



HANDBALL SPORT REVIEW PROPOSAL

PREPARED BY ENGLAND HANDBALL | 21 JANUARY 2019

CYCLE ONE

SUMMARY

England Handball's involvement in this Sport Review process is seen as a huge positive step, building on the numerous years of partnership working with BUCS across many different strands of development work.

This proposal was originally meant to build on our initial plan that was submitted to BUCS for membership feedback some months ago. We were generally very pleased with the feedback our initial plans received with over 75% of institutions supporting our proposal for BUCS to recognise our existing competition structure.

However, after having received feedback presented at the Sport Review Implementation Day and individual meetings with BUCS to discuss best practice models we have amended our proposal to provide what we now believe to be a suitable outlet for the differing levels of competition and the feedback from students and university teams taken over the course of the last season. Which will help cement and grow the future university competition and Handball participation as a whole.

This will involve two changes to the structure of England Handball competition.

- Splitting the current competition offer into two distinct parts;
 - 1) England Handball led - Recreational Tournaments
 - 2) BUCS led – National Championships; from 2020/21

As the proposed new competition structure, moving from a national competition with regional qualifiers to a 3-day one-off National Championships event, is untested this proposal will be focused on an implementation timeline aligned to the 2020/21 season, rather than the upcoming 2019/20 season.

During the 2019/20 season, England Handball will retain full ownership of the HE Handball competition framework, and will deliver the proposed 3-day one-off National Championships event. This will allow the new structure to be fully tested, and all associated resourcing realised. BUCS requires that any new event or new sport entering its programme has the capacity to be self-sufficient, including covering all additional staffing resource required to subsume ownership of a programme. Therefore, by delivering the programme as proposed, England Handball will have an opportunity to adequately demonstrate the competition's feasibility to BUCS.

If supported during the membership consultation in January/February 2019 and the programme is successfully delivered by England Handball in the 2019/20 season (assessed by the presentation of supporting evidence demonstrating both feasibility and sustainability), BUCS will adopt the delivery of BUCS Handball in the 2020/21 season.

INTRODUCTION

As Handball participation has increased since 2010, the university club structure has developed rapidly. Since 2016 there has been a small decrease in numbers competing, due to a change in rules and regulations of the competition, which implemented stricter restrictions on eligibility; similar to those applied by BUCS. Previously, multiple university teams were able to create combined teams. This has now been stopped.

Traditionally, the growth of Handball with HE can be attributed to establishment of university club by international students; either as social or competition-focused clubs. The demographic of Handball still attracts multi-national participants; however, the club structure and related requirements for social and competitive teams are now quite different, attracting different types of student-athletes.

International students still make up a high percentage of the type 4/5 student-athletes who want to play a high level of Handball, with British students (often new to the sport within HE) tending to align more closely with Type 1-3 student-athletes.

Over the years, clubs have become more sustainable and the age demographic of Handball in the UK has shifted to a younger age group. Since 2015, England Handball has launched various age-group specific national programmes, including U19 (2015), U16 (2017) U14 (2017) leagues. We are now seeing established groups of youth players move into university with Handball as their first choice/major sport. There are a number of Regional Academy and DiSE athletes from England Handball playing at university level where previously, from 2010 to 2015, there were none. This has led to an overall increase in the number of Type 4 and 5 student-athletes.

University Competition

The British University Handball Competition has been running for 9 years. The competition was previously lead by a student body The Association of British University Handball Clubs (ABUHC) from 2010 to 2015. From 2016 England Handball has taken over the delivery of the University Championships.

During that time, the competitive opportunities for students have grown from:

- Two regional rounds (North + South) with a national final in 2014/15

To

- Six regional rounds (Two competitions in each of the 3 regions) and a national final in 2017/18.

The majority of teams competing are from English institutions. Teams from Wales and Ireland have entered in past competitions and, through our partnership with Scottish Handball, winners of the Scottish competition compete in the National Finals Event.

The cost of entry covers the operational costs of the competition. This includes venue hire, referees, medals and trophies, whilst England Handball staff time is covered through the core staffing costs of the NGB.

University Teams in competition			
2011/12	Men – 19	Women – 7	Total - 26
2016/17	Men – 39	Women - 29	Total - 68
*2018/19	Men - 38	Women - 28	Total – 66

*2018/19 includes teams from Scotland Handball; previous annual figures have not included this. (England Handball: Men 33, Women 23. Scotland Handball: Men 5, Women 5).

2018.19 Competition Structure	
£250 – Entrance Fee per team (covering cost of all competition) England Handball Staff time is not included in this model.	
Round 1 – Regional qualifying 24 th and 25 th November 2018	South – Medway, Gillingham
	Midlands – Birmingham Play Football Arena
	North – Stanney Oaks and Northgate Arena
Round 2 – Regional qualifying 16 th and 17 th February 2019	South – Medway, Gillingham
	Midlands – Wolverhampton
	North - Derby Arena
Round 3 – National Finals 2 nd and 3 rd March 2019	Medway

The current model can incur a large cost on teams, as travel to venues can be quite substantial as well as the requirement for overnight stays on multiple occasions for certain universities; either for regional or national events.

PURPOSE

The university competition has had a number of varying formats since 2016 as the NGB has searched for the perfect structure to accommodate a range of universities playing as well as the aforementioned different university clubs. Prior to the NGB leading the competition the NGB worked closely with the ABUHC offering guidance and support on the delivery of the competition.

The main issues faced by England Handball are consistent with similar indoor sports in the UK.

1 – Travel to opposition

2 – Cost of facilities

3 – Availability of facilities

In the past, England Handball has been wary to allow university teams to enter into the regulated club competition. This is due to issues with term dates and many teams being student-run with poor administration leading to problems within the leagues. However, over the past 3 seasons more universities looking for extra competition have entered into the lowest tier of England Handball – the Regional Leagues.

This has proved to be a positive step, with:

- Midlands regional league being dominated by university teams.
- Loughborough University gaining promotion to the Premier Handball League
- University of Bath consistently having 3 teams in the South West Regional League

Furthermore, players from university teams have continued to play once leaving university, by joining club teams in their new location as evidenced by the number of national transfers through the England Handball membership system with players moving from university teams to club teams.

As per the three main challenges referenced above, where some teams have successfully entered into the Regional Leagues, a number of teams have entered then struggled due to the costs, travel and administrative burden placed on teams.

Over the past 3 years, a number of institutions have entered and subsequently dropped out of the Regional League format.

We believe this is due to the heavy administrative burden of:

1. Player registrations
2. International Transfer Requirements
3. Multiple long distance trips to compete in the Regional League
4. Venue booking/cost and administration requirements

With teams moving into new areas of competition it is imperative that the right level of competition is provided for the right student-athlete type hence, for the 2019/20 season, England Handball will be introducing regional recreational tournaments.

In essence, England Handball aims to provide three outlets for university teams:

- Recreational Tournaments
- BUCS University Championships
- England Handball Regional, National and Premier Handball League

England Handball is focusing on having the right product for the student-athlete in an engaging format.. Hence, from 2019/20, the offer for HE institutions will consist of three levels of competition:

- Recreational Tournament – aimed at student-athlete Type 1-3
- University Championships – aimed at student-athlete Type 3-5
 - N.B. Currently there are 15-25 Type 5 student-athletes connected to National Team Activity from GB U20 to Senior National Teams
- Regional Leagues – aimed at student-athlete Type 2-5

This will allow universities to enter into the right level of competition appropriate to their stage of development. More established universities such as Loughborough/Birmingham/Bath will be able to continue to play the majority of their handball in the Regional Leagues they currently play in committing to a full season of fixtures.

Teams with less experience or unsure of numbers will be able to enter into recreational tournaments delivered monthly, thus not needing to commit to a season full of fixtures and associated financial obligations.

England Handball – Recreational Tournaments

This will be aimed at teams who are looking for more competition but unable to commit to a full season for whatever reason (e.g. cost, travel, administration, player registration).

- Structure:

Once a month stand-alone tournament at a centralised venue with an open entry. Teams are only required to pay a tournament fee and turn up and play.

- Objective:

Mainly, to increase the number of teams playing/able to play Handball in the UK.

To provide a suitable outlet for teams to gain experience and match time without any extra burden on themselves. This sort of competition is suitable for teams who are not yet prepared to enter into the regional leagues but looking to play Handball or develop a new team.

- Cost:

£40 - £70 per tournament date (dependent on venue and teams entering)

- Benefits:

Reduction in prohibitive criteria, which will see the removal of:

- Player registrations
- International Transfer Requirements
- Multiple long distance trips to compete in the Regional League
- Registration fees
- Fixed fixtures through the season

Teams will, in essence, be able to enter a local/regional competition hosted at a centralised venue and turn up with any team/players and be able to play.

Financially this will benefit teams in the following way:

The cost would be reduced, as Recreational Tournaments would be more local for teams and the criteria lessened and the experience improved.

Example:

Durham University are travelling to compete in the Regional round of the 2018/19 competition, these take place in:

- *Round 1 - Northgate Arena (Chester) Sat + Sun*
- *Round 2 - Derby Arena (Derby) Sat + Sun*

This involves a 6-hour round trip with an overnight stay on Saturday, combined with bus/coach hire for a total of 90 minutes of handball over the weekend.

Competing in a recreational tournament, they would be able to enter a hosted tournament at Newcastle Handball Club and compete against:

- *Newcastle Handball Club 1st Team*
- *Newcastle Handball Club 2nd Team*
- *Sunderland Handball Club (emerging team)*
- *York Hunters*

This would reduce their travel considerably and remove the requirement for an overnight stay; reducing the cost.

Each team paying £40 comes to £200

Hall Hire @ £40 = 5 Hours of hall time

5 teams = 10-game round robin = 30 min match slots

Durham plays 4 games of 25 min in a 30 min match slot = 100 min of game time on one day. With reduced travel time and removing the need for an overnight stay. There would be no formal registration of teams, who would be able to turn up and play. This would be able to take place on a Saturday afternoon or morning, vastly reducing the competition requirements and making the game more accessible.

This scenario is suitable for a high number of university teams who currently encounter long distances and weekends for a limited amount of game time.

National Championships; delivered by EH in 2019/20 and, if approved, by BUCS from 2020/21

The specific BUCS proposal is targeting Type 3-5 student-athletes. We envisage Type 1-2 student-athletes taking up the recreational league tournaments offer above.

Consultation with the teams engaged in the current university competition indicates that the current National Finals event is a big attraction for student-athletes. They enjoy playing in a large competition with lots of university teams engaged and having an end of season finale/spectacle event. This has proved successful from an England Handball standpoint; with good engagement from all university teams and an opportunity to showcase a large-scale Handball event attracting media attention.

Structure:

One-off weekend delivered by BUCS consisting of 3 days of competition, with three tiers encompassing National Championship, Trophy and Shield competitions.

The structure of the weekend would likely follow:

- Friday – Initial group stages
- Saturday – Championship, Trophy and Shield groups
- Sunday – Knockouts, finals and placement matches

- Objective:

To create an end of season/year spectacle and provide the opportunity for a strictly University vs. University competition, which is something student-athletes see value in. Despite needing to provide more suitable outlets for competition, it is clear that student-athletes want a National Champion and a National Competition and want all university teams to be included.

The Plate and Shield competitions were removed in 2016/17. This was met with disapproval as teams wanted to travel together to play in their respective competitions and have a better atmosphere with clubs supporting each other. These have been reinstated this season and the 2018/19 tournaments will be organised as a large-scale event again.

- Benefits:

Success with the new proposed model in 2019/20, followed by BUCS delivery of the programme from September 2020 would provide greater credibility to the competition for stakeholders and set Handball on an equal playing field with other BUCS competitions.

As a BUCS recognised sport, the student-athletes will benefit from a larger standalone competition with increased credibility across the HE sector; a competition with a clear structure that is more ability-appropriate through a tiered/group structure.

England Handball – Regional, National and Premier Handball League

Teams seeking more competition than the recreational tournaments and stand-alone BUCS competition would be encouraged to enter into the regional league competition.

Structure:

- Bi-weekly
- Home and away format
- October through to May
- Promotion and Relegation Leagues

- Objective:

Provide regular competition to more structured universities and clubs who now have regular teams training and competing. England Handball has previously been reluctant to allow universities into the club structure but believe this could be a major area for development if supported appropriately. This would involve being more flexible with competition time line and fixture allocation.

-Benefits:

A regulated, consistent competition format and league structure that provides promotion and relegation opportunities for teams/clubs looking for regular competition at a high level.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Universities

University teams would see a reduction in cost (32%) to enter the University Championships. Albeit, this would include a decrease in specific university competition dates (66%) from previous years.

That said, university teams would see an increase in overall opportunities to compete in appropriate competition through Recreational Tournaments or ease of access into the regional leagues, followed with a stand-alone competition to crown national champions.

There are significant travel times based on the current location of the University Championships in Medway Kent. However, this is a necessity because of the requirement for a multi-court venue. Other venues such as David Ross Sports Centre in Nottingham and venues in Chester could be considered as options. Extending the competition to run over 3 days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) would improve the playing to travel time ratio for a student-athlete.

There will be a decrease in overall journey time for student-athletes because of the reduction in the number of event weekends over the course of the season. These event weekends previously required teams to:

- Travel extensive distances
- Compete over Saturday and Sunday
- Organise and finance overnight accommodation on multiple occasions

BUCS

If adopted in 2020/21, BUCS would oversee the financial management of the delivery of competition by taking over a direct role in delivering the University Championships, meaning a significant increase in workload to deliver the competition. Specifically, new staffing resource would need to be created to; manage the relationship between BUCS and EH, oversee the operational delivery of the programme, administer entries and process all entry related invoicing and subsume all governance and compliance. However, being a single weekend competition rather than a series of competitions at multiple venues is a difference in potential workload compared to the current model of competition.

BUCS have advised the NGB how much staff time would be required to bring the event in house and deliver the competition, which has been carefully considered by England Handball when devising the budget for the competition. During the 2019/20 season, EH will aim to adequately demonstrate to BUCS that the proposed competition structure and associated costs is feasible enough to warrant adoption by BUCS in 2020/21.

NGB

England Handball currently deliver the university competition. However, staff time is not funded through the competition, at the cost of the NGB. In the event of EH losing Sport England funding in the future, this event would have to be self-funding if England Handball or BUCS delivered it. Therefore, the model needs to change regardless if it is to be sustainable in the long term. If BUCS were to adopt delivery of the competition under a self-funding model, England Handball would have more time to focus on development opportunities and growing the game at a grassroots level, which is the NGB's primary remit and focus from Sport England.

In the University Championships currently there is not an expected increase in participation from teams or new students playing. Having had conversations with BUCS, there is little evidence to show that BUCS affiliation or accreditation produces an instantaneous increase in participation (this comes directly from conversations with BUCS staff over the course of the development of this proposal and reference to other sports figures). There is evidence, however, that the sanctioning of competitions by BUCS does solidify a competition structure, and increases the likeliness of long-term sustainability.

The NGB would see a reduction in the financial cost and work load directly associated with running the University Championships. However, these savings would be used to offset the increase in cost and work load of establishing and supporting recreational tournaments which would benefit university teams.

Were BUCS to adopt the National Championships model for Handball, then England Handball would still continue to provide:

1. Access to qualified referees/officials to officiate at the Championships
2. Contacts for appropriate venues/facilities – Medway has a 3-court venue and there are other venues in the country, which could feasibly host the tournament; notably, University of Nottingham's David Ross, and Army warehouses/sports facilities
3. Support with rules/regulation

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Professional & Workforce Development

Recreational tournaments provide the opportunity to increase referee numbers and experience in these friendly tournaments. Where teams will be required to bring referees along to the fixtures themselves. This provides an excellent opportunity to develop extra workforce.

The National Championships itself will allow refereeing courses to be delivered alongside the competition, allowing referees to be assessed and earn higher-level qualifications. These can be supported and delivered by the EHA.

BUCS volunteering connections and England Handball volunteers and connections with clubs will allow a wider pool of officials, managers to be developed by supporting upcoming events.

Profile & Influence

In order to create the largest profile possible for the University Championships we have decided to push ahead with a large-scale weekend. With the competition spanning over 3 days, this would provide the largest opportunity possible for exposure of the competition gaining potential media attention and providing a spectacle for the event.

Inclusion

The recreational leagues operated by England Handball will provide a suitable outlet for type 1-3 student-athletes to find regular and fulfilling competition. This meets the requirement for both club and university teams who are looking for extra competition without the full requirements of a structured league or administration costs. This provides an outlet for regular Handball activity.

The National Championships operating as a stand-alone event including Championship, Trophy and Shield competitions would provide suitable level of competition for different teams to compete and be involved in the BUCS competition.

Feedback directly from BUCS has been that higher education institutions would not want to be restricted from entering competition and want to be able to enter teams into appropriate competition.

CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT

The following parties have been consulted:

- British Handball
- England Handball
- Scotland Handball
- BUCS
- University feedback group
- University surveys and direct communication with university students

There are no other notable organisations that have not been invited for consultation. The England Handball Association also covers Wales, as there is currently no Welsh NGB. Teams and student-athletes have been consulted during the past two seasons of Handball activity and this has also been taken into consideration with university sport departments from meetings with the England Handball development team.

From these consultations, the NGB is driving the current change in strategy in order to provide the best possible outcome for the varying student-athlete types and to grow the game.

WIDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The adoption of this proposal into the BUCS programme would open up the opportunity for a new focus for England Handball, namely recreational tournaments and entry-level competition. We believe this will help drive participation into the game both at club and university level.

Resource, previously solely focused on the University Championships, can be redirected to other areas having a greater wider impact. As mentioned at the start of the document, England Handball will be delivering two competition outlets where by universities can select the most appropriate for themselves to ensure we are providing the right competition at the right level in the right way.

In the 2016/17 season England Handball moved the University Championship rules and regulations to combine with the BUCS general regulations. This was specifically relevant to university students competing in the

competition, the rules prevent teams swapping players or using non-registered university student from other institutions, which prevents students playing for multiple universities.

Match officials can be arranged through the England Handball Referees Association for officiating. For the National Cup, qualified officials can be allocated, while in the National Shield and Plate, referee-training programs can be implemented to increase long-term workforce and support beginner officials.

Volunteers can be supported through Medway Sport and it is envisaged the BUCS network will be able to add additional volunteers where required.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we feel that this proposal links back to and acts upon all of the feedback received during the review process and the initial information we have received from student-athletes and institutions alike. The handball competition is already being delivered, with good numbers of universities and student-athletes engaging with it. However, we feel that the changes outlined in this document are necessary and provide a better competition structure for the relevant student-athlete types from 1-5.

It is clear to us that it is important to have the right competition/delivery model for the right student-athletes. Hence this proposal diversifies the England Handball offer attempting provide appropriate outlets for competition and allowing student-athletes to choose the right competition outlet for themselves.

Becoming part of the BUCS programme would validate the competition and provide a suitable university competition for an identified demand. If the model is proved viable in 2019/20, then BUCS taking over the delivery of the competition would allow England Handball the opportunity to focus on increasing participation, developing its strategy and putting in appropriate resource to make the game more accessible. Therefore, we invite BUCS member institutions to support this proposal and afford England Handball the opportunity to prove the viability of its competition offer to obtain adoption by BUCS in 2020/21.

APPENDIX

Team Entry Lists

2018.19		2017.18		2016.17	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Bangor University	Bangor University	Bangor University	2	Bangor	Nottingham Trent
Bangor University 2	Bath University	Birmingham University	3	Birmingham University	Nottingham 1
Bath University	AECC	Bournemouth	1	Cambridge University	Nottingham 2
Bath University2	Birmingham University	Brighton University	1	Chichester University	Liverpool
Birmingham University	Birmingham University 2	Cambridge University	2	Imperial University	LJMU 1
Birmingham University 2	Cambridge University	Chichester University	2	Lancaster University	LJMU 2
Birmingham University 3	Chichester University	Durham University	1	Liverpool John Moores University	Manchester
Bournemouth	Imperial University	Durham University	1	Liverpool University Handball Club	Lincoln 1
Brighton University	Kent University	Kings College London Handball Club	1	Loughborough Students Handball Club	Lincoln 2
Brunel University	Lancaster University	Lancaster University	1	Middlesex University	UCLAN
Cambridge University	Leeds Beckett University	Leeds Beckett University	2	Nottingham Trent	Sheffield
Chichester University	Liverpool John Moores University	Liverpool John Moores University	2	Durham	Leeds Beckett
Cranfield Wolves Handball Club	Liverpool University Handball Club	Liverpool University Handball Club	1	Oxford University	Uni of Leeds
Durham University	Manchester University	Loughborough Students Handball Club	2	University of Bath Handball Club	Loughborough 1
Imperial University	Middlesex University	Middlesex University	1	University of Kent Handball Club	Loughborough 2
Kent University	Nottingham Trent	Nottingham Trent	1	University of Manchester Handball Club	Huddersfield
Kent University 2	Nottingham University	Nottingham University	2	University of Warwick Handball Club	Lancaster
Kings College London Handball Club	Nottingham University 2	Oxford University	1	Worcester	Bournemouth
Lancaster University	Oxford University	UCLAN	1	Worcester	Chichester
Leeds Beckett University	UCL	UCL	1	25	Leeds Beckett
Liverpool John Moores University	Warwick University	University of Bath Handball Club	2	Warwick	Oxford
Liverpool John Moores University 2	Warwick University 2	University of Kent Handball Club	2	Bath 1	Essex
Liverpool University Handball Club	Worcester University	University of Manchester Handball Club	1	Bath 2	Cambridge
Manchester University	23	University of Warwick Handball Club	2	Bournemouth	Imperial
Middlesex University		Worcester	1	Kings	Kent
Nottingham Trent		37		Chicester	Kent
Nottingham University				Chicester	Cranfield
Nottingham University 2				Oxford	Birmingham 1
Oxford University		Missed Entry (but still want to enter)		Missed Entry (but still want to enter)	Birmingham 2
UCL		Brunel		Brunel	
Warwick University		Essex		Essex	28
Warwick University 2				Bangor	
Worcester University				Bangor	
33				Essex	
				Cambridge	
				Imperial	
				Kent	
				Kent	
				Cranfield	
				Birmingham 1	
				Birmingham 2	
				39	
				Entered and Pulled Out	Entered and Pulled Out
				Man Met 1	Man Met
				Man Met 2	Durham
				Southampton	Brunel
				Westminster	Worcester
				Scottish Teams	Scottish Teams
				Dundee	Dundee
				Strathclyde	

Example of Finals Groups and Schedule

Men's National Cup Groups 2016.17			
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Bangor 1	Birmingham 1	Cranfield	Imperial
Loughborough 1	Bath	Warwick	Manchester
Kings	Strathclyde	Cambridge	Kent 1
Nottingham 1	Lancaster	Nottingham Trent	Durham
Men's National Plate Groups 2016.17			
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Oxford	Middlesex	Chichester	Bath 2
LJMU 1	Huddersfield	Leeds Beckett	Loughborough 2
Bournemouth	Chichester 2	Essex	Brunel
Liverpool	Lincoln	Worcester	LJMU 2
Men's National Shield Groups 2016.17			
Birmingham 2	Kent 2		
Nottingham 2	Bangor 2		
UCLAN	Lincoln 2		
Dundee			

Women's National Cup Groups 2016.17			
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Bath 1	Cambridge	Bournemouth	Loughborough 1
Dundee	Essex	Cranfield	Liverpool
Kent 1	Warwick	Leeds Beckett	Oxford
Nottingham Trent	Nottingham 1	Manchester	Middlesex
Women's National Cup Groups 2016.17			
Group 1	Group 2		
Chichester	Imperial		
Loughborough 2	Kent 2		
Birmingham 2	Birmingham 1		
LJMU	Nottingham 2		
Bath 2	Bangor		

Jenny Morris
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23rd January 2019

Dear Jenny,

Handball – Proposal for BUCS Recognition

I am writing to confirm the support of England Handball for the proposal being put forward to gain recognition for the sport within BUCS.

As I am sure you are aware, the goal of achieving this recognition has been one of our targets for a number of years, certainly since the major increase in profile gained by the sport at the 2012 Olympics.

For a number of years, England Handball has supported delivery of the British Universities Championship initially through its work with the Association of British University Handball Clubs (ABUHC). In the last couple of years, this delivery has been brought in house in order to provide more focused support. This has also allowed us to carry out consultation with universities and players to help guide future delivery of the competition.

Receiving BUCS recognition would be a tremendous boost for the sport in a sector where we have seen huge growth over the past six years. With a large number of overseas students studying at British Universities, many will be from larger handball playing nations and this competition will provide an outlet for them to play their sport. It also offers alternative competitive opportunities for new British players and those transferring from other sports.

In addition it will cement our approach to engaging with the HE sector to not only provide participation opportunities but also to develop a future handball workforce.

On behalf of myself and the board of England Handball, I fully endorse this proposal and hope that we can work with BUCS to continue the growth of our sport.

Yours sincerely,



David Meli
Chief Executive
England Handball

