

BUCS PADEL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025-27 BID INFORMATION

STATUS

BUCS are seeking the introduction of Padel into its delivery programme as a distinct discipline of our current Tennis Programme. Initially, BUCS are seeking to create a standalone Padel Championships, delivered across one weekend in a central venue format.

Padel is one of the fastest growing sports globally, combining elements of tennis and squash in a dynamic, doubles-only format. Originating in Mexico in the 1960s, the sport has gained significant popularity across Europe in recent years, with the UK seeing a surge in interest which is now gaining traction within the Higher Education sector.

Current Member Engagement

While only four institutions currently have padel courts on campus, this number is steadily increasing as demand grows. Despite limited access to facilities, at least 32 universities have active padel clubs or societies, showing the demand for the sport among students. Padel was featured at the 2025 BUCS Big Wednesday as a showcase between Nottingham and Loughborough University to highlight the attractiveness of the sport amongst students and the enthusiasm of those who already participate within it.

Outside BUCS, several thriving student padel competitions already exist, including regional league structures with fixtures leading to a National Finals Day, plus a National University Championships that gives students the opportunity to compete for national titles in both Men's, Women's and Mixed competitions. Last season, 143 students from 37 teams competed in the UK Padel hosted [University Championships](#), and [the National Universities Padel League \(NUPL\)](#), supported by UK Padel, has seen a 100% increase in institutions competing (10 in 2024-25, 20 in 2025-26).

As padel continues to grow, there is clear momentum across the university sector to expand participation opportunities and to formalise competition pathways within BUCS.

As this would be a new offer for BUCS, we are keen to ensure our competitive programme is inclusive to all, it is imperative that our chosen partner provides a competition opportunity that is appropriate and enjoyable for all, taking into consideration the infrastructure for people with a disability.

BUCS is seeking partners to manage and deliver the BUCS Padel. This tender is for the next two seasons, 2024-25 and 2025-26, with an option to review at the end of the first season.

A preferred hosting window for each event has been outlined below. The dates must be compatible with the academic year and the other events within the programme. **NB. BUCS Events are typically held on weekends.**

Championship	Preferred Dates
Padel Championships	Term 2: 26 Jan – 29 March <i>Potentially Term 3: 13 April – 24 May</i>

FORMAT

The Padel Championship must follow the formats detailed below, and within the [LTA Competition Regulations](#).

Event Organisers are expected to:

- Deliver a fair and safe event in line with BUCS Rules & Regulations and [LTA Competition Regulations](#).
- Ensure the competition is Sanctioned via the LTA.
- Appoint an LTA licenced official for the event.
- Run the competition through the LTA Competition Management System,
- Provide an entry fee that represents value for money for students.
- Consider an appropriate geographical location of the event for BUCS members.
- Have the capacity to host the number of competitors detailed below.

For more information on the host venue responsibilities, including specific facility requirements, please refer to the **Bid Questionnaire**.

Successful bids will receive the following from BUCS:

- A dedicated BUCS staff member who acts as a key contact for the Championships.
- An online entry system for the Championships (BUCS Play).
- Media & Marketing:
 - Pre & Post Event Email to competitors.
 - Promotion of the event to Institutions via email marketing.
 - Promotion of the event on BUCS social media channels.
- Event Branding.
- Medals.

COMPETITOR NUMBERS

While BUCS have not delivered a Padel Championships before, some independent providers have delivered competitions for Higher Education students in the same structure as our proposed weekend format, with their entry numbers listed below.

	2024-25
UK Padel: University Championships	143 Students. 37 Teams.

TIMETABLE

Bid Questionnaires are now available to complete.

Wednesday 17 December	Questionnaire available to complete.
Friday 23 January	Deadline for submission of Bid Questionnaire.
W/C 26 January	Host venues announced

CONTACT

If you have any questions or queries in relation to the bidding process, then please contact [Neal Kington](#) (Head of Competitions) and [Sophie Kitson](#) (Tennis Programme Coordinator).