

RUGBY UNION SAG MEETING 1

Date 10/10/2025
Time 12:30
Location Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Chris Campbell
Dan Roberts
Charlie Mucklow
Erin Simmonds
Katy Young
Darren Fearn
Katy Storie

ORGANISATION

SAG Chair
BUCS
BUCS
BUCS
RFU

APOLOGIES

ORGANISATION

Item	Action*
<p>1. Minutes & Matters Arising</p> <p>CCa went over the last meeting minutes:</p> <p>APR – Call to action and specific comms to go out</p> <p>PWR and Celtic Challenge – U20 is now the big problem and Celtic challenge. Action from last LMC to engage with NGB and performance rep to understand where we stand. At a crisis point to bend season so U20 can play in the season or if NGBs are happy for us to continue. A few suggestions floated as to how we tweak the calendar – eg to push the final back (benefits in flexibility and avoid pinch points, draw backs is long season and exam time so student experience). Also flip the season so have the knockout in the first half of the year and have the final in November (for men may not work but for women may work). Need some solution or statement for next season.</p> <p>Final collision sport applications – Surrey women's 2 and Burnel women's 2. Both accepted at level requested in Premier South. Hugely imbalanced premier tier so had lots of consultation. Decided to play twice still. Will still have additional relegations. Team knows likely outcomes due to appendix 10.</p> <p>Finals with RP have been positive. Conversations are ongoing and continue to be positive.</p> <p>MBSR Promotion and relegation - gone through. 10th place in league will be automatically relegated and winner of N/S P1 will be promoted. Couple of caveats. Discussions went as expected (MBSR unhappy) and discussions focused on lack of consultation. Creation of independent group made the discussions difficult. Given Comps group a framework for if an SAG requires an independent group.</p> <p>Action: BUCS to have ongoing discussion with teams involved and come up with solutions / statement for next season.</p>	<p>BUCS</p>

2. BUCS 7s 2026 Proposed Eligibility Changes

ES explained the event review – to review events and ensure BUCS meets the sporting needs of the next generation, exceptional sporting experiences, and caters to a diverse range of students. This is a means to assess challenges and improve them.

We have an event matrix (5 – in house, 3rd party, KO finals, regional events, etc). The event then gets a score (%) and it falls into a red (65%), amber (65-74%), and green (75%+). Development plans to get events into green. Every event will then be reviewed annually – implications on staying in red for 3 years.

In terms of 7s: This was in the green! 75% so only just. First year as 3rd party so very positive. However, there were 3 main areas of improvement:

- Communication between BUCS and 3rd party
- Student Feedback: only had 6 feedback forms. MPS was good but can't take as a true representation due to lack of feedback
- Entry numbers and institution representation: Looked at trends in entries and % membership over the last 3 years. For all, they've all gone down. There's been lots of changes over the last 3 years that can have explanations. One of Joe's aims is to improve representation which is the rationale for this.

Proposed change: Main purpose is to encourage institutions to be in the trophy and will be competitive. Way to do this is to restrict BSR players and Prem 1 standard. Highlight this is what institutions should already be doing but it's impossible to track all. BSR teams are on board. Would ensure no BSR teams should be allowed to be in these teams.

Make it as visible as possible that we have processes in place to prevent BSR teams from happening. KY appreciates if it will help students then OK. Consensus is it's not a massive issue so don't over complicate.

DR states there's a logistical challenge with including national teams. This was more to attract tier 1 teams. Need to know T1 feedback. Thought about men's shield but logistics and capacity. Could potentially move lower competitions / a social offer in LUSL. RFU would support the LUSL/regional stuff.

Purpose of 7s? Social or competition. The answer to that will shape.

SAG: Don't think it's an issue so don't support.

Secondary - No

<p>3. BUCS Update</p> <p>General BUCS Updates</p> <p>Last week WRU ran an engagement session with welsh institutions Sam attended General theme was well received and the WRU were being progressive Also no WRU reps present in LMC or SAG</p> <p>LMC Streams Costs for refereeing IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN HERE: Concern been raised institutions making unsolicited offers to students on results day which may be in breach of UCAS regulations. Things like this are not to be picked up sport by sport, they are UCAS regulations and concerns should be looked at institution to institution and UCAS, not BUCS. KY asks is there anything the NGB could do?</p> <p>Action: BUCS to signpost SAG to UCAS regulations</p>	<p>BUCS</p>
<p>4. 2026-27 WBSR Expansion Criteria</p> <p>Want to be giving BUCS a green light or recommendations.</p> <p>Expansion paper 2024-25 wouldn't expand if team dropped out but expansion considered in 2025-26.</p> <p>This proposal was given to WBSR LMC. No feedback was given. LMC minutes LINK HERE! IMPORTANT TO KEEP THIS IN AND LINK HERE.</p> <p>Proposal: Firstly, BSR suitability. 1. Walkovers for player availability issues. 2. Competitiveness of BSR – average score line >25 points (move on), 26-35 points (SAG consult), or 35+ (no). 3. Suitability of Prem 1 – 1 or more of eligible teams won 60% of matches by 35+ then yes, 40-60% consult with SAG, <40% no. If no, the playoff will occur.</p> <p>Feedback: SAG support.</p> <p>Timeline: By formal processes midnight on Friday 20th. Block out an hour on Friday 13th march incase we need to discuss we can confirm ASAP what the meaning of the first playoff to take place is.</p> <p>What happens after we expand? Lock league for a year has happened in the future. Previously done this and there was negative feedback from Prem N/S for no opportunity for promotion in that year. – SAG think we need to be dynamic and don't lock it in advance.</p> <p>Action: BUCS to finalise expansion paper and share with membership (including deadlines)</p> <p>Action: BUCS to put a diary hold in on 13th March to discuss in case.</p>	<p>BUCS</p> <p>BUCS</p>
<p>5. Regulation Change Proposal (July 2025)</p>	

<p>Summary: Eg Lbro nat 2 is their 2nd team but they don't play BUCS league.</p> <p>Feedback: Challenges to face</p> <p>DF does not agree with it and it is hard to manage.</p> <p>Playing under institution banner and cannot play down eg where does BSR sit ?</p> <p>Normality</p> <p>Other competitions don't allow other competitions to impact there. Torn as student experience. Demines the value of BUCS. President that it sets and does it dilute the integrity. Can do this another way?</p> <p>A lot of talk about being player centred and athlete centred and facilitating the best rugby playing.</p> <p>Not practical for reasons above identifies But have identified to remove current regulation and happy to hear from LMC chairs to see if the LMC wants to just remove it? Also ask them of how it is champs and playoffs as they are different</p> <p>Check in with comps group and see what they say. Do they want to attend the LMC to be in the room?</p>	
<p>6. HERUDG</p> <p>HERUDG – It's evolved in terms of how we work. How do RU SAG see the SAG working with the HERUDG?</p> <p>Yes but who should it be and it goes into the terms of reference</p>	

<p>7. Reps</p> <p>Student representation – going out WRU and SRU need to be here Feels like a member rep short Go back out to Chris for Performance 7s rep</p>	
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>Cardiac screening</p> <p>Book out a day through CRY</p> <p>50-60 people screened in one day</p> <p>RFU want to support but want to know if there is anything anyone is already doing in the space.</p> <p>Next meeting in December or January. – doodle poll to come.</p>	