



Team entries for BUCS Leagues and Knockout Competitions for the 2020-21 season are now open on BUCS Play.

As a part of announcing this, we wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you for your continued patience and understanding at this time. We appreciate your support more than ever, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the face of current challenges.

## GETTING THE PROCESS RIGHT

Last week we sent a questionnaire to all participants registered for the Return to Play consultation sessions. This was aimed at gathering feedback from members on our intended timeline for the team entry process for next season.

Having listened to member feedback, we have pushed back the final team entry deadline to **23:59 on Friday 16 October 2020**. We have also created three stages of team entry, which are focused around enabling institutions to deselect teams as they are removed from planning, in the lead up to the final deadline.

You are not required to undertake administration in every stage, for example you may wish to fully complete your entries in Stage 1. If you do this, then this information will simply be carried over. The purpose of the staged model is to offer an opportunity for members to confirm teams periodically based on internal developments, it is not to create extra work for institutions.

## TEAM ENTRY STAGES

### STAGE 1 – 'Aspirational' Entries

To improve the overall team entry process on BUCS Play, we have rolled over all teams from the 2019-20 season, so institutions can amend and deselect teams, rather than needing to create all entries from scratch.

During Stage 1 we are asking you to only deselect teams that you will **not be entering next year under any circumstances**. Meaning any teams that have already been removed from your planning for next season.

Any team, yet to be reviewed we suggest is left in at this stage; effectively leaving each institution with the maximum number of teams that they may enter next year. Stages 2 and 3 will be about asking you to confirm the situation of teams left in the mix for consideration in Stage 1.

The reason we are saying only remove teams that you will not be entering, is because once a team is removed, the data linking players, captains and coaches to that team will also be removed. It does not mean this team cannot be re-added, it just means that you will need to re-add participants, captains and coaches.

During any stage you will also be able to add any new teams, not entered in 2019-20. If these are added they can still be amended alongside existing entries in later stages. However, we would request that any new teams are only added once confirmed internally, to help provide the most realistic representation of your institution's team entries within each stage. That is not to say entries once added cannot be removed, it is more a request to help ensure we have the most accurate picture possible, to enable us to plan accordingly and update members on possible structures based on up-to-date entries.

## STAGE 2 – Aligned to start of new financial year

Within Stage 2 we will be asking you to repeat the process of deselecting or adding new teams as they are confirmed, if you were unable to confirm your complete entry set in Stage 1.

Stage 2 is intended to be aligned to the start of the new financial year for most institutions, so we hope this period may enable members to review entries based on internal budgetary conversations.

After each stage we will download entries and utilise the information to create an up to date model of the possible league structures in 2020-21.

## STAGE 3 – Final Deadline

As mentioned above, the final deadline for entries will now be Friday 16 October. Therefore, in Stage 3 it is important that institutions review their entry set and make any final amendments. We hope that even if institutions have not been able to engage in the process in earlier stages, there will still be a clear opportunity to do so in Stage 3. We also hope that the timing of the deadline will align to institutions having a better understanding of student recruitment and internal decision making around campus activity.

Please note, the Stage 3 closing date will be final, and therefore any entries on the system will be considered as confirmed after it passes. This means that all entries on the system, should the programme be able to go ahead, will be invoiced for in November. If the programme does not go ahead or an entry cannot be accepted, the entry fee will not be charged.

Following the final deadline, the Provisional League Document will be published on **Friday 30 October**.

The full 2020-21 timeline for team entries for the Leagues and Knockouts Programme, including all the dates associated with the three stages, can be found at the end of this email.

## **WHAT'S OPEN?**

With the exception of Outdoor Cricket, team entries for BUCS Leagues and Knockout Competitions for the 2020-21 season are now open.

Alongside team entries for BUCS Leagues and Knockout Competitions for the 2020-21 season, we have also opened entries for our Equestrian and Indoor Cricket programmes. The formats for both of these competitions will be determined largely by entries, as with other programmes, so please only enter any confirmed teams within each stage.

We have **not** opened team entries for LUSL Leagues and Knockout Competitions for the 2020-21 season. A timeline for LUSL entries will be published following further consultation with the LUSL members.

We have **not** opened team entries for sports that are being added to the programme as a result of Cycle One or Two of the Sport Review process. These sports have not yet been finalised and will be opened when all required conditions are met. A communication will be sent out to confirm when these sports have been opened.

## **TEAM ENTRY FEES**

To enable us to remain flexible within the current climate, team entry fees for 2020-21 will continue to be reviewed throughout the team entry process. BUCS has already committed to ensuring that if the leagues and knockout competitions programme for next season just becomes a leagues only programme, [then](#) a discount of 25% will be offered.

For now, we have opened team entries with fees that reflect the standard annual increase based on an inflation rate of 2.7%. We have done this to illustrate what we believe would be the highest cost of team entries next season, but as we have

mentioned, this will be reviewed alongside final decisions around league offerings being made.

If entry fees are to be amended, then we will ensure the final cost is confirmed prior to Stage 3 opening.

## FULL ENTRY TIMELINE

Friday 5 June	STAGE 1 TEAM ENTRIES OPEN
Friday 17 July	STAGE 1 TEAM ENTRIES CLOSE
Friday 24 July	STAGE 2 TEAM ENTRIES OPEN
Friday 4 September	STAGE 2 TEAM ENTRIES CLOSE
Friday 11 September	STAGE 3 TEAM ENTRIES OPEN
Friday 16 October	STAGE 3 TEAM ENTRIES CLOSE
Friday 30 October	PROVISIONAL LEAGUES PUBLISHED
Friday 13 November	PROVISIONAL LEAGUES FEEDBACK PERIOD CLOSES
Friday 27 November	FINALISED LEAGUES PUBLISHED ON BUCS PLAY

A comprehensive team entries guide to support you with the process can be **found here**.

If you have any issues or questions please **get in touch**.

