
FAQ's regarding Team Racing Championships Proposal

Received Week 30th March-4th April 2020

Thank you to all clubs and individual members who have submitted questions or emailed us over the last week. We have had several questions asked multiple times so hope to provide these answers within this first FAQ document whilst also giving more detailed justification in the Proposal Document (uploaded to the AGM Website Page on the 4th April 2020).

We will aim to put together a second FAQ document next weekend with questions we receive over the coming week. **All questions, ideas and concerns have been discussed by the BUSA Committee and are being considered.**

When will the proposed changes come into effect?

The proposed new structure, if voted in, will be put in place in time for the 2020-2021 academic year (October 2020).

Will BUCS Points be available?

If the decision is made to change the structure, additional BUCS Points will be requested from the BUCS National Competitions Group for the *Trophy Final*. If this request is approved, the exact allocation will be confirmed before the start of the 2020-2021 season.

BUSA does not decide how many BUCS points are allocated for any of our BUCS Championships, however we are able to advise the National Competitions Group and have requested that the distribution rewards competitors appropriately in relation to the tier of the Championships they are competing in.

For example, we do not think it is appropriate that the top 3 (placing 25-27th overall) in the trophy final receive the same or a similar number of points to those who place top 3 in the Championships (placing 1st-3rd overall) as we would not want any university to consciously decide to not compete 'at their best' in an effort to attend the new Trophy event.

The BUCS Points will remain unchanged for the Championship Finals.

Can you tell us how many points would be available and would this incentivise people to do badly at Qualifiers?

Ultimately, we have no control of the BUCS Points distribution, but we believe that our proposed points allocation does not provide an incentive for teams to deliberately qualify for the Trophy Final rather than the Championship Final.

Why has a 2 team per Institution limit been proposed at either the Trophy or Championship Finals?

The limit for institutions competing in the Qualifiers round of the Championships is 3 teams and this is to stay the same.

However, we are proposing that there will be a limit of 2 teams per Institution eligible to compete at each of the Trophy/Championship Finals.

In the event that 3 teams from 1 institution place 1st-4th in the Qualifying Series, the lowest ranked team would be invited to the Trophy Finals and the next ranked Institution would be invited to take their place at the Championship Finals. We would only expect this to affect a small number of Institutions.

However, following feedback in the last week we are considering adjustments to this. Please contact your area chair who will be able to give you more information and will carry your university club's thoughts forward to us.

Why is the cost of the Trophy Final higher than the current Playoffs in the proposal?

Concerns have been raised by several clubs regarding the cost of the Trophy Final compared to the playoffs event currently ran. Discussions are ongoing between our Team Racing Officer, Treasurer and BUCS to try and find a way to reduce the cost of this event (specifically looking into the BUSA/BUCS entry fee cut). An update on the progress will be given at the AGM.

We propose to increase the price for numerous reasons; however, our main reason is to allow for the increase in costs associated with running a much larger event than the BUCS Playoffs. This is mainly due to the increased number of teams from 15 to 24, which comes with a requirement for an increased number of flights and an increased number of Umpires/Officials.

Secondly, BUCS Points would be on offer at the Trophy Final, which was not possible at Playoffs. For many clubs, achieving BUCS points for their University also comes with the opportunity to gain more funding and support in other ways from the Student or Athletic Union/Services.

Finally, BUSA and BUCS take a 12.5% cut each out of the total income for all the major Championships, before any expenses get paid, hence why the costs are slightly higher. The 12.5% BUCS Fee cannot be changed and is the same for all BUCS sports across the country. The 12.5% BUSA Fee has also happened for many years and is one of the major sources of income which keep BUSA running. As the main organising authority, this cut of entry fees covers the work and time needed to make the Championships happen as well as ensuring we can continue to give back to you in the form of development funding, funded national and international competition opportunities and the chance for all University Sailing Clubs to come together and compete at 4 major events annually.

Are we voting for the Additional Region or for both the Additional Region and Event Format?

Membership votes at an AGM are needed when there is a change to the constitution. As per the constitution, the vote is for the addition of a 6th Region and NOT on the event format.

The format of each event is not an area that falls into the constitution and as such, it is the committee's decision whether they decide to consult the membership on any proposed changes. This has not always happened (eg BUCS Yachting Championship changes in recent years) and so seeking this feedback is a change we are making to ensure we are aligning format adjustments with what our membership need.

However, we do understand and acknowledge that if a 6th BUSA Region is added, an event format change must also happen if the numbers at the Championship Finals and Playoffs increased (6 extra teams at Finals and 3 extra teams at Playoffs).

Why have some regions only changed slightly, whilst others have drastically changed?

Region structures have been looked at in great detail over the last 18 months and the problem of oversubscription and university misplacement within regions is a discussion which has been had for several more years prior to this proposal. If every university were to stay in the same regions they are in now, there will be very limited space for growth and the oversubscription concerns will continue to grow. There are around 150 universities in the United Kingdom and currently less than 60 are members of BUSA. We need to aim to increase our membership and engage more university sailors across more universities in years to come.

Many factors were taken into consideration. These included venues, flight availability and condition for BUCS events, travel time for competing universities, the number of teams entered at qualifiers from 2013 onwards and the availability of umpires/officials and volunteers. All BUSA Area Chairs discussed the addition of a new region with the umpire teams at Qualifiers this year to gain greater insight into the feasibility of adding a new region. The response was constructively positive and a great opportunity to gain a better insight for future umpires across the UK.