

BUCS No Walkover Policy

What is a walkover?

A voluntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is believed that reasonable actions undertaken by the team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent) of the offending institution/Playing Entity would have prevented the forfeit.

An involuntary walkover is deemed to have occurred when it is considered (by the BUCS Executive or the BUCS Disciplinary Panel) that a team has forfeited on a fixture through reasons beyond the reasonable control of that team, club or Athletic Union (or equivalent).

In the first instance all walkovers will be deemed voluntary. To request that a walkover be considered involuntary, an institution must submit a BUCS Involuntary Walkover Request Form no later than 24 hours (outside of weekends and bank holidays) after notification of the walkover being claimed/conceded.

What is our policy?

The Union of Students has a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to Walkovers by sports team within BUCS competition.

The Union is a registered charity and has a legal obligation to ensure that its funds are used in the best interests of its members.

It is not possible for the Union to cancel transport and absorb additional costs when a Walkover occurs as these are costs that have no benefit to the charity.

The Union Executive team considers this to be inappropriate use of funds and will not tolerate Walkovers from any team.

Fixtures are published by BUCS in July each year and all teams can view these from this point onwards via BUCS Play. This gives the committees the chance to plan and prepare ahead of the season. Committee members and Captains shall be responsible for the arrangement of club BUCS fixtures in conjunction with and as facilitated by the Activities Administrator.

Following the release of team fixtures, re-arrangements and reversal requests can be actioned at any time during the season and should be requested to the Activities Administrator by no later than 48 hours prior to the fixture commencing (this does not include weekends or Bank Holidays).

The same rule applies for forcing walkovers on opposition teams. Captains are asked for their opinions but the final decision on re-arrangements and reversal requests is on the Activities department.

Teams have a responsibility to plan carefully around core times, busy periods, exam weeks or any other potential conflicts which might arise for specific fixture dates during the year. These are key examples of when rearrangements should be

planned and requested to avoid Walkovers. The Activities Administrator is responsible for liaising with the opposition universities to agree any changes following team requests for rearrangements or reversals.

Teams are required to offer at least 2 alternative dates for the opponents to agree to that works for both parties. If a team is unable to field a team, then the President/Captain must notify the Activities Administrator as soon as possible so that the Union can assist in mitigating the effects of a potential Walkover.

What are the consequences?

As well as the financial impact on the Union, conceding a Walkover has an adverse effect on the team through loss of league points and monetary sanctions. Walkovers impact on the overall BUCS points total for the University of Derby and therefore affects all other teams and the institutions total score and placing within the overall league table.

For teams conceding a Walkover, BUCS team entries for the following season will be strongly considered on a case-by-case basis.