

APPENDIX 11 BUCS SANCTIONS POLICY FOR MEMBERS

PUBLISHED | 12 DECEMBER 2024

Introduction

British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) has established a sanctions policy that details the sanctions and potential outcomes that can be imposed following Judiciary proceedings. Judiciary proceedings in respect of BUCS Members will be undertaken in accordance with BUCS [regulation 5 \(REG 5\)](#).

BUCS Judiciary proceedings will be actioned by a Judiciary Panel, as outlined in the BUCS Judiciary Committee Terms of Reference.

Once Judiciary proceedings have taken place, the Judiciary Panel will conclude the outcomes and identify if the Member will receive any sanctions, in accordance with this policy.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to outline the considerations and approach to be taken by the Judiciary Panel when identifying the appropriate sanction and outcome, whilst aiming to ensure the principles outlined in this policy are consistently and fairly applied.

Scope

BUCS can issue sanctions to BUCS Members as an outcome of Judiciary proceedings. Through the due process of investigations and Judiciary hearings, BUCS will identify if sanctions need to be put in place as an outcome from such investigations and meetings, and any such sanctions will be imposed in accordance with this policy.

Sanctions may only be issued to Members at the conclusion of a Judiciary hearing.

Sanctions may only be issued by the Panel once the Judiciary procedure described in REG 5 has been followed, and the Judiciary Panel concludes that imposition of a sanction is appropriate.

Sanctions and outcomes – REG 5 misconduct

The guiding principle for all sanctions decisions is that the sanction imposed should reflect, and be proportionate to, the seriousness of the misconduct, taking into account any aggravating or mitigating factors relevant in that particular case.

No two cases of alleged misconduct will be the same. However, as one of the aims of the disciplinary system is to ensure consistency, Panels should have regard to any relevant previous sanctions decisions in similar cases with a view to achieving consistent outcomes, where possible.

The different types of sanctions and outcomes that can be imposed by the Judiciary Panel include but are not limited to the following. Where a sanction provides the Panel with the opportunity to issue associated conditions, these shall be prescribed by the panel at their own discretion, however the below shall be used as a guide:

- Misconduct is closed / no case to answer / insufficient evidence
- No sanctions imposed
- A written reprimand with conditions imposed for the continuation of Membership. Conditions may include but are not limited to:
 - Fines: The value of the fine can vary depending on the nature of the incident and is at the discretion of the Panel

- BUCS Points deduction: The number of BUCS Points deducted can vary depending on the nature of the incident and is at the discretion of the Panel
- League points deduction: The number of league points deducted can vary depending on the nature of the incident and is at the discretion of the Panel
- Concession of walkovers (and application of associated fines as per REG 13.7): This can be applied to a specific fixture, or any number of past, or future fixtures, depending on the nature of the regulation breach/misconduct
- Invalidation of results: This involves invalidating results (through the issuance of walkovers or voiding a fixture) that were achieved in the event, league or knockout competition in which the regulation breach/disciplinary matter took place, giving due consideration to the impact of any such invalidation on the competition
- Disqualification from an event, league and/or knockout competition: This can relate to individuals, teams or clubs representing the Member
- Ban from BUCS competitions/events/organised activity: This can relate to individuals, teams or clubs representing the Member and can vary in length at the Panel's discretion
- Touchline ban: The length of the ban will be quantified by a number of matches as opposed to a period of time.
- Educational and restorative sanctions: This can include participation in, or completion of, an activity to build awareness or knowledge relevant to the nature of the regulation breach; attendance at, and completion of, any educational programmes
 - Suspension from Membership with conditions imposed for reinstatement
 - Termination of Membership

The Panel may order that a sanction imposed is suspended for a specified period or until a specified event and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate. When considering imposing a suspended sanction, the Panel must decide the period of the suspension, or event, until which the sanction will be suspended and upon what other terms or conditions, if any, the sanction will be suspended.

Failure to comply

Should a Member fail to comply with the sanctions, outcomes and/or remedial actions issued following Judiciary proceedings, BUCS reserves the right raise a further charge of misconduct against the Member.

Appeals

A Member is entitled to make an appeal against the sanctions and outcomes of BUCS Judiciary proceedings, based on the following grounds:

- BUCS has failed to follow due process or other procedural defects.
- The insufficient weighting of a sanction and outcome or decision made

Further information on how to appeal can be found in BUCS [regulation 5](#) and [regulation 15](#).

Review

The Sanctions Policy for BUCS Members will be reviewed annually by BUCS. The current copy of the Sanctions Policy for BUCS Members will be made publicly available on BUCS' website.