

# BUCS TENNIS REGULATIONS

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**TEN i** The BUCS Tennis Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the Rules of the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association). Further event specific requirements, rules, and regulations will be contained within the entry and pre-event information for each Championship.

**TEN ii** In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.

**TEN iii** In the event that these regulations contradict those of the Rules of the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association), these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.

**TEN 1 Championships** BUCS will host annually the following Championships:

**TEN 1.1 Individual Championships** The programme shall include the events listed in Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points'), subject to entry numbers.

**TEN 1.2 Team Championships** The programme shall include leagues and knockout competitions as per BUCS general regulations, Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points') and Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information').

**TEN 2** Where possible institutions/Playing Entities should endeavour to wear team kit, identifying the name of the University/College.

## Individual Championships

**TEN 3 Tournament structure and entries** See Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points') and the entry information for all competitions offered as part of the BUCS Tennis Individual Championships. All competition specific event information will be available in the event entry information and pre-event information.

**TEN 4 Disputes at events** In line with REG 7.7, should a dispute occur at an event, the event appeal panel for Tennis shall comprise of: The Referee at any Individual Championship qualifying events individual qualifying events; The Referee and a BUCS Staff Member at the Individual Championship Finals and Team Championship Finals.

## Team Championships

**TEN 5** There shall be separate Team Championships for Men and Women.

**TEN 6 Match format** Each match shall consist of two doubles rubbers and four singles rubbers.

## TEN 7 Fixture administration and arrangements

### TEN 7.1 Court bookings

**TEN 7.1.1** A minimum reservation of 12 court hours MUST be booked by the host team for a fixture. This shall comprise at least 2 x 15 minutes practice, 2 x 1.75 hours for doubles rubbers, and 4 x 2 hours for singles rubbers = total 12 court hours. Failure to book the minimum prescribed above will result in the home team forfeiting any rubbers not completed should the match not be finished. For knockout fixtures, an additional 1 hour should be booked in case of the need for a match tie-break. The additional hour is for the match tie-break only and the normal fixture should be completed within the standard 12 hours.

**TEN 7.1.1.1** If a final set of a live match is due to start during the last 30 minutes of the court booking then a 10 point tie-break should take place instead of a standard set.

**TEN 7.1.2 Start times** No league or knockout match may start before 11:00 on a weekday 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.

**TEN 7.1.2.1** The practice start time (note TEN 7.1.1) is the fixture start time and should be the time that is posted on BUCS Play.

**TEN 7.1.2.2** The match start time should be 15 minutes after the fixture start time i.e. following the practice time.

**TEN 7.1.3** Rubbers may only be moved onto different surfaces (or from indoors to outdoors, or vice versa) from that specified in the pre-fixture confirmation with the agreement of both captains.

**TEN 7.1.4** Where possible teams should ensure use of scoreboards on each court.

**TEN 7.2 Order of play** Players shall compete in rank order i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4 singles; 1, 2 doubles. The doubles rubbers ordered 1v1, 2v2 should be played first, followed by the singles rubbers, which will be ordered 4v4, 3v3, 2v2, 1v1. Any proposed changes to the standard order of play must be agreed by both teams prior to play. (Please note that if matches are being played on three courts – teams may want to start by playing three singles matches in order to maximize court usage).

Coaches/captains/administrators can use the below guide for court booking variations:

	On four courts	On three courts	On two courts
<b>Round 1</b>	Doubles 1 and 2	Doubles 1 and 2	Doubles 1 and 2
<b>Round 2</b>	Singles 1 – 4	Singles 4 – 2	Singles 4 and 3
<b>Round 3</b>		Singles 1	Singles 2 and 1

**TEN 7.2.1** The number and surface of courts booked, and the respective hours should be posted in the fixture notes on BUCS Play and be sent as part of the fixture confirmation.

**TEN 7.2.2 Nominations** Nominations for the first round of matches (doubles in normal circumstances) shall be made in writing no later than following the completion of the practice time, before the start of the first rubber. At this time, captains shall provide the name of any other player(s) who may be selected for the second round of matches (singles in normal circumstances). Nominations for the second round of matches (singles in normal circumstances) shall be made in writing no later than prior to the start of the first rubber of the second round of matches.

**TEN 7.2.2.1 Singles nominations** Teams consisting of more than four players may nominate players for singles rubbers, not including their highest ranked player(s) in the match day squad, but teams must play in rank order. E.g. 3, 4, 5 and 6 play as Singles 1, 2, 3 and 4, with players 1 and 2 only participating in the doubles.

**TEN 7.2.2.2 Doubles nominations** Doubles pairings must play with the strongest pair as pair 1. The best doubles pair should be decided by the sum of the players' rankings in each pair, with the smallest sum playing as the 'best doubles pair'. Players' rankings are as per the published BUCS Squad Ranking List. If the sums of the singles players' positions are equal (e.g. 1+5 and 2+4 or 21+25 and 22+24), the best doubles pair should include the highest ranked player (i.e. 1+5 or 21+25 would be the best doubles pair).

## TEN 8 Team selection and ranking lists

### TEN 8.1 Team size

**TEN 8.1.1 Premier Tier and Championship** Each team shall consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of six players. Four players shall play one singles rubber each and the fifth and/or sixth players may be selected for doubles only. Teams failing to field four players must concede a walkover.

**TEN 8.1.2 Tier 1 and below and Trophy/Conference Cup** Each team shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of six players. Up to four players shall play one singles rubber each and the fifth and/or sixth players may be selected for doubles only. Teams failing to field three players must concede a walkover. Teams fielding three players will concede the rubbers they are unable to fulfil.

**TEN 8.1.2.1** Teams only using three players must notify their opposition of this a minimum of 24 hours in advance of the fixture start time. Failure to notify the opposition will result in the forfeiture of the whole fixture unless the opposition agrees to continue to go ahead with the fixture with three players.

**TEN 8.1.2.1** Where an institution/Playing Entity has multiple teams playing on the same day, the fixtures of the higher team(s) must be prioritised from the top down when fulfilling teams. E.g. An institution/Playing Entity cannot send only three players for their 2<sup>nd</sup> team which should comprise of at least four players, whilst also putting out four or more players for their 3<sup>rd</sup> team.

**TEN 8.1.3** If a player retires prior to the official match time (as defined by TEN 7.1.2), the fulfilment of the highest rubbers should be prioritised.

**TEN 8.1.4** If a player retires during a rubber, the opponent shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games and sets necessary to win the rubber.

**TEN 8.2 Ranking lists** This regulation supersedes REG 11.1.3 and REG 11.1.6.

**TEN 8.2.1** Ranking lists must be completed on BUCS Play prior to the start of each season. These lists must be completed no later than the deadline in the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document. Failure to submit this information will result in sanctions being imposed as outlined in the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document and the possibility of further disciplinary action. **This ranking information will be available [here](#) for ease of reference.**

**TEN 8.2.1.1** Ranking lists will be locked until the opening of the re-ranking windows, and cannot be changed outside the set re-ranking windows under any circumstances. Re-rankings only come into effect at the end of the re-ranking windows. The dates for the re-ranking windows will be displayed in the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document.

**TEN 8.2.1.2** Institutions/Playing Entities may request to add a player to the bottom of their ranking list when the re-ranking windows are not open. Requests must be submitted and approved by the BUCS Executive in advance of the player competing in any fixtures. This is to encourage the fulfilment of fixtures and must not be manipulated. Teams found to be attempting to manipulate the rankings using this regulation will face disciplinary action under REG 5.

**TEN 8.2.2** Players must play in rank order in all matches.

**TEN 8.2.3** Teams for a fixture day must be selected in rank order. This applies across all teams, e.g. A player ranked number 8 cannot play in the 1<sup>st</sup> team if the player ranked number 7 is playing for a lower team's match that day.

**TEN 8.2.4** The order on the ranking list shall be determined by each institution/Playing Entity with the best singles player ranked as 1 and the second best as 2 and so on. The order is at the discretion of each institution/Playing Entity. It does not need to be in accordance with ATP, WTA or LTA ratings but institutions/Playing Entities ranking players out of ratings order may be requested to justify their ranking lists to the BUCS Executive. Failure to justify the rank order or institutions/Playing Entities deliberately ranking out of order will be referred to the BUCS Executive for disciplinary action.

**TEN 8.2.5** If a player is listed in the top four rankings and has not played any matches prior to the January re-ranking window, then that team is required to resubmit their rankings

during this window, removing any such 'top four' players from the ranking list. An exception will be made at the discretion of the BUCS Executive on a case-by-case basis if sufficient proof can be provided to explain the above scenario (e.g. medical note).

**TEN 8.2.6** No player ranked (as per the published squad ranking list at the time) at number 4 or above shall be eligible to play below the 1<sup>st</sup> team (including league, playoff and knockout competition matches). No player ranked (as per the published squad ranking list at the time) at number 8 or above shall be eligible to play below the 2<sup>nd</sup> team, and so on throughout an institution/Playing Entity's teams.

**TEN 8.2.7** Any institution found to be manipulating the rankings at any point of the season will be subject to BUCS disciplinary action.

**TEN 9 Coaches** Each team may have their nominated coach sitting on court for any or all rubbers in the match. If a team does not have a coach with them, then any team member not playing at the time may be nominated. Coaching advice can only be given during change of ends and the coach may only enter/leave the court during a change of ends.

### **TEN 10 Scoring system**

**TEN 10.1** The doubles rubbers shall be the best of three sets. The first two sets shall be tie-break sets with no-advantage scoring (the tie-break shall be introduced at six games all) and when the score is one set all the deciding set shall be a 10-point match tie-break. In no-advantage scoring at deuce there is one point to decide the game. The receivers choose whether to receive the service from the right half or the left half of the court but cannot change positions to receive this deciding point.

**TEN 10.2** The singles rubbers shall be the best of three tie-break sets (the tie-break shall be introduced at six games all). If the match result is already decided any remaining singles rubbers may, by mutual consent, play a deciding 10-point match tie-break as the third set.

**TEN 10.3** To determine the match score the winner of each doubles rubber shall receive two points and the winner of each singles rubber shall receive two points.

**TEN 10.4** In the event of a tie on match score in a league fixture, the match shall be considered a draw.

**TEN 10.5** If a knockout match finishes 6-6, then a tie-break shootout (to 10 points) shall take place as follows. The tie-break shootout consists of three tie-breaks – two singles and one doubles – with players nominated as follows: Tie-break 1 (singles) – one of the original players from the first or second ranked singles rubbers; Tie-break 2 (singles) – one of the original players from the third or fourth ranked singles rubbers; Tie-break 3 (doubles) – a pairing comprising two of the other nominated players for the match. No player may play in more than one tie-break shootout. Players for each stage of the shootout should be nominated at the start of the shootout.

**TEN 10.5.1** The order of play for the tie-break shootout should replicate that of the preferred order of play as in TEN 7.2 unless agreed by both team captains before the start of the shootout.

**TEN 11 Scorecards** Institutions/Playing Entities are required to maintain accurate records\* of the matches played by their teams in case of a tie on points within a league which requires additional score information to that on BUCS Play. In such circumstances, the BUCS Executive will contact the relevant institutions/Playing Entities for details of all their league matches in order to separate the teams.

\* 'Accurate records' are taken to mean precise details of all aspects of the fixture including rubbers, games and points; won and lost.

**TEN 11.1** LTA membership (BTM) will be free to all student-athletes playing in BUCS Tennis competitions. All players must have a BTM number to ensure that their individual match results can contribute to their LTA rating.

### **TEN 12 Incomplete fixtures**

**TEN 12.1** In the event of a fixture being incomplete with no fault on either side, a result can be taken if four rubbers have been completed. The results shall be taken on all those rubbers that have been completed.

**TEN 12.2** In the event of a fixture being incomplete due to a late start, with a team at fault, their opposition may claim any rubbers not completed or unplayed.

**TEN 12.3** In the event of a fixture being incomplete due to an institution booking insufficient court time, their opposition may claim any rubbers not completed or unplayed.

**TEN 13 Representative commitments** When one or more player(s) from the same institution/Playing Entity are selected for the Master'U BNP Paribas international representative competition, the institution/Playing Entity concerned shall be able to postpone any affected league fixtures.

**TEN 13.1** The institution/Playing Entity concerned shall be responsible for informing the opposition institution/Playing Entity of the requirement to postpone the fixture no later than 48 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) after the announcement of the squad for the representative team, and no later than five working days prior to the original fixture date. Upon notification of the postponement, institutions must follow REG 14.3 to rearrange the fixture.

**TEN 13.2** Knockout competition fixtures are not covered under TEN 13.

#### **TEN 14 Premier Tier/Championship specific regulations**

**TEN 14.1** The National League teams shall compete on two centrally hosted National fixture weekends, as well as Wednesdays.

**TEN 14.2 Venue requirements** All Premier Tier league fixtures, Championship knockout competition fixtures and playoff fixtures are to be played on indoor courts.

**TEN 15 Additional National League playoffs specific requirements** The home team for each of the National League playoff matches will be determined by coin toss, undertaken by the BUCS Executive. If the teams have played each other in the playoffs in one or more of the previous three BUCS seasons, the team that did not win the coin toss in their most recent meeting will be allocated as the home team. Institutions/Playing Entities are encouraged to use neutral venues, but this is not mandatory.

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