



BUCS/BUSA TEAM RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

NOTICE TO TEAM CAPTAINS – NO. 1 UPDATE

The BUSA Committee met on 18 July 2011 to review the 2011 Championships and made a number of decisions in relation to the 2012 Championships.

BAD WEATHER POLICY

Due to the extreme wind at some Qualifiers this year and the snow and icy conditions at the 2010 Qualifiers, BUSA has decided to publish a policy on its website to explain how it will make any decision to postpone or cancel an event and communicate that to teams. Teams can then expect BUSA to follow the published policy and this should reduce the need to contact BUSA prior to an event to find out if it is going ahead.

ENTRY DEADLINE

The deadline for entries will be 5pm on Thursday 1 December 2011 (Scottish teams must enter before their first League Qualifier). You must ensure by this time that the BUSA Secretary has received your signed entry forms, entry fees and deposits. If they are not, your entry may be rejected and the late entry fee of £100 per team will then apply if you wish to re-enter. Given the relaxation of the team change rule (see below), there is absolutely no reason to leave your entry until the last minute.

If your university or union only pays by bank transfer, then you must ensure they make the payment by this date and not some date afterwards. If the payment is not received in time, your entry may be rejected.

FORMAT: QUALIFIERS AND PLAYOFFS

The Committee has discussed the possible format of leagues or the Hebbert-Lucas (HL) system. The Committee concluded that leagues should not be used as they require initial seeding and this requires a subjective judgment from BUSA to judge which teams are better than others. The Committee does not believe that a fair and open competition can be based on subjective performance judgements and also is not in favour of random seeding. The Committee did discuss the quirk of the HL system that means if racing is abandoned before the round is complete, it may be the top teams do not meet. However, it was decided that the HL system is still the fairest in all the circumstances.

BUSA understands that the HL system is a new format and will issue more guidance to organisers on its use.

FORMAT: FINALS

The Finals will be run using the Swiss League system with 32 teams. The top Irish university team will be invited and this year able to progress to the knockouts and win (but cannot be declared British Champions or receive BUCS points). The top Ladies' team will also be invited.

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

The qualification system (the assignment of places to Areas) will be decided later in the year by the BUSA Team Racing Working Group. If you have any comments or concerns about the assignments from last year, please get in touch with your Area Representative as soon as possible so they can feed this into the decision-making process.

Wildcards will not be used this year.

LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The BUSA AGM voted this year to remove the Ladies' Championships and hold it as a separate event. Arrangements are still being made and a notice will be issued to Member Clubs when more information is available.

MIDLANDS AREA

The Committee has decided to move Aberystwyth and Bangor to the Midlands Area in order to balance the allocation of universities to Areas and for geographical reasons

OFFICIALS

The members of the BUSA Team Racing Working Group for this season are Ed Morris (BUSA Chairman), Tessa Hamer (Team Racing Co-ordinator), Ed Fox (Northern Rep), Andy Pinkham (Western Rep), Alice Meadon (SUSA Rep), Tom Ripley (Midlands Rep) and Billie Quinlan (South Central Rep). The Group is responsible for any policy decisions affecting the Championships (such as the qualification system).

The BUSA Officers overseeing the technical aspects of the 2012 Championships (known as Technical Delegates) are Peter Johnson and Jon Napier.

You can contact the TRWG or the Technical Delegates through the BUSA Secretary (Jess Beecher).

RESERVE LISTS

Only competitors who have been certified as students by their Student or Athletic Union are permitted to race. In order to save unnecessary paperwork and fuss in the event of substitutions, you should list as many club members as possible on your reserve list. This means it is easier for you to swap a team member because they will already be certified as a student on the lists BUSA holds.

TEAM CHANGE RULE

The team change rule will be relaxed this year to allow teams to be changed between Qualifiers, Playoffs and Finals. There are two important exceptions to this. First, changes will continue to be restricted during the SUSA Leagues as per the old system. Second, a substitution cannot be made from a team that is still competing in the competition overall. The definitive list of teams that are competing will be published by BUSA on its website.

TEAM NAMES

Sailing is the only BUCS sport where different level teams are allowed to compete against each other (i.e. Bristol 3 can directly race against Portsmouth 1, Manchester 1 against Birmingham 2 etc.). BUCS is not particularly keen on this concept and it presents particular issues when we consider which formats to use.

So from this year, all teams will be known by their university name and a colour (e.g. Oxford White, Oxford Red, Oxford Blue etc.). The colours will be assigned by BUSA upon entry and will not be related to any perceived ability of the team. If you have a particular colour you wish to be considered, BUSA will take any sensible suggestions into account.

If you have any questions or comments (welcome at any time), please send them to Jess Beecher (BUSA Secretary) on jessica.beecher@rya.org.uk

Ed Morris
BUSA Chairman

Peter Johnson & Jon Napier
BUSA Technical Delegates

20 September 2011