

BUSA Team Racing Championship Format Change

In light of the membership vote at the most recent AGM, a proposal was submitted to BUCS to change the format of the Team Racing Championship. The committee worked hard to propose a format that benefitted as many university sailing clubs as possible while also reflecting the fundamental ideals of BUSA. Unfortunately, BUCS have opted not to accept the proposal as it stands, leaving the two options given below. The additional region created this year necessitates that BUSA adopts one of these suggestions. Clearly this is not the situation the committee had hoped for, and the proposal has to compromise somewhere. We are asking for each member club to vote for their preferred option by the end of Monday 21st September to ensure BUSA moves in the direction most favoured by the membership.

Votes can be submitted at <https://forms.gle/dVqxihkcRK6HJ7q6>

The options for the revised format of the Team Racing Championship are:

Option 1

The top 3 teams at each of the 6 regional qualifiers progress to the Championship final, at which BUCS points are available to the highest placed 8 universities. The teams placed 4th-7th at each regional qualifier progress to Playoffs. The top 9 teams at Playoffs progress to the Championship final. 27 BUCS teams would attend the Championship final (an Irish team would also be invited) and 24 teams would attend Playoffs.

Option 2

The top 4 teams at each of the 6 regional qualifiers progress to the Championship final, at which BUCS points are available to the highest placed 8 universities. The teams placed 5th-8th at each regional qualifier progress to a Trophy Final, at which BUCS points are available to the highest placed 8 universities. Progression from the Trophy final to the Championship final will **not** be possible. 24 BUCS teams would attend the Championship final and an additional 24 BUCS teams would attend the Trophy final.

Each BUSA member club is asked to indicate their preferred option in the poll circulated along with this document. If you have any queries about either of the above options don't hesitate to contact Jamie, the BUSA Team Racing Officer via busateamracingofficer@gmail.com.

The remainder of this document details some pros and cons that the committee has identified for each of these options.

Option 1

Pros

- Teams have a second chance to attend the Championship final. This is particularly important for under-performing teams, or good teams within very competitive regions.
- Maintains 6 BUSA regions, allowing increased participation in university sailing.
- If, in a given year, a region has a large number of strong teams, the “playoffs” element allows this region to have greater representation at the Championship final.

Cons

- Less total BUCS points available.
- 9 teams progress to the Championship final through Playoffs, so these teams will have to pay for 3 events (Qualifiers, Playoffs, Championship final).

Option 2

Pros

- 48 teams progress beyond playoffs, compared with 42 teams in Option 1.
- More BUCS points available. For some clubs, BUCS points may impact funding.
- Maintains 6 BUSA regions, allowing increased participation in university sailing.

Cons

- No “playoffs” element, so it is hard for good teams in particularly strong regions to reach the Championship final.
- Qualifiers becomes more important, and so it is more important to get a full series of races in at this event.