

BUCS COLLISION SPORT APPLICATIONS FOR 2026-27

Process, timelines and flowcharts



CONTENTS

- Process
- Timelines
- American Football Applications
- Rugby League Applications
- Rugby Union Applications



PROCESS

Applications received under REG 8.3.3.1 or REG 8.3.8.6 will be reviewed by three panels. Each of the first two panels will give their recommendation on the proposal before it progresses to the next step*. The decision of the Independent Assessment Panel shall be final. The possible outcomes from the Independent Assessment Panel (IAP) are:

- Application Approved at requested tier (or level in Men's Rugby Union Premier Tier)
- Application Approved but at different tier (or level in Men's Rugby Union Premier Tier)
- Application Rejected

If an application is approved by the IAP, the BUCS Competitions Team will adjust the provisional leagues accordingly to reflect the successful application.

* If both the BUCS and Sport Advisory Group (SAG) panels recommend the application is rejected, the application will not progress to the IAP.

TIMELINES

Any Collision Sport Applications received will be processed within the following timeline:

- Appendix 15b submitted to discipline@bucs.org.uk by Friday 3 April 2026
- Appendix 15C submitted to discipline@bucs.org.uk by Friday 24 April 2026
- BUCS Assessment Panel to meet as soon as application has been received*
- Intention is for the SAG Assessment Panel to meet between 4–8 May 2026**
- Intention is for the Independent Assessment Panel to meet between 11–15 May 2026.

The structure of these groups is covered on the following pages.

**The BUCS Assessment Panel, at its discretion, may request further information from an institution prior to the application being reviewed by the SAG Panel*

***The BUCS Executive will meet with the SAG Chair prior to the Panel convening to ensure that they understand the Collision Sport Application process*

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

The below flowchart shows the progress of an American Football application, and the make-up of each of the assessment panels. Once Appendix 15b/c has been submitted, the BUCS Assessment Panel shall be formed to begin the process.

BUCS ASSESSMENT PANEL

Panel composed of 3-5 of the following BUCS Roles:

- **American Football Programme Manager**
- BUCS staff members from the Competitions and Performance Team and/or Governance and Compliance Team

Role in bold is required.

SAG ASSESSMENT PANEL

Panel composed of 3-5 members of the American Football SAG. The following roles would be required on the assessment panel:

- Chair
- BAFA Representative
- Member Rep

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PANEL

Panel composed of the following members:

- Chair of the Rugby League or Rugby Union SAG
- Chair of National Competitions Group
- Independent Member Rep*

The following individuals will also be invited to attend to be able to answer questions from the IAP:

- 1x Member from the BUCS Assessment Panel
- 1x Member from the SAG Assessment Panel
- Representative(s) from institution submitting application

** Individual must not be from an institution with a team in the same conference and/or league as the institution submitting the application is currently in or applying for.*

RUGBY LEAGUE

The below flowchart shows the progress of a Rugby League application, and the make-up of each of the assessment panels. Once Appendix 15b/c has been submitted, the BUCS Assessment Panel shall be formed to begin the process.

BUCS ASSESSMENT PANEL

Panel composed of 3-5 of the following BUCS Roles:

- **Rugby League Coordinator**
- BUCS staff members from the Competitions and Performance Team and/or Governance and Compliance Team

Role in bold is required.

SAG ASSESSMENT PANEL

Panel composed of 3-5 members of the Rugby League SAG. The following roles would be required on the assessment panel:

- Chair
- RFL Representative
- Member Rep

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PANEL

Panel composed of the following members:

- Chair of the American Football or Rugby Union SAG
- Chair of National Competitions Group
- Independent Member Rep*

The following individuals will also be invited to attend to be able to answer questions from the IAP:

- 1x Member from the BUCS Assessment Panel
- 1x Member from the SAG Assessment Panel
- Representative(s) from institution submitting application

** Individual must not be from an institution with a team in the same conference and/or league as the institution submitting the application is currently in or applying for.*

RUGBY UNION

The below flowchart shows the progress of a Rugby Union application, and the make-up of each of the assessment panels. Once Appendix 15b/c has been submitted, the BUCS Assessment Panel shall be formed to begin the process.

