

APPENDIX 15A COLLISION SPORT LEAGUE PLACEMENT

APPLICATION GUIDE FOR 2026-27

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This document should be read in conjunction with [REG 8.3.3.1/REG 8.3.8.6](#). As per these regulations, the key reason behind any request – which must be evidenced through the below – and which any application will be considered against is “potential safety issues when severe performance imbalances occur and cause potential risks to the safety of players”.

By Friday 3 April 2026 you will need to submit a formal written application and ensure that it includes as much as possible from the following:

- Clarification as to which tier (and in the case of the Men’s Rugby Union Premier Tier, which level) the team would be looking to be entered into for 2026-27.
- Confirmation that any tier (and in the case of the Men’s Rugby Union Premier Tier, level) sport specific regulations will be met.
- Evidence of overall squad numbers, across all teams, showcasing an ability to fulfil fixtures in consideration of potential injuries, unavailability or known player graduation.
- Demonstration of individual player standards – listing squad members with relevant playing experience. For example: County, professional club academy, NGB performance pathway. This should be across all squad members and should include anticipated graduation dates of players.
- Presence of a long-term recruitment plan, evidencing an ongoing influx of players at an appropriate performance standard.
- Creation of a development plan in conjunction with the relevant NGB to evidence the sustainability of the performance standard.
- If partnered with a Professional Club/Academy, written support from the partner should be provided along with confirmation of player release for BUCS fixtures. Such partnership should be confirmed in writing for a period of at least two seasons.
- Consideration of the welfare implication on players that play for both a BUCS team and a Club/Academy team.
- For existing teams: Evidence of severe performance imbalances and related safety concerns in current season and/or explanation as to why this would be expected to be a concern (or greater concern) in 2026-27.

By Friday 24 April 2026 you will need to provide evidence of fixtures played against at least two teams of an equivalent level to those within the tier (and in the case of the Men’s Rugby Union Premier Tier, of an equivalent level) the team is wishing to enter:

- Please get in contact with the BUCS Competitions Team who along with our NGB contacts will look to assist with facilitating these ‘seeding’ fixtures.
- As the BUCS teams of this level may not be able to play these fixtures, such fixtures do not need to be against student teams and the opposition can be non-BUCS teams of a similar required standard.
- Video footage of these matches should be provided, however BUCS and/or the NGB may also send a representative to observe one or more of these fixtures.
- All fixture costs are to be covered by the institution submitting the application.

The application will be reviewed by the BUCS Competitions Team and the relevant BUCS Sport Advisory Group (SAG) and National Governing Body (NGB). If a submission is received before the deadline, the BUCS Panel will attempt to review this prior to the deadline closing in case institutions are required to submit additional requested information. Following the BUCS Panel convening, they may, at their discretion, request further information from an institution prior to the application being reviewed by the relevant BUCS SAG and NGB.

If the BUCS Competitions Team and the relevant BUCS SAG and NGB all agree that the application should move ahead, then it will be referred to an Independent Assessment Panel (IAP). All evidence submitted will be shared with the Panel and their decision will be final.

Should the application be accepted the BUCS Executive will then complete an impact assessment (travel time, finances, resource, and league size) with the teams in the league affected to determine the structure of the league for the following season. For example, this could include additional fixtures, or an additional relegation based on the outcome of the assessment.

The intention is that SAG(s) will meet between 4 May – 8 May 2026 and subsequently an IAP, if required, will meet between 11 May – 15 May 2026.