



27 March 2020

This document is intended to outline the outcome of member consultation that has taken place this week in relation to the conclusion of the 2019-20 BUCS League and Knockout Competitions as a result of the developing Covid-19 situation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Last week, the BUCS Executive presented to the BUCS Membership three viable options in relation to completing the 2019-20 BUCS Leagues and Knockouts Programme. These were; Option 1, rearranging as many remaining league and playoff fixtures as possible in April/May (this would be heavily linked to ongoing NGB suspensions and would not include the playing of any further knockout games, including finals); Option 2, finalising all league tables as of Wednesday 18 March and looking at a number of options around applying promotion and relegation where possible; or Option 3, voiding all 2019-20 leagues and building the 2020-21 based on the 2019-20 provisional leagues.

Having received member feedback and discussed each of the options with BUCS Advisory Group, National Competitions Group and with the Senior Manager Executive, the decision has been made to end the league and knockout season with immediate effect and implement Option 2 to conclude the season. In addition, and as per the original recommendations, we will be cancelling the Outdoor Cricket season and voiding the overall BUCS Points Table for 2019-20. Our belief is that this decision will provide the best opportunity for the BUCS Executive to assist members in dealing with the uncertainty that Covid-19 is placing on the sector and will assist with the immediate and longer-term planning for all involved.

The information laid out within this document aims to provide further detail about the implementation of Option 2 over the next few weeks. Including, more specific information about decisions that have been made in relation to the sub-options that were presented within Option 2 during consultation, and an outline of the next steps and suggested timeline.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Below is a summary of each decision that has been made by the BUCS Executive, following the membership consultation that has been undertaken this week.

DECISION 1: HOW TO CONCLUDE THE SEASON

The overwhelming feedback from the membership (91% of institutions) supported the Executive recommendation to finalise all leagues as of Wednesday 18 March.

This was Option 2 within the paper.

DECISION 2: HOW TO EVALUATE THE COMPLETION OF A LEAGUE FOR TIER 1 AND ABOVE

The majority of feedback from the membership (8 regions; 80% of institutions) was in alignment with the Executive recommendation that any league where promotion or relegation positions cannot be affected by remaining matches, are considered completed, and relegation/promotion is applied where possible. All other positions in leagues are considered incomplete and would be ineligible for promotion or relegation. This would impact relegation/promotion from tiers above or below as appropriate.

This was Option C within the paper.

For clarity, Option C does not require every fixture to have been completed in order to consider Promotion or Relegation eligibility, it just requires those respective positions to have been finalised.

DECISION 3: HOW TO IMPLEMENT PROMOTION AND/OR RELEGATION IN TIER 1 AND ABOVE

The majority of feedback received (6 regions; 88% of identified institutions) was in alignment with the Executive recommendation that we will try to facilitate as much promotion and relegation as possible for 'finished leagues', but this is not automatic. Teams, where leagues are completed, would be relegated based on current league standings as a default. All teams that would have been eligible to take place in a playoff would be consulted as to whether they would wish to be promoted or relegated. If there is more than one team wanting to be promoted, and there is no way to differentiate, then promotion and relegation will not happen. If there is a straight swap promotion and relegation will take place. Each situation will be assessed on a case by case basis.

This was Option B within the paper.

DECISIONS 4 & 5: EVALUATING LEAGUES AND IMPLEMENTING PROMOTION AND/OR RELEGATION IN TIER 2 AND BELOW

Whilst there was some feedback provided that a different approach should be taken for Tier 2 and below from that of Tier 1 and above, the majority of the membership (7 regions; 80% of identified institutions) supported the recommendation of the Executive to align all levels of competition and so the decisions are the same as for Decisions 2 and 3 above.

DECISION 6: KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

Whilst several institutions fed back their disappointment that a number of knockout competitions would not be completed, there was no feedback that did not agree with the decision to cancel all remaining knockout fixtures for the 2019-20 season.

However, additional feedback was received requesting the Executive to review how those teams that had qualified for finals might be recognised. We are currently working through what this may look like, and we will endeavour to update members on this issue as soon as possible.

DECISION 7: THE OUTDOOR CRICKET SEASON.

The overwhelming feedback from the membership (96% of institutions) was in alignment with the Executive recommendation to cancel the outdoor cricket season. As a result, this will now be implemented.

DECISION 8: BUCS POINTS TABLE

The majority of the feedback from the membership (80% of institutions) was in alignment with the Executive recommendation that the BUCS Points Table is voided for the 2019-20 season. With the large number of events being cancelled, the lack of conclusion of the majority of Championship and Trophy knockout competitions, and a number of leagues not having reached their deadline for conclusion, the table would not be a true reflection of overall performance.

Whilst BUCS will not publish a final Overall BUCS Points Table for the 2019-20 season it was noted that for those institutions that use BUCS Points internally for decision making they should still be able to utilise [Appendix 1](#) to calculate their total BUCS Points for the season, or BUCS Points earned by particular sports, teams etc.

No calculations will be done by the BUCS Executive regarding BUCS Points for knockout competitions that did not reach a conclusion (e.g. splitting BUCS Points between two finalists) however the BUCS Executive will ensure that BUCS Points for all knockout competitions and events that reached a conclusion are correctly attributed on BUCS Play by Wednesday 8 April 2020.

NEXT STEPS

In response to the question of extending the results entry deadline there were very few requests to open an amendments window and in line with the recommendation this will not be offered. Additional feedback noted the specific communication at the start of the calendar year reminding IAs of the need to submit results and to check all were correctly entered.

The National Competitions Team will now work through the Tier 1 and above leagues in order to produce the standard Premier Tier Playoff Document using Decision 2 alongside standard regulations. This will be circulated to impacted institutions with a requirement for them to provide confirmation as to whether each team wishes to be involved in the "playoffs" or not. (I.e. Teams eligible for trying to be promoted confirm whether they do wish to be considered for promotion or to opt-out and stay where they are, and teams eligible for trying to avoid relegation confirm whether they do wish to try and avoid relegation or not.)

The BUCS Executive will give institutions five working days within which to provide confirmations. This window is longer than that given in a regular season for playoff opt-outs to allow institutions some extra time to evaluate their position and provide feedback to us as we are requesting confirmations for all involvement, not just notification of opt-outs.

After this deadline, promotion and relegation will be applied where appropriate as per Decision 3.

On completion of the promotion and relegation process for Tier 1 and above, the BUCS executive will then work through promotion and relegation for Tier 2 and below, with a top down approach, as per Decisions 4 and 5.

Finally, the wider Executive will review the appropriate way to recognise those teams who had their knockout season cancelled before its conclusion.

SUMMARY TIMELINE

- **Friday 27 March:** Update to members on decision following consultation
- **Monday 30 March:** Publication of Premier Tier Playoff Document
- **Friday 3 April:** Deadline for institutions to confirm desire to be considered (or not) in Premier Tier "playoffs"
- **Wednesday 15 April:** 2020-21 team entries open
- **Wednesday 29 April:** Publication of 2020-21 Provisional Leagues Document following promotions and relegations being applied and on the basis of all existing teams re-entering and no new teams being entered
- **Wednesday 20 May:** 2020-21 team entries close
- **Wednesday 27 May:** 2020-21 Provisional Leagues Document published with updates to reflect actual entries