

2025-26 BUCS AMERICAN FOOTBALL SAG - MEETING 4- MINUTES

Date 18/05/2026
Time 16:00
Location Google Meets

ATTENDEES

Tonye Dokubo
 Sam Johnson
 Chris Winrow
 Peter Laird
 Amanda Mcdonald
 Dan Maher

ORGANISATION

BUCS
 UCL
 BUCS Consultant
 Edinburgh Napier
 BAFA
 UWE

APOLOGIES

Matthew Kellam
 Dion Karl Duke
 Danylo Blackburn

ORGANISATION

UCLAN
 ARU
 UoN

Item	Action
<p>1. Apologies / Welcome</p> <p>Welcomed all to AF SAG 2025-26 Meeting 4</p> <p>Apologies were received from Matt Kellam, Danylo Blackburn and Dion Karl Duke</p>	CW
<p>2. Minutes and Matter arising from Meeting 3</p> <p>Rules and Regulations Review</p> <p>Suggestions for amendments to the rules and regulations were received from the SAG group, with additional recommendations proposed by Tonye. These changes are due to be discussed within the National Communications Group, with meetings scheduled for 2 June and 14 July.</p> <p>No further updates at this stage.</p> <p>Action Point: Nil.</p> <p>Playing Rules Update - Helmets</p> <p>Updated wording regarding helmet regulations has been agreed following discussions with SAG and Amanda from British American Football Association.</p> <p>It was confirmed that, from 2027 onwards, helmets that are 10 years or older from their manufacturing date will no longer be legal for competition use. It was noted that the Rawlings Impulse helmet remains popular across British American football, and many teams currently hold stock that will reach the 10-year limit this year.</p>	CW/TD

However, some helmets carry safety certification stickers valid until 2027. These helmets will continue to be permitted until the expiry of that certification.

Action Point: Nil.

3. Group Membership and Vacancies

Current group membership was confirmed. It was noted that student representative positions must be filled by active students. These roles were previously advertised at the beginning of the season, but no expressions of interest were received.

Action Point: BUCS to re-advertise the SAG Student Representative rol

CW

4. Other Rules/Reg Updates

Tie-Breaker Rule Amendments

Tonye outlined proposed amendments to the current tie-breaker regulations. Under the existing process, if teams remain tied after points conceded, the final deciding factor is a coin toss. This situation occurred during the current season and was felt not to accurately reflect team merit or performance.

Tonye proposed adding additional stages before a coin toss is required, specifically:

- Away fixture points record
- Number of player ejections
- Coin toss as the final decision maker

DM noted concerns around using player ejections as a deciding factor, as these incidents may not always reflect overall team performance and can result from individual actions outside the control of the wider team.

Alternative options were discussed amongst SAG members, including points scored. However, it was noted that discussions with British American Football Referees Association highlighted concerns that this could encourage teams to excessively increase score margins, conflicting with the spirit of the mercy rule and running clock procedures.

Tonye additionally suggested introducing a further criterion before ejections and coin toss, based on coach engagement in development initiatives and overall club ratings. SAG members were supportive of this proposal.

TD

Action Point: Tonye to review and draft updated wording with the Governance Team.

Three-Team Tie-Breaker Adjustments

Further amendments were proposed regarding three-team tie-breaker scenarios. A near occurrence this season involving the University of Nottingham highlighted limitations within the current regulations.

The proposed amendment would create a “mini-league” process amongst the three tied teams. The lowest-ranked team within that process would first be eliminated and placed third, after which the tie-breaker procedure would restart as a head-to-head comparison between the remaining two teams.

SAG members agreed with the proposal.

Ball Person Regulation

An amendment was proposed regarding responsibility for providing a ball person at fixtures. The suggestion was to make this the responsibility of the home team.

<p>DM noted that some away teams may still prefer to provide their own ball person. SAG members agreed that flexibility should remain within the regulation to allow this where desired.</p> <p>Action Point: Tonye to review and update the wording of the regulation accordingly.</p>	
<p>5. Season Review</p> <p>The group agreed that the finals and playoff stages were successful overall. BUCS Touchdown Tuesday was highlighted as a success, alongside the completion of three successful flag football gamedays.</p> <p>It was also noted that flag football is expected to be formally added to the BUCS sports programme next year.</p> <p>One issue identified this season was the scheduling of Tier 2 finals on Easter Sunday, which resulted in one final being delayed until 9 May. This was likely due to Easter commitments and player availability outside of football activities.</p> <p>The group agreed that this should be considered in future scheduling discussions where possible.</p>	CW/TD
<p>6. NGB Updates</p> <p>The British American Football Association season is now underway across all formats, with planning currently progressing for finals and playoff events.</p> <p>It was noted that the U16 Finals and Flag Finals are planned to take place in stadiums or stadium-style venues this year, with the aim of improving the quality and presentation of finals events within the sport.</p> <p>The national programme is continuing as planned, with no major updates to report.</p> <p>Upcoming events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAFA AGM • BAFCA Convention 	AM
<p>7. 7. Any Other Business (AOB)</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Action Point:</p>	SAG

Dates and times of meetings for 2025-26 season.

Meeting 1 – 03/11/2025 16:00

Meeting 2 – 15/12/2025 16:00

Meeting 3 – 09/02/2026 16:00

Meeting 4 – 18/05/2026 16:00