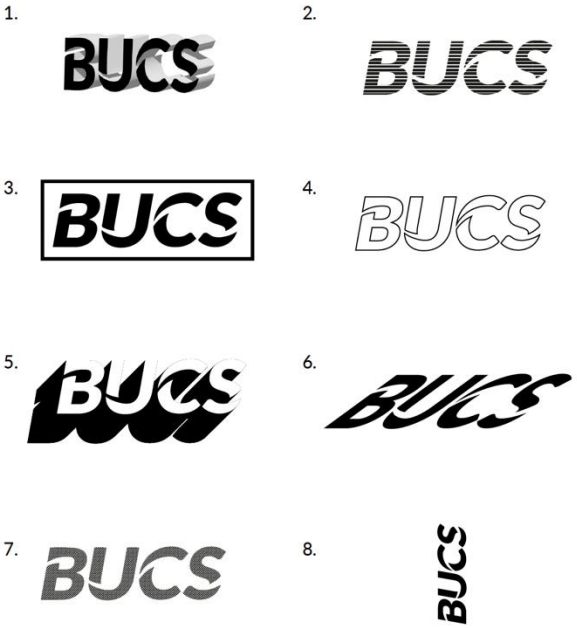




BRAND RULES

INCORRECT USES

1. The logotype should never be extruded in order to create a 3D image that could be applied to other media.
2. The forms in the logo must never be broken by a superimposed pattern.
3. The logo must never be placed within another outline shape, such as a box.
4. The Logo should never be shown as an outlined form.
5. The logo should never be shown with shadows projected from the logo or logo partially outlined.
6. The logo should never be photographically distorted in any way.
7. The logo should never be shown in a light halftone on a dark background. Instead, pure white is required, and vice versa, the logo should never be shown in a dark halftone on a light background. Instead, pure black is required.
8. The logo must never be shown on a vertical axis.



Appendix 3 – BUCS Broadcast Standards

Institutions may be permitted to broadcast a BSR fixture, should the standards outlined in 'Appendix 3 – BUCS Broadcast Standards' be met and the broadcast be approved by BUCS. Any institution which broadcasts a BSR fixture without the approval from BUCS will be sanctioned in line with section 3.4 of the MOS.

Please ensure that you contact BUCS no later than three weeks in advance of the fixture date, should you wish to broadcast a fixture. As a reminder, broadcasts will only be permitted through a BUCS operated channel.

Institutions should ensure that any communications regarding the broadcast of BSR fixtures are sent to Jack Hodgetts (Digital and Engagement Manager) - jack.hodgetts@bucs.org.uk.

Broadcast Quality Standards – Institution Broadcasts

Production

Cameras

- Minimum one camera set up
- Camera must be manned for the duration of the fixture and pan to show the action. See example here

Graphics

- Use of BUCS Super Rugby branded broadcast graphics (BUCS can supply at request)
- Scoreboard and clock present on the production throughout the fixture, clearly indicating team kit colours
- Any other of uses of the league logo must be prior approved by BUCS

Commentary

- Commentary throughout the game (must be professional, unbiased and provide a fair reflection of the game)
- To ensure a consistent voice of BUCS Super Rugby, should you need any support with commentary BUCS can put you in touch with its own commentators (BUCS will not cover these costs)
- The competition and BUCS brand to be used in line with 'Appendix 2 – BSR Brand Guidelines'.
- Commentary for any non-BUCS operated broadcasts must be funded by the institution

Output

- Minimum 1080p HD broadcast
- BUCS will conduct a quality test prior to going live. Please work with BUCS to schedule the test a week prior to the fixture
- All streams are to be broadcast to the BUCS Super Rugby YouTube channel only (unless otherwise stated/discussed with BUCS)
    - BUCS will provide stream keys for each platform and manage the 'going live' process through the social media channels
- Streams cannot be sent to any institution channel such as YouTube or any other streaming platform (unless otherwise stated/discussed with BUCS)

Commercial
Any adverts and/or commentary features promoting commercial companies, sponsors or university products/services (including academic courses), must be pre-approved by BUCS.

Broadcast Quality Standards – BUCS Broadcasts

- The production team will need access to the venue in advance of the fixture, likely either the day before or morning of. BUCS will look to work with each institution/venue to arrange appropriate access times
- The production team will need access to power and internet at the venue, BUCS will look to work with each intuition/venue to arrange appropriately
- If BUCS are covering a fixture, BUCS will work with the institution and the broadcast company regarding gantry space for performance analysis cameras and/or footage sharing. Any breaches of MOS 3.2.4 (match footage) due to a BUCS broadcast will be reviewed before sanctioned. and referee microphones. At a minimum broadcast needs to be on the halfway line. Teams can request footage/ request audio of the ref mic prior to the game one week prior at the latest
- If scheduling a double header broadcast please ensure there is at least an hour between the end of the first match and the start of the second

Appendix 4 – BSR Playoff MOS

Should the BSR Playoff not be hosted by BUCS, institutions not currently competing in BSR must adhere to 'Appendix 3 – BSR Playoff MOS' for any BSR Playoff fixture. Failure to meet these during the Playoff audit will result in that institution being nominated as the away team. Any breach of the Playoff MOS following the audit may be sanctioned by BUCS, in line with the equivalent tier breach of the full MBSR MOS.

1. Playoff Facilities

P1.1	A permanent or temporary 1-meter-high barrier surrounding the field of play in its entirety and separating the field of play from supporters.
P1.2	Designated technical areas with pitch-side seating for staff and players of both teams.
P1.3	Appropriate run-off areas beyond the touchlines and dead-ball lines to a minimum of 5 metres. (Any distance less than 5 metres must be risk-assessed by a competent person and managed including through taking into account inter alia the nature and extent of the hazards outside the perimeter of the pitch).
P1.4	Flag posts and flags in line with World Rugby Law 1.
P1.5	A means of ingress to the pitch wide enough to accommodate an ambulance.
P1.6	Barriers separating non-participants from the field of play, running from minimum of 10m from the entrance to the pitch ensuring that the minimum width between barriers is at least 3-metres to prevent tunnelling.
P1.7	Separate changing facilities for both teams on match-day, adequate to accommodate 25 players with appropriate shower and toilet provision, and space for a physio table.
P1.8	Separate match-day facilities for referees, with appropriate shower and toilet provision.
P1.9	Spectators should have access to toilets and first aid, including toilets with disabled access.
P1.10	Provision of dedicated spectator areas with standing space.
P1.11	A fixed or temporary scoreboard easily visible from the main player and spectator vantage points within the ground.
P1.12	The ability to accommodate BUCS media staff, broadcast partners and other media delegations through fixed or temporary facilities. This should include access to Wi-Fi.
P1.13	The pitch which the match is due to take place on must be booked for a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off to allow time and space for a warm-up to take place. If this is not possible, due to unexpected circumstances, then a warm-up time of 30 minutes must be allocated on a different pitch with both teams having equal space on a surface that is the same as the match pitch.

2. Playoff Medical

P2.1	The home team must provide immediate care provision, by a healthcare practitioner who has a current RFU PHICIS, SRU SCRUMCAPS, WRU ICIR Level 2 qualification (or above) or equivalent Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh endorsed Sports Specific Immediate Care course certificate. *Note: certificates are awarded to successful candidates and instructors on a season-by-season basis. **For the avoidance of doubt: i. The season for certification purposes starts on 1 September and runs until 31 August the following year. ii. Successful completion of a course in a season provides cover until the end of the following season. For example, an approved course completed in the 2025-26 season enables a practitioner to work until the end of the 2026-27 season.
P2.2	During the BSR Playoff the home team must ensure the following medical equipment is available pitch side: • Split long board (EXL Scoop or equivalent) with Head Immobiliser and appropriately trained stretcher bearers. • Cervical Stiff Neck Collar(s) - 2 adjustable collars or an assortment of collars to fit every player within the Club (extrication collar). Soft neck collars are not suitable. • Splints (For immobilisation of the upper and lower limbs). • Stethoscope and Sphygmomanometer. • Airways (selection of ALL the below must be present) - Oropharyngeal airway (assorted sizes) - Nasopharyngeal airway (assorted sizes) - Pocket mask with one way valve. • Bag valve mask. • Magill forceps. • Oxygen cylinder - to include variable flow rate oxygen, bag valve mask, non-rebreathing mask, and purpose made carrier • Portable Suction (can be hand-held or powered). • Penlight torch. • AED Cardiac Defibrillator – ideally with a manual override and monitor. • Nebuliser mask and tubing. The following list of equipment is only required if appropriately trained personnel are present: • Emergency Cricothyrotomy Device/Kit and needle Cricothyroidotomy equipment • Entonox with patient self-administration system in purpose made carrier. (Penthrox may be used as an alternative to Entonox for players aged 18 and above - Penthrox must not be used for players aged 18 and under) • IV giving sets - 1l crystalloid (not 5% dextrose) - IV Cannulae (14G-22G) This list is consistent with the immediate care equipment used in the PHICIS Lv.2 course following consultation with physio's and doctors involved in rugby union across the UK.
P2.3	Each club must provide a dedicated medical treatment room for players at its principal home ground and any other ground hosting first team games. The minimum physical requirements for a medical treatment room are: • access available to both teams. • access for a stretcher from the pitch and to an external exit accessible by ambulance, with a minimum corridor and door width of 1.2m. • in exceptional circumstances where it is not possible for 1.2m door width, a minimum of 0.8m door width is accepted if an ambulance cot is provided pitch-side

	to allow movement of injured/ill player with extrication team member at either end of the cot. There must be access from the pitch to the medical room for an ambulance cot and equally access to the ambulance from either the pitch-side or medical room to the ambulance for the ambulance cot. • floors to be non-slip, impervious and washable wall linings, and worktops to be easily cleaned, to comply with hygiene and infection control requirements. • a sink with hot and cold running water. • direct access to a WC (where WC provision is located within 20m of the medical room and does not require access through a public area). • adequate lighting and heating. The minimum equipment requirements of a medical treatment room are: • drinking water and disposable cups. • soap and paper towels. • adequate arrangements for the safe and proper disposal of clinical waste and sharps e.g., needles. • contain at least one examination couch with waterproof protection, clean pillows and blankets or towels. • contain at least one lockable cabinet for medicines, and adequate storage facilities for other equipment. • a chair. • The room must be cleaned regularly in accordance with national guidelines and health and safety regulations.
P2.4	Access to a separate room which can serve as a doping control room on match-day if required (which may or may not also serve another purpose), with appropriate toilet facilities.

3. Playoff Administration

P3.1	The results of the MBSR Playoff match, including the number of tries, conversions and penalties, must be entered by the home team, and approved, on BUCS Play no later than 2 hours after a match finishing.
P3.2	The home team will provide live social media coverage of the game. This should be done via Instagram (story and/or feed post), and needs to include the score in every post, as well as appropriate social media tags/hashtags. The home team should post half time and full-time scores on their Instagram feed within the half-time period and within 30 minutes of the full-time whistle.
P3.3	A high-quality match day video recording must be submitted to BUCS via upload to Elitehub within 24 hours of the match finishing. This should include the entire match, and footage must be filmed from the halfway point, a minimum of 2 meters above pitch level and from a wide-angle camera.

4. Hospitality

P4.1	The travelling team must contact the home team at least 6 days before a match asking whether travelling supporters can be accommodated at the venue. The travelling team must send the name and contact information (phone number) of at least 1 responsible leader for every 50 travelling spectators to the home institution's fixture administrator. This communication must be sent at least 6 days before the fixture.
P4.3	The home team provides post-match catering to an away team that has travelled in excess of 150 miles to the fixture. This should be a hot, takeaway or sit-down meal for: • All 23 squad members • At least 4 support staff
P4.4	The away team declines the offer of post-match catering and/or fails to confirm whether they would like to have a sit-down meal or take-away without giving the home team 48-hours' notice.
P4.5	All 3 match officials appointed to a fixture should receive post-match catering.

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