

2021/2022 Tournament Structure for BUCS Korfball



This year there fewer entries than usual into BUCS Korfball, probably due to the pandemic hitting clubs last season in terms of numbers. As such we have had to make some changes to the normal tournament structure.

Whereas normally we have eight prelims, this year we only have seven. The top 5 (or 6 if the Scottish Prelim as that had the most teams) from each tournament will qualify for Regionals. There are 4 regionals, each with nine teams rather than the usual ten.

In order to avoid any byes, the structure of these regionals are different to normal. Rather than two groups, followed by playoffs between the groups (eg, 1st of Group A plays 2nd of Group B), we are following a 'Knockout Round Robin' Format, with three groups of three). Depending on a team's position in that group, they will enter a second group of three to play for their final position. For example, if a team finishes second in their group of three, they will play in a group with the other two twos who finished second in their group, for positions 4-6). Head to head record will take precedence over goal difference if any groups are tied for points.

Top 4 1st teams from each regionals will qualify for National Championships, the next four teams (not necessarily 1st teams) will qualify for National Trophy, and the last placed team will go to BUCS Plate (which BUCS are rebranding BUCS Shield).

Whereas normally it is possible to tell which Regional competition a team would be competing in based on which Prelim they attended, this year that is not possible due to an odd number of prelims so we can't simply pair them up. Therefore, teams will be assigned to a Regional competition once it is known which teams have qualified. We shall try to minimise travelling distances for clubs when making these assignments, while also avoiding splitting up teams from the same club (eg, we won't send Birmingham 2s to a different Regional to Birmingham 1s). One positive of this change is clubs may find themselves competing against teams they haven't played before!

The teams that don't qualify for Regionals from the Prelims will attend either a Northern or a Southern Qualifier. There will be 8 teams at each, assigned based on location. The top 6 from each qualifier will also qualify for BUCS Plate, and the higher the team finishes the better their group seeding will be for Plate.

The National competitions (Plate, Trophy and Championships) will all be the same structure as normal, four groups of four followed by a knockout format.