

# UK PADEL APPOINTED AS DELIVERY PARTNER FOR INAUGURAL BUCS PADEL CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRIES NOW OPEN

12 March 2026

British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) and UK PADEL, the nation's largest padel tournaments operator, are thrilled to announce that, following a highly competitive tender process, UK Padel has been appointed as the official delivery partner for the inaugural **BUCS Padel Championships 2025-26** (also staging the event in 2026-27).

The one-weekend championships will take place at **Slazenger Padel Leeds North** across the weekend of **9-10 May 2026**.

This brand-new BUCS Championship brings competitive padel to the higher education stage in a big way. The event will feature Men's and Women's competitions, with teams made up of two to three players, giving institutions the flexibility to include one reserve player.

In future seasons, both parties will explore the potential introduction of a Mixed competition depending on the demand and growth of the sport across the Higher Education sector.

## Why you should enter?

Padel is one of the fastest-growing racket sports in Europe, fast, social and brilliant to watch. The BUCS Padel Championships will deliver a high-quality, festival feel weekend of competitive play at one of the country's premier padel venues, with matches scheduled to create a great spectator atmosphere and strong student engagement.

## Key event details

- **When:** Weekend of 9-10 May 2026
- **Where:** Slazenger Padel Leeds North, Unit 3, Coal Road, Leeds, LS14 1PS.
- **Categories:** Men's doubles and Women's doubles.
- **Team size:** 2-3 players per team (doubles format).
- **Entry cost:** £140 per team.
- **How to enter:** Entry via the [BUCS Play](#) system (entries are now open).

## Deadlines:

- Team Entry Deadline (Institutional Admins): 23:59, Thursday 23 April 2026.
- Individual team-join deadline: 23:59, Tuesday 28 April 2026.

More information about the event can be found on the [Events section](#) on the BUCS.

## About the appointment

After evaluating several strong proposals, BUCS selected UK PADEL to stage the Championships for the next two seasons. The appointment reflects both organisations' ambition to grow padel across

higher education and to deliver an excellent first-year event that showcases student talent while building sustainable pathways for future participation.

**Neal Kington, BUCS Head of Competitions** said: *"We're delighted to appoint UK PADEL as the delivery partner for our first-ever BUCS Padel Championships. Their expertise and commitment to growing the sport make them the ideal partner to help us stage a high-quality, student-focused event.*

*We're really looking forward to working alongside UK PADEL to deliver an exciting weekend of competition, great atmosphere and new opportunities for students to experience padel through BUCS."*

**Nick Baker, CEO of UK PADEL added:**

*"The BUCS Padel Championships perfectly capture what UK PADEL events are trying to achieve. We want to create high-quality, inclusive competitions that bring people together and provide a clear pathway from schools to universities and into the adult game. Seeing so many universities represented, the level of play on court, and the sense of camaraderie off it shows that padel is thriving in the university space. This weekend is a powerful example of how the sport is growing in the right way, with community, accessibility and long-term sustainability at its heart."*

**See you in Leeds!**

The BUCS Padel Championships 2025-26 promise competitive matches, excellent facilities at Slazenger Padel Leeds North and a weekend of sport that's fun to play and watch.

Enter via [BUCS Play here](#) today and be a part of history at BUCS' first ever padel event.

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**About UK PADEL**

UK PADEL is a leading force in the development and promotion of padel tennis across the United Kingdom. With a mission to make padel accessible to all, UK PADEL champions sustainable growth through quality infrastructure, innovative programming and a strong community spirit. Brothers-in-law Nick Baker and Neil Percival came up with the idea of UK PADEL when the world was coming out of the COVID-19 lockdown and participation in outdoor sports was both permitted and encouraged. UK PADEL was formed in December 2020, with its first site opening at Holmer Green Sports Association in Buckinghamshire.

It operates four padel venues: Newquay (Cornwall), plus High Wycombe, Princes Risborough and Stoke Poges (all in Buckinghamshire), with 12,000 players registered across its clubs and two more clubs to be announced imminently.

It is the leading UK operator of padel tournaments across the nation, running padel championships from national schools age categories, universities championships and inter-county championships through to the Master series and Four Nations Cup.

It promotes the sport digitally, producing digital content and live streams of events, providing critically important community engagement for padel enthusiasts and fans. And it creates opportunities for brands to get in front of the rapidly expanding and attractive padel demographic through sponsorship and brand partnerships.