

BUCS GENERAL REGULATIONS - SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR 2019-20 (VERSION 1)

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SUMMARY

An extensive review of the BUCS General Rules and Regulations has taken place ahead of the 2019-20 season, resulting in a reordering and renumbering of a significant number of regulations. The primary aim of this exercise has been to provide a more logical ordering of the regulations and to reduce the need to jump between different sections of the regulations for related matters.

This document therefore is not a record of all changes, but details the most significant changes that institutions/Playing Entities should be aware of.

Sport	Regulation Number	Previous Regulation	New Regulation	Reason for Change
General	REG 1.3	<p>REG 1.3 A breach of any BUCS regulations shall render the defaulting University liable to forfeit its place in the Championship in question.</p>	<p>REG 1.3 A breach of any BUCS general or sport specific regulations shall render the institution at fault liable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any specific sanction outlined in the specific regulation. - The match appeal process of REG 16 and any sanctions as a result of this. - The disciplinary process of REG 5 and any sanctions as a result of this. 	<p>Since this regulation was first written, there are more specific sanctions for certain regulation breaches. Alongside this, any other breaches would have a sanction decided by an Appeal or Disciplinary Panel.</p>
General	REG 2.7	<p>REG 2.4 Member guidelines for participation Any institution which applies for membership of the company in order to participate in BUCS' domestic sports programmes must comply with the following:</p> <p>REG 2.4.1 Demonstrate that they have access to suitable facilities for the competitions which they have entered, where they need to host fixtures.</p> <p>REG 2.4.2 Have a central point of contact for BUCS to contact and with whom fixture arrangements can be discussed.</p> <p>REG 2.4.2.1 The central point of contact is to be available daily, Monday to Friday, between the hours of 10:00 and 16.00.</p>	<p>REG 2.7 Member guidelines for participation In order to be allowed to begin or continue participating in BUCS' domestic sports programmes a Member must comply with the following:</p> <p>REG 2.7.1 Have access to suitable facilities for competitions which they have entered which require them to host fixtures. (Note REG 8).</p> <p>REG 2.7.2 Have at least one staff member assigned as a central point of contact for BUCS and other institutions, with whom the institution's participation in BUCS programmes can be discussed. Any central point(s) of contact must be registered as an Institution Administrator (IA) on BUCS Play and would be acknowledged by BUCS as responsible for all competition matters relating to the institution, for example fixture administration or submission of entries. BUCS cannot be held responsible where an institution has failed to keep their details up to date.</p> <p>REG 2.7.2.1 During fixture weeks, the central point(s) of contact must be available daily, Monday to Friday, between the hours of 10:00 and 16.00.</p> <p>REG 2.7.2.2 Where the regular central point(s) of contact will not be available for an extended period,</p>	<p>For clarity as to who the central point of contact is, that they should be registered on the BUCS Competition Management Platform, and that they are the recognised representative of their institution by BUCS for all competition matters.</p> <p>Also clarifying that captains are required for all teams on the BUCS Competition Management Platform, but can be the IA.</p>

			<p>then they must ensure that alternative arrangements are made to cover these responsibilities. For example: Setting an Automatic Reply (Out of Office) on their e-mail account advising who to direct queries to, or, requesting to BUCS that a colleague is set up as an IA on BUCS Play.</p> <p>REG 2.7.3 Assign a captain to each team on BUCS Play entered in the Team Championships (Leagues/Knockouts) who will assist any IAs with fixture administration. Note: This can be an IA and can be the same individual for multiple teams.</p>	
General	REG 4.2.2.2	<p>REG 6.2.2.2 Suspension of studies is not classed as satisfactorily finishing a course of study. Any student who has their studies suspended must wait until their studies recommence to compete again, so long as they still meet the requirements of REG 6.1</p>	<p>REG 4.2.2.2 Suspension of studies is not classed as satisfactorily finishing a course of study. Any student who has their studies suspended must wait until their studies recommence and they meet the requirements of REG 4.1 to compete again. (Note REG 4.2.5 for an exception to this).</p> <p>REG 4.2.5 Any student who has their studies suspended on medical grounds during the season, but still meets all other requirements of REG 4.1, shall be eligible to participate until the end of the season. BUCS may request evidence of suspension of studies on medical grounds in order to ascertain the eligibility of an individual to compete. Such evidence will be treated confidentially. Any costs associated with obtaining such information cannot be covered by BUCS.</p>	<p>The purpose of this amendment is to allow for student-athletes who are suffering from mental health issues the opportunities to continue with engaging in sporting opportunities provided by BUCS.</p> <p>The consequences of mental health issues can range quite drastically with student-athletes often taking involuntary or voluntary academic suspension to address these issues. However, by doing so, they currently become ineligible to compete within the BUCS and reduce their opportunities to engage in sport and physical activity. It is widely recognised and accepted that there are positive impacts on mental health and wellbeing through participation in sport and physical activity.</p>

				This has been adopted by Scottish Student Sport as a regulation for their own competitions/events.
General	REG 8.3.1	<p>REG 5.3.1 Team eligibility per Tier Unless stated otherwise in the sport specific regulations, the following allowance of teams per institution, per tier, per gender, of a particular sport are permitted:</p> <p>REG 5.3.1.1 National League, Premier League and Championship – 1 team per institution unless separate campuses of an institution have previously elected to be regarded as standalone BUCS Playing Entities.</p> <p>REG 5.3.1.2 Tier 1 and below (with the exception of the lowest tier) – maximum of 2 teams per institution, regardless of playing conference, unless separate campuses of an institution have previously elected to be regarded as standalone BUCS Playing Entities.</p> <p>REG 5.3.1.3 Lowest Tier – maximum of 3 teams or 50% of the total teams in a league per institution, whichever is fewer. This applies regardless of playing conference, unless separate campuses of an institution have previously elected to be regarded as standalone BUCS Playing Entities.</p> <p>REG 5.3.1.3.1 The lowest tier restriction outlined in REG 5.3.1.3 is applicable at the point of league finalisation. Should teams withdraw after league finalisation, any teams remaining in the competition which are now in breach of REG 5.3.1.3 shall be permitted to remain for that season only.</p>	<p>REG 8.3.1 Team eligibility per Tier Unless stated otherwise in the relevant BUCS sport specific regulations, the following allowance of teams per Playing Entity, per gender, of a particular sport are permitted:</p> <p>REG 8.3.1.1 Premier Tier – the maximum number of teams in the tier will be that of the number of levels available. So, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If there is a National league, North/South 1 leagues and North/South 2 leagues in the Premier Tier, then a Playing Entity may have a maximum of three teams in the Tier - If there is a National league and North/South leagues in the Premier Tier, then a Playing Entity may have a maximum of two teams in the Tier - If there are North/South 1 and North/South 2 leagues in the Premier Tier, then a Playing Entity may have a maximum of two teams in the Tier - If there is only North/South leagues, then a Playing Entity may have a maximum of one team in the Tier <p>However, with the above limits, Playing Entities are restricted to having only one team in the top level league, and a maximum of two teams in any lower level Premier Tier league. So, for example, in Men's Rugby Union, it would be possible for a Playing Entity to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One team in the National league, one in North 1, and one in North 2, or; - One team in the National league, two in North 1, and no team in North 2, or; - No team in the National league, two in North 1, 	<p>With the increase in multi-level Premier Tiers, the rule that allows institutions to have only 1 team per league (which has remained since BUCS only had single level Premier Tiers) means a high risk of knock-on relegations, particularly if an institution's top team is relegated. This can then force down each team of theirs in up to 2 levels below (potentially further). This can have a negative impact on a number of other institutions then facing teams that may have gone down solely on a knock-on effect, even if they had perhaps just missed out on winning their own league. It is also hoped that this will alleviate some of the challenges with production of the playoff draws.</p> <p>As per the previous rule and single level Premier Tier system of BUCS, this still stops institutions from having more than 1 team in the pinnacle league of each sport. The limit of two teams per lower level Premier Tier leagues has been selected in line with that of Tier 1 to stop an institution being in</p>

			<p>and one in North 2, or; - No team in the National league, one in North 1, and two in North 2.</p> <p>REG 8.3.1.2 Tier 1 and below (with the exception of the lowest tier) – maximum of two teams per tier, regardless of playing conference.</p> <p>REG 8.3.1.3 Lowest Tier – maximum of three teams or 50% of the total teams in a league per institution, whichever is fewer, regardless of playing conference.</p> <p>REG 8.3.1.3.1 The lowest tier restriction outlined in REG 8.3.1.3 is applicable at the point of league finalisation. Should teams withdraw after league finalisation, any teams remaining in the competition which are now in breach of REG 8.3.1.3 shall be permitted to remain for that season only.</p> <p>REG 8.3.1.3.2 Where a Playing Entity has entered more teams than REG 8.3.1.3 would allow to be accepted in to the competition, they can make a request for an exemption to the regulation to the BUCS Executive. Any request would need to be supported by the other Playing Entities in the league(s) affected, and, if approved by the BUCS Executive, the team would not be eligible to earn any BUCS Points based on their final league position.</p>	<p>the position of 'taking over' any league.</p> <p>It is also intended that this will better balance/match teams in Premier Tiers, who have previously been stopped from being promoted despite winning a league with a noticeable margin over their peers.</p> <p>This will come into effect for the 2019-20 season, thus impacting promotion and relegation from 2019-20 to 2020-21.</p> <p>REG 13.3 shall also be updated accordingly to align with this, as part of a wider tidying up of playoff regulations.</p>
General	REG 8.3.2/REG 8.3.3	<p>REG 5.3.2 League sizes The maximum number of teams in any 1 Lowest Tier league can be 10. If entries increase to the point that there are more than 10 teams to fit in the bottom Tier league, the league will be split. The existing league will maintain 6 teams and the remaining teams will form a new lower tier league (up to a maximum of 10). For example, in a Conference which only goes as low as Tier 1, where there would be 11 teams in Tier 1, the top</p>	<p>REG 8.3.2 League sizes Unless stated otherwise in the relevant BUCS sport specific regulations or Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information'), the following league size restrictions shall apply:</p> <p>REG 8.3.2.1 For leagues above the lowest tier, the league size will typically be six teams.</p> <p>REG 8.3.2.2 The minimum number of teams in any</p>	<p>Removal of random draw to determine which teams populate a new lowest tier when required. To come in to effect for 2020-21 league construction.</p>

		<p>6 teams will remain in Tier 1A, and the remaining teams will form Tier 2A. This does not apply to American Football, Cricket (both Indoor and Outdoor), Equestrian, Gaelic Football, Korfbal, Swimming (Team) or Ultimate. The minimum number of teams in any league will be 4.</p> <p>REG 5.3.3 New teams Should sufficient new entries be received to require the creation of an additional tier of competition, a random draw shall be conducted by the BUCS office to establish into which tier of competition (previous or new lowest) teams will be placed. All new teams will be placed in the lowest tier.</p>	<p>league will be four.</p> <p>REG 8.3.2.3 The maximum number of teams in any one lowest tier league can be 10. If entries increase to the point that there are more than 10 teams to fit in a bottom Tier league, the league will be split. The existing league will maintain six teams and the remaining teams will either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where the maximum number of leagues in that tier has not been met, form an additional league in that tier alongside the existing league, or; - Form a new lower tier league (up to a maximum of 10). For example, in a Conference which only goes as low as Tier 1, where there would be 11 teams in Tier 1, the top six teams will remain in Tier 1A, and the remaining teams will form Tier 2A. <p>REG 8.3.2.3.1 Where creation of a new lower tier is required, teams previously entered will be ranked based on their league finishing position in the previous season, with the higher ranked teams maintaining their place and the lower ranked teams joining any new teams in the new lower tier.</p> <p>REG 8.3.3 New teams All new teams will be placed in the lowest tier.</p> <p>REG 8.3.3.1 Although, as per REG 8.3.3, new teams should expect to be entered in to the lowest tier of the competition structure, as an organisation BUCS acknowledges the potential safety issues when severe performance imbalances occur and cause potential risks to the safety of players. Therefore new teams within recognised 'collision sports' (American Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union) can apply to BUCS for special dispensation to enter the competition structure at a higher level league by submitting a written case evidencing the reasons why the request should be considered. Upon</p>	
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			request, the set of criteria upon which the written request should be based will be provided by BUCS. All requests must be received prior to the annual league entry deadline each year.	
General	REG 8.3.4/REG 8.3.8	<p>REG 10.11.7 To avoid fines listed in REG 10.11, institutions are encouraged to complete the team withdrawal process via BUCScore as well as contacting all other teams in the league, and any knockout opposition if applicable, to inform them of this withdrawal. Please note REG 10.11.7.1.</p> <p>REG 10.11.7.1 Teams withdrawing from competition If 1 third or more of scheduled fixtures, as they were originally scheduled by the BUCS office, have passed, a team will not be permitted to withdraw from the competition. Any subsequent fixtures will be deemed as walkovers and the results logged prior to their withdrawal will remain. Please note the penalties incurred for multiple walkovers, dependent on tier of competition in REG 10.11.3 – REG 10.11.5.</p> <p>REG 10.11.7.1.1 An exception to this is when, as per REG 10.7.1, a league or knockout competition has been agreed to be hosted in a central venue round robin format. In this case, a team can withdraw at any time prior to 10 working days before the first agreed fixture date for the competition. Once this deadline passes, teams cannot withdraw.</p> <p>REG 13.2 Promotion and relegation details can be found in Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information').</p> <p>REG 13.2.1 Elective relegation In all tiers of competition, institutions electing to relegate teams for whatever reason (having completed some fixtures) will be required to withdraw the</p>	<p>REG 8.3.4 Withdrawal of teams Institutions wishing to withdraw a team once team entries for the season are closed are required to e-mail appsupport@bucs.org.uk with this request, as well as where applicable contacting all other teams in the league and any knockout opposition, to inform them of this withdrawal.</p> <p>REG 8.3.4.1 If one third or more of scheduled fixtures, as they were originally scheduled by the BUCS office, have passed, a team will not be permitted to withdraw from the competition. Any subsequent fixtures will be deemed as walkovers and the results logged prior to their withdrawal will remain. Please note the penalties incurred for multiple walkovers, dependent on tier of competition in REG 10.11.3 – REG 10.11.5.</p> <p>REG 8.3.4.1.1 An exception to this is when, as per REG 10.7.1, a league or knockout competition has been agreed to be hosted in a central venue round robin format. In this case, a team can withdraw at any time prior to 10 working days before the first agreed fixture date for the competition. Once this deadline passes, teams cannot withdraw.</p> <p>REG 8.3.4.2 Withdrawal without completing fixtures Teams withdrawing having not completed any fixtures in a season will be removed from the competition structure and treated as a new team (note REG 8.3.3) should they wish to re-enter in future seasons.</p> <p>REG 8.3.4.3 Withdrawal having completed at least 1 fixture Teams withdrawing having</p>	For clarity as to circumstances for withdrawals and the process of requesting elective relegation.

		<p>relevant team(s) and re-enter the competition structure into the appropriate tier or (where leagues are full) be waitlisted to re-enter in the lowest tier. Special consideration will be given in instances where health and safety may be of concern; e.g. Rugby Union. Notification of elective relegation received by the BUCS office post release of fixtures will incur an additional charge equivalent to the original team entry fee (original team entry fee non-refundable) and be subject to the guidelines adopted when requesting late team entries. BUCS reserves the right to take any incidences of team withdrawal/relegation which is deemed as an attempt to manipulate league position to the BUCS Disciplinary Panel for review and possible disciplinary action. (Note REG 10.11.7.1).</p> <p>REG 13.2.2 Withdrawal without completing fixtures Teams withdrawing having not completed any fixtures in a season will be relegated to the lowest applicable tier of competition should they wish to re-enter in future seasons. (Note REG 10.11.7.1).C8</p>	<p>completed at least 1 fixture in a season will be relegated to the tier below should they wish to re-enter the following season. If they do not re-enter the following season, then at any future point they wish to re-enter they will be treated as a new team (note REG 8.3.3).</p> <p>REG 8.3.8 Promotion and relegation</p> <p>REG 8.3.8.1 Promotion and relegation details can be found in Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information'). However, promotion and relegation of a team can be impacted upon by concession of walkovers (note REG 14) and team eligibility per tier (note REG 8.3.1), therefore, to establish if a team is eligible for promotion or relegation, consideration must be given to these regulations.</p> <p>REG 8.3.8.2 Elective non-promotion A team finishing in a position which results in automatic promotion for the following season may not elect to avoid promotion. Only instances of exceptional circumstance would be granted consideration by the BUCS Executive. A team finishing in a position at the conclusion of a league which results in them being required to participate in playoffs may elect to opt out of participation (and therefore promotion) as per REG 8.3.8.5.1.</p> <p>REG 8.3.8.3 Elective relegation A team which has not finished in a position which results in automatic relegation for the following season can request elective relegation to the BUCS Executive. Any request will be required to provide a justification for the request which shall be considered by the BUCS Executive on a case by case basis and approval is not guaranteed. Special consideration will be given in instances where health and safety may</p>	
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			<p>be of concern; e.g. Rugby Union.</p> <p>REG 8.3.8.3.1 BUCS reserves the right to take any incidences of elective relegation deemed as an attempt to manipulate league position to the BUCS Disciplinary Panel for review and possible disciplinary action.</p> <p>REG 8.3.8.3.2 Requests for elective relegation received by the BUCS Executive after leagues and fixtures have been published will incur an administration fee (equivalent to the original team entry fee).</p>	
General	REG 8.3.8.5	<p>REG 13.5 Playoffs Should playoffs for promotion to a National or Premier league be required, the eligible team(s) (note REG 13.3) from the relevant league(s) shall take part in a playoff with the lowest finishing National or Premier league team.</p> <p>REG 13.5.1 Teams may elect to opt out of participating in playoffs by adhering to the guidelines published with playoff information, or face a £500 fine and further disciplinary action.</p> <p>REG 13.5.2 All playoff fixtures must be played in accordance with the requirements of the tier of competition to which teams are seeking promotion, i.e. National or Premier league general and sport specific regulations.</p> <p>...</p> <p>REG 13.5.6 Playoff fixtures that no longer have a bearing on determining promotion/relegation (dead rubbers) do not need to be completed but desire to withdraw from said fixtures must be communicated to the BUCS office and affected teams as soon as possible in advance of the fixture. Sanctions for conceding or late withdrawal may not apply in such instances, if</p>	<p>REG 8.3.8.5 Playoffs Should playoffs for promotion and/or relegation be required as part of a competition structure, the following shall apply:</p> <p>REG 8.3.8.5.1 Teams who at the conclusion of their league may be eligible to participate in playoffs may elect to opt out of any possible involvement. The deadline for communicating to the BUCS Executive the decision to opt out shall be 48 hours after the league deadline date as stated in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines'). Any teams who do not opt out by the required deadline and are then eligible/required to participate in the playoffs shall be scheduled fixtures.</p> <p>REG 8.3.8.5.2 Playoff fixtures that no longer have a bearing on determining promotion and/or relegation (dead rubbers) do not need to be completed but desire to withdraw from said fixtures must be communicated to the BUCS Executive and the affected team(s) as soon as possible in advance of the fixture. Sanctions for conceding may not apply in such instances, if reasonable notice is given. REG 10.12 still applies in that affected teams may claim any costs incurred from the opposition.</p>	<p>More specific deadline(s) set for confirming desire to withdraw from any playoff process to assist both BUCS and institutions with planning for the playoffs.</p>

		reasonable notice is given. REG 10.12 still applies in that affected teams may claim costs incurred from opposition.	REG 8.3.8.5.3 All playoff fixtures must be played in accordance with the requirements of the level of competition to which teams are seeking promotion, for example National league general and sport specific regulations.	
General	REG 8.4.5.4.7/REG 14.6.1	REG 5.4.1.4.6 In the case of Conference Cup, Plate or Bowl matches clashing with a scheduled Conference league fixture, the cup fixture must take precedence and the league fixture must be rearranged by the deadline stated in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts - Dates and Deadlines').	<p>REG 8.4.5.3.5 If an institution has rearranged a league match to the date of a scheduled round of Trophy matches, as per Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts - Dates and Deadlines'), and this results in a clash for either team involved when the fixtures for that round are confirmed, then the knockout fixture must take precedence and the league fixture must be rearranged by the deadline stated in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts - Dates and Deadlines').</p> <p>REG 8.4.5.4.7 If an institution has rearranged a league match to the date of a scheduled round of Conference Cup, Plate or Bowl matches, as per Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts - Dates and Deadlines', and this results in a clash for either team involved when the fixtures for that round are confirmed, then the knockout fixture must take precedence and the league fixture must be rearranged by the deadline stated in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts - Dates and Deadlines').</p>	<p>Contradiction around when fixtures clash in cases of rearranged knockout competition matches. Clarified that this should only be the case when there is a clash from an institution rescheduling a league match on to a designated knockout competition round date. Otherwise, REG 14.6.1 should apply to rearranged knockout competition fixtures.</p> <p>Equivalent regulation applied to Trophy.</p>
General	REG 9.3.3	REG 8.4 Artificial surfaces International Federation approved (certified) artificial pitches are permitted for use in all tiers of competition. If an artificial pitch is to be used with certainty, the home institution must communicate this and any restrictions on footwear, and other equipment, when confirming details with opposition (notice required is dependent on tier of competition and can be found in REG 10.5). If a fixture is scheduled to take place on a grass pitch BUT an International Federation approved (certified) artificial surface is available as an	<p>REG 9.3.3 Playing surfaces All matches should be played on surfaces which meet the requirements of the relevant BUCS sport specific regulations, or where there is no BUCS regulation, in the appropriate rules of the International/National Governing Body of the sport concerned (as identified in the sport specific regulations).</p> <p>REG 9.3.3.1 Artificial pitches International/National Governing Body approved (certified) artificial pitches are permitted for use in all tiers of competition.</p>	<p>For clarity and with the addition that match officials must also be advised of surfaces and any restrictions on footwear.</p>

		<p>alternative should the grass pitch be deemed unplayable, the following shall apply:</p> <p>REG 8.4.1 On the day 'Back up' The home institution must inform the opposition when confirming the fixture in writing that an artificial pitch is available as an alternative. Meaning, if the grass pitch is deemed unplayable on the day, the fixture will be moved to the artificial surface. Travelling teams must be informed of footwear and other equipment restrictions applicable to the artificial surface at this time.</p> <p>REG 8.4.2 Grass unplayable in advance Should the grass pitch THEN be deemed as unplayable in advance of the fixture date the home side must confirm in writing that the match will be played on an artificial pitch. In these circumstances, once the fixture is confirmed as taking place on the artificial pitch it cannot be moved back to a grass pitch.</p>	<p>REG 9.3.3.1.1 If an artificial pitch is to be used with certainty, the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity must communicate this and any restrictions on footwear, and other equipment, when confirming the fixture details with the opposition institution/Playing Entity and all match officials (notice required is dependent on tier of competition and can be found in REG 9.5).</p> <p>REG 9.3.3.1.2 If a fixture is scheduled to take place on a grass pitch BUT an International/National Governing Body approved (certified) artificial surface is available as an alternative should the grass pitch be deemed unplayable; the following shall apply:</p> <p>REG 9.3.3.1.2.1 The first named (home) institution/Playing Entity must inform the opposition institution/Playing Entity and all match officials when confirming the fixture in writing that an artificial pitch is available as an alternative, so that should the grass pitch be deemed unplayable on the day, the fixture will be moved to this artificial surface. The opposition institution/Playing Entity and all match officials must be informed at this time of any restrictions on footwear, and other equipment, applicable to the artificial surface.</p> <p>REG 9.3.3.1.2.2 Should the grass pitch THEN be deemed as unplayable in advance of the fixture date the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity must confirm in writing to the opposition institution/Playing Entity and all match officials that the match will be played on an artificial pitch. In these circumstances, once the fixture is confirmed as taking place on the artificial pitch it cannot be moved back to a grass pitch.</p>	
General	REG 9.3.5.1	REG 10.2 Start time No league or knockout match may start before 13:00 on a weekday (except for Cricket, Golf and Tennis; for those	REG 9.3.5 Start times No league or knockout match may start before 13:00 on a weekday (except for Cricket, Golf and Tennis; for those exceptions	The 'not getting back until after midnight' element of this rule causes issues every season,

		<p>exceptions please see the relevant sport specific regulations) or 10:00 on a weekend, without the written consent of both institutions. Similarly no league match should be scheduled to finish at such a time that an away team would unnecessarily arrive back at their institution after midnight. In cases of dispute, whether a start time is acceptable will be determined by the BUCS office. Start times of knockout matches should broadly adhere to the same principles although it is recognised that travel distances may require overnight accommodation. The BUCS office reserves the right to determine as they see fit the times for any Finals hosted by the BUCS office. Please note REG 10.2.4 for National League, Premier League, Championship and Vase start times.</p>	<p>please see the relevant sport specific regulations) or 10:00 on a weekend, or after 20:00 without the written consent of both institutions/Playing Entities. The BUCS Executive reserves the right to determine as they see fit the times for any Finals hosted by BUCS. Please note REG 9.3.5.1 for Premier Tier, Championship and Vase start times.</p>	<p>with institutions often accusing each other of using it tactically or not giving due consideration as to why their opposition may need to use a 'late' start time. For example: Availability of facilities, officials and/or student-athletes. It is particularly challenging in relation to facilities for institutions when in the latter part of the season there is a heavier amount of knockout fixtures to be scheduled in at shorter notice.</p>
General	REG 9.3.5.1	<p>REG 10.2.4 National League, Premier League, Championship and Vase start times No National League, Premier League, Championship or Vase fixture may start before 11:00 or after 20:00 without the written consent of both institutions.</p>	<p>REG 9.3.5.1 Premier Tier, Championship and Vase start times No Premier Tier, Championship or Vase fixture may start before 11:00 or after 20:00 without the written consent of both institutions/Playing Entities.</p>	<p>To avoid superseding the earlier weekend start time allowed under REG 9.3.4.</p>
General	REG 9.3.6	<p>REG 10.6 The venues and start times of all home matches should be inputted onto BUCScore no later than 1 October annually.</p> <p>REG 10.6.1 Any amendments to start time, kit colours and/or date MUST be agreed with the opposition in writing (email). Once agreed, Athletic Union (or equivalent) representatives MUST update BUCScore immediately.</p> <p>REG 10.6.2 Amendments to venue that do not cause unreasonable impact upon travel arrangements and are communicated more than 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture do not need to be agreed but must be communicated in writing</p>	<p>REG 9.3.6 The start times and venues of all matches should be input on BUCS Play by the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity no less than 14 days before they are scheduled to take place.</p> <p>REG 9.3.6.1 Institutions/Playing Entities are encouraged to add start times and venues on BUCS Play further in advance of fixtures, preferably as soon as they are considered confirmed. Should circumstances change more than 14 days before a fixture is scheduled to take place, then the opposition must accept any change to the time or venue requested via BUCS Play.</p> <p>REG 9.3.6.2 Any amendment to a start time within 14 days of a fixture MUST be agreed in writing by</p>	<p>Stating that all venues and start time should be on the BUCS Competition Management Platform by 1 October is leading to institutions putting in details they are either very likely to need to change, which then requires agreement from the opposition to change as soon as published, or leads to people changing details without agreement and this easily going unnoticed causing issues later down the line. Changing this to 14 days means that</p>

		<p>(email) to the appropriate person before updating BUCScore.</p> <p>REG 10.6.3 In the case of knockout fixtures released/confirmed at the conclusion of a league, or after the first knockout round matches have taken place, the venue and start time should be on BUCScore at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture (regardless of the level of the competition).</p>	<p>both institutions/Playing Entities. Once agreed, BUCS Play must be updated immediately.</p> <p>REG 9.3.6.3 Any amendment to a venue that does not cause unreasonable impact upon travel arrangements and is communicated more than 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture is scheduled to take place does not need to be agreed but must be communicated in writing to the opposition institution/Playing Entity before BUCS Play is updated.</p> <p>REG 9.3.6.4 In the case of knockout competition fixtures released/confirmed at the conclusion of a league, or after the first knockout round matches have taken place, the venue and start time should be on BUCS Play at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture (regardless of the level of the competition).</p>	<p>both home and away institutions have reasonable time to plan facilities/transport and the sub sections still allow for changes in the same way.</p>
General	REG 9.6	<p>REG 10.3 Double headers BUCS will not recognise any matches played as double headers (1 match cannot produce the result for 2 league fixtures or a league and knockout fixture). Teams in Tier 1 and below may request for a double header to be recognised in exceptional circumstances. Such a request must be submitted and approved by the BUCS office in advance of the fixture. Exceptional circumstances may include (but is not exclusive to) bad weather or facility availability due to unusual circumstances. Double headers between teams from the same institution will not be permitted. The last fixture of any league or knockout competition may not be played as a double header.</p>	<p>REG 9.6 Double headers BUCS will not recognise any matches played as double headers (one match cannot produce the result for two league fixtures or a league and knockout competition fixture), with the exception of REG 9.6.1.</p> <p>REG 9.6.1 Teams in Tier 1 and below may request for a double header to be recognised in exceptional circumstances. Such a request must be submitted and approved by the BUCS Executive in advance of the fixture. Exceptional circumstances may include (but is not exclusive to) bad weather or facility availability due to unusual circumstances. Double headers between teams from the same institution/Playing Entity will not be permitted. The last league fixture for either team may not be played as a double header.</p>	<p>To add more clarity as to the restrictions.</p> <p>Consider for 2020-21 - do we allow 2 league fixtures, or just 1 league fixture and 1 knockout competition fixture?</p>
General	REG 10.5	<p>REG 10.5 Definition of neutrality Neutral shall be taken to mean not being a current student, a full or part time member of staff, a</p>	<p>REG 10.5 Definition of neutrality Neutral shall be taken to mean not being a current student, a full or part time member of staff, a member of the team,</p>	<p>Close relations to club members is deemed to be more appropriate than just</p>

		<p>member of the team, club* or Athletic Union of the institution concerned, or being closely related to any member of the team. *A member of the club shall be taken to mean any player, coach, elected officer or team official.</p>	<p>club* or Athletic Union of the institution concerned, or being closely related to any member of the club. *A member of the club shall be taken to mean any player, coach, elected officer or team official.</p>	<p>team, as they could equally be argued to not be neutral.</p>
General	REG 10.6	<p>REG 9.7 Failure to obtain officials Failure to supply the correct officials, as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements'), may lead to the forfeiture of the affected match, unless there is written notification from the appropriate officials appointments body that they were unable to provide officials, or where officials withdraw from the fixture on the day (written evidence required, refer REG 9.9).</p> <p>REG 9.7.1 For all competitions, if at least 48 hours' (outside of weekends and bank holidays) notice ahead of the start time of the fixture has been given and the appropriate written evidence provided, then the away team may choose to host the match provided it can supply the correct officials and facilities, and notifies the opposition and the BUCS Office by 11:00 on the last working day before the fixture. In this case the original home team is obliged to travel.</p> <p>REG 9.7.1.1 Where the away team chooses not to host and agreement cannot be reached between the institutions for rescheduling, the match shall be replayed at a venue and on a date determined by the BUCS office.</p> <p>REG 9.8 Failure to notify non-provision of officials at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before start time Any team failing to notify the opposition of the non-provision of appropriate officials at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture will forfeit the match</p>	<p>REG 10.6 Failure to obtain officials Failure to obtain the appropriate officials, as per Appendix 5 ('BUCS Match Officials Requirements'), may lead to the forfeiture of the affected match, unless there is written notification from the appropriate officials appointments body that they were unable to provide officials and this is communicated at least 48 hours before the fixture start time, or where officials withdraw from the fixture on the day (written evidence required, refer REG 10.6.3).</p> <p>REG 10.6.1 For all competitions, if at least 48 hours' (outside of weekends and bank holidays) notice ahead of the start time of the fixture has been given and the appropriate written evidence provided, then the away institution/Playing Entity may choose to host the match provided it can supply the correct officials and facilities, and notifies the opposition and the BUCS Executive by 11:00 on the last working day before the fixture. In this case the original home institution/Playing Entity is obliged to travel.</p> <p>REG 10.6.1.1 Where the away institution/Playing Entity chooses not to host and agreement cannot be reached between the institutions/Playing Entities for rescheduling, the match shall be replayed at a venue and on a date determined by the BUCS Executive.</p> <p>REG 10.6.2 Any institution/Playing Entity failing to notify the opposition of the failure to obtain the appropriate officials at least 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) before the fixture start time will forfeit the match and concede a walkover.</p>	<p>For clarity.</p>

		<p>and concede a walkover. The only exception to this rule will apply when the home team is let down by an appointed/booked official within 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) of the fixture and can prove in writing that the official was appointed/booked, in which case the relevant process outlined in REG 9.9 will apply.</p> <p>REG 9.9 Non-provision of officials on the scheduled day of the fixture due to being let down by an appointed/booked official</p> <p>REG 9.9.1 If the away team has arrived at the venue and the home team is let down by an appointed/booked official and can prove in writing that the official was appointed/booked, the original home team will be obliged to travel to a rescheduled match.</p> <p>REG 9.9.2 If the away team has not yet travelled, and the home side notifies them that they have been let down by an appointed/booked official on the day of the fixture (providing written evidence as per REG 9.9.1) the match shall be rescheduled to be played at the original home team venue.</p>	<p>REG 10.6.3 Non-provision of officials due to being let down by an appointed/booked official within 48 hours of the fixture start time</p> <p>REG 10.6.3.1 If the away team has arrived at the venue and the home team is let down by an appointed/booked official and can prove in writing that the official was appointed/booked, the original home team will be obliged to travel to a rescheduled match.</p> <p>REG 10.6.3.2 If the away team has not yet travelled, and the home side notifies them that they have been let down by an appointed/booked official within 48 hours of the fixture start time (providing written evidence as per REG 10.6.3.1) the match shall be rescheduled to be played at the original home team venue.</p>	
General	REG 10.11	<p>REG 10.11 BUCS will support the appointment of officials for Championship Semi-Finals in the following sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Football - Hockey - Lacrosse - Netball - Rugby League - Rugby Union 	REMOVE	Confusion as to the role of BUCS in the appointment process. For those sports where BUCS is actually involved, this is outlined in the sport specific regulations.
General	REG 11.1	<p>REG 7.1 Team selection</p> <p>REG 7.1.1 All players must be from the same institution. This regulation applies to all teams in</p>	<p>REG 11.1 Team selection</p> <p>REG 11.1.1 All student-athletes in a team must be from the same Playing Entity.</p>	Reordered and wording amended to provide more clarity. Appendix 6 ('BUCS Player Movement Guide') still

		<p>all BUCS sports.</p> <p>REG 7.1.2 In team sports which incorporate competition below first team level, each team should be selected as though the other teams would be playing in a match of equal importance at the same time.</p> <p>REG 7.1.3 It would be expected that the first team would always be the strongest team available to represent that institution with consideration to REG 7.1.4 - establishing 'normally'.</p> <p>REG 7.1.4 Teams must be selected as if all teams are playing on a given day, for example, if the first team does not have a match but the second team do, no players who would normally* represent the first team are eligible to play for the second team.</p> <p>*Normally is defined by establishing the individual's frequency and majority of fixtures played. Majority is established through league fixtures only, however this regulation still applies to knockout fixtures unless specifically stated otherwise. Consideration is also given to periods within which any variation from normal occurs for an individual.</p> <p>REG 7.1.6 Individuals may not play or be a substitute (playing or non-playing) for different teams in the same sport on the same date, but may play for a different sport team in a different sport on the same day.</p> <p>REG 7.2 Knockout team selection Standard team selection regulations apply (REG 7.1) with the below additional restrictions specifically for knockout competitions.</p>	<p>REG 11.1.2 In order to be selected in a team, all student-athletes must be registered on BUCS Play as a participant.</p> <p>REG 11.1.3 Where a Playing Entity has more than one team in a Championships (for example Men's Football), teams must be selected as if all teams are playing on a given day, at the same time, and in a match of equal importance. It would be expected that the first team would always be the strongest team available to represent that Playing Entity, with consideration to establishment of 'normality'. For example, if the first team does not have a match but the second team do, players who would normally* represent the first team are NOT eligible to play for the second team.</p> <p>*Normally is defined by an individual establishing 'normality' by being listed on the team sheets for a majority (more than 50%) of a particular team's total league fixtures. In the rare case that an individual has been listed on the team sheets for multiple higher ranked teams, then the totals of these will be combined and counted against the lowest of these teams' total league fixtures to identify if they are eligible to represent any lower ranked team. 'Normality'/majority is established through league fixtures only, however this regulation still applies to knockout competition fixtures unless specifically stated otherwise.</p> <p>REG 11.1.3.1 Where a Playing Entity has more than one fixture scheduled across its teams in a Championships on a given day, priority must be given to the highest ranked team and then in descending order through their teams should the Playing Entity be unable to fulfil all scheduled fixtures. Matches played in contravention of this</p>	<p>provided as a supporting document.</p>
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	<p>REG 7.2.1 Knockout round-robins Teams may use an extended squad, including players from lower tiered teams at tournament style knockout competitions. However, once a player is named in the playing squad (starting or substitute) for more than 49% of tournament fixtures they are cup-tied and may not move back down to their 'normal' team (for example if the knockout round-robin consists of 4 games, a player may only play 1 game outside of their 'normal' team).</p> <p>REG 7.2.2 Medical exemptions Medical exemptions are not permitted for knockout competition fixtures; i.e. a first team player returning from injury may not be granted a medical exemption to participate for a lower tiered team in ANY knockout competition within the same sport.</p> <p>REG 7.4 Forfeiture of higher tiered competition fixtures; Impact on lower tiered teams In all league matches and knockout round matches, the first team, or higher fixture, must be given priority should an institution be unable to fulfil its complete programme within each sport. Matches played in contravention of this regulation will be awarded to the opposition, or in certain circumstances, be voided. For example, an institution may NOT concede a walkover at second team level, while continuing to field a lower team on the same day.</p> <p>REG 7.4.1 For possible exceptions to REG 7.4 due to 'Ring Fencing' of teams, refer to Appendix 3 ('BUCS Ring Fenced Teams Guide and Pro Forma').</p>	<p>regulation will be awarded to the opposition, or in certain circumstances, be voided. For example, an institution/Playing Entity may NOT concede a walkover at second team level, while continuing to field a lower ranked team on the same day.</p> <p>REG 11.1.3.1.1 For possible exceptions to REG 11.1.3.1 due to 'Ring Fencing' of teams, refer to REG 11.1.7.</p> <p>REG 11.1.3.1.2 Involuntary walkovers may be granted if applied for in accordance with walkover regulations in REG 13 meaning that REG 11.1.3.1 would be suspended in some instances, for example on health and safety grounds. Application to suspend REG 11.1.3.1 must be made to the BUCS Executive in advance of affected fixtures.</p> <p>REG 11.1.4 Individuals may not be selected (listed on a team sheet) for different teams in the same sport on the same day.</p> <p>REG 11.1.5 Knockout competition team selection Standard team selection regulations apply (REG 11.1.1 – REG 11.1.4) with the below additional restrictions specifically for knockout competitions:</p> <p>REG 11.1.5.1 Knockout round robins Teams may use an extended squad, including individuals from lower tiered teams at tournament style knockout competitions. However, once an individual is selected (listed on a team sheet) for more than 49% of tournament fixtures they are 'cup-tied' and may not move back down to their 'normal' team. For example, if the knockout round robin consists of four games, an individual may only be selected (listed on a team sheet) for one game outside of their 'normal' team.</p>	
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General	REG 13.4	N/A	<p>REG 13.4 Falsification of results Institutions/Playing Entities must not falsify results. For example, where a match has not taken place, a result should not be recorded on BUCS Play. In such a scenario, the fixture be rearranged, left to go void, or a walkover should be claimed/conceded and then recorded on BUCS Play. An institution/Playing Entity proven to have falsified a result on BUCS Play shall face disciplinary action.</p>	For clarity that results should not be falsified. Created in response to BUCS being made aware of teams agreeing a 'result' instead of claiming/conceding a walkover.
General	REG 13.5.2	<p>REG 11.1.2.2 Knockout competition fixtures Amending incorrectly entered knockout competition match results will incur the following administrative charges (payable by the 'home' institution/Playing Entity unless otherwise indicated):</p>	<p>REG 13.5.2 Knockout competition fixtures Amending incorrectly entered knockout competition match results (after the deadline of REG 13.1 has passed) will incur the following administrative charges (payable by the 'home' institution/Playing Entity unless otherwise indicated):</p>	Trying to balance the need for results to be in correctly first time, with being supportive of institutions/Playing Entities who are trying to get results in as quickly as possible before the deadline and make errors which they ask to fix prior to the deadline.
General	REG 14.1/REG 14.2/REG 9.5	<p>REG 12.1 Definitions Postponed matches are matches called off up to and including the day of the match, due to bad weather, ground conditions, bad light or other extenuating circumstances (force majeure). It is intended that postponed matches will always be replayed. Abandoned matches are matches called off, for whatever reason, by the match official(s) once play has begun.</p> <p>REG 12.2 Postponed matches</p> <p>REG 12.2.1 Should a league match have to be</p>	<p>REG 14.1 Postponed matches Postponed matches are matches called off up to and including the day of the match, due to bad weather, ground conditions, bad light or other extenuating circumstances (force majeure). Should a match have to be postponed, this match shall be rearranged at the venue of the first named (home) team, except in cases where REG 14.1.1.3 applies.</p> <p>REG 14.1.1 Late postponed matches Late postponed matches are those which are postponed within 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) of the fixture start time.</p>	For clarity as to correct processes and responsibilities.

	<p>postponed, this match shall be replayed at the venue of the 'home' team no later than the relevant date stated in REG 10.8, but preferably within 2 weeks of the date of the original match.</p> <p>REG 12.2.2 A postponed knockout round match must be completed no later than the Sunday (or the Wednesday in the case of knockout competitions scheduled on weekends) before the following round. The home team is required to give reasonable notice to the visiting team if there is any likelihood of the playing area being pronounced unfit for play.</p> <p>REG 12.2.2.1 An exception to this would be if written agreement is sought from the next round opposition (or potential opposition) to play the fixture closer to the next round. If this written agreement is sought, it should be sent to the BUCS office. (Note REG 12.6.5)</p> <p>REG 12.3 Late postponed matches</p> <p>REG 12.3.1 Late postponed matches are those which are postponed within 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) of the fixture start time.</p> <p>REG 12.3.2 If there are concerns that a match may be postponed (i.e. heavy rain forecast), the 'away' team are to inform the opposition of their proposed departure time and ask that a decision be made about whether the match will take place before this proposed departure time.</p> <p>REG 12.3.3 Where a late cancellation is required, notification must be made in writing (email) to the main Athletic Union (or equivalent) contact. Confirmation that notification has been</p>	<p>REG 14.1.1.1 The first named (home) institution/Playing Entity are required to give reasonable notice to the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity if there is any likelihood of the playing area being pronounced unfit for play. However, if the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity have concerns that a match may be postponed (i.e. heavy rain is forecast), they are to ask that a decision be made about whether the match will take place before their team's intended departure time (note REG 9.5).</p> <p>REG 14.1.1.2 Where a late cancellation is required, the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity must notify, in writing, the main Athletic Union (or equivalent) contact of the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity. Confirmation that notification has been received must be obtained either by phone or in writing from said contact to constitute adequate notification.</p> <p>REG 14.1.1.2.1 Where late cancellation is required the match official(s) must be notified immediately by the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity.</p> <p>REG 14.1.1.3 Where the opposition (away) team has started their journey, only for the fixture to be postponed by either the match official(s) or grounds staff (written evidence required), the fixture shall be replayed at the venue of the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity.</p> <p>REG 14.2 Abandoned matches Abandoned matches are matches called off, for whatever reason, by the match official(s) once play has begun. When a match has been abandoned, the fixture shall be replayed at the venue of the opposition (away) institution/Playing Entity unless covered under REG</p>	
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General	REG 14.5.2	<p>REG 12.7.2 Should a Conference Cup/Plate/Bowl final be postponed or abandoned</p>	<p>REG 14.5.2 Should a Conference Cup/Plate/Bowl final be postponed or abandoned it shall be replayed</p>	Updated to provide different process for finals that are not

		it shall be replayed by the playoff deadline as stated in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines') by following the procedure of REG 12.6, hosted by the first named team. These matches shall take precedence over any other matches previously arranged by the competing institutions.	by the playoff deadline as stated in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines') by following the procedure of REG 14.4 with the host determined by REG 14.1 – REG 14.2. These matches shall take precedence over any other matches previously arranged by the competing institutions. REG 14.5.2.1 Should a Conference Cup/Plate/Bowl final, scheduled to have been held at a central venue (note REG 8.4.5.4.6.1) be postponed or abandoned it shall be hosted by the first named (home) institution/Playing Entity.	centrally hosted and those that are.
General	REG 15.8.6.1	REG 14.8.7.1 Deadline where affecting knockout fixtures Where the dispute affects a knockout fixture, at any stage, the initial appeal response must be submitted by 12:00 on the next working day following the submission of the initial appeal.	REG 15.8.6.1 Deadline where affecting knockout competition or playoff fixtures Where the dispute affects a knockout competition or playoff fixture, at any stage, the initial appeal response must be submitted within 24 hours of, or, by 12:00 on the next working day following, whichever is the earliest, the initial appeal being forwarded by BUCS. (I.e. Submission may be required prior to 12:00 the next working day if the initial appeal was submitted prior to 12:00 the previous working day).	Loophole exists currently, whereby if an institution is prompt in submitting an initial appeal (e.g. 10am), opposition can submit appeal response outside of usual 24 hours limit (e.g. if submit at 11.30am next day). This gives them additional time for no legitimate reason.