



Scottish Student Football (SSF)

These guidelines will represent the specific rules and regulations that will govern Scottish Student Football. Where a regulation is not detailed below then the normal rules of British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) shall be applied. SSF will operate under Scottish Student Sport (SSS).

Who are the member clubs of SSF?	Any University or College team that has entered the BUCS league and is based in Scotland or entered the Scottish Student Cups operated by SSS will automatically become a member of Scottish Student Football.
What leagues operate under SSF?	All institutions now enter the BUCS leagues structure: BUCS Scottish Conference 1A – 6C
How do you become a member of SSF?	You must have entered the league listed above and paid the appropriate fee.
What are the objectives of SSF?	There are three primary objectives of SSF: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To promote, foster and help the development of the game of Football within Scottish tertiary education.- To make, adopt, vary and publish the rules and regulations governing the programme of league and cup matches (Appendix A).- To promote, provide for, regulate and manage a representative programme appropriate to the standard of player and available competition within the sector.
Do I contact the opposition to arrange a fixture?	All fixtures have been scheduled, in accordance with your published available academic dates, by the SSS staff. If you would like to change the date of any arranged fixture then your respective Sports Union or nominated individual should agree a date suitable to both parties.
Who do I speak to if I have a problem with SSF?	In the first instance you should contact your Sports/Athletic Union who will make contact with the SSS office. leah@scottishstudentsport.com



Scottish Student Football

Rules and Regulations – Appendix A

Rules

All matches shall be played according to the Laws of the Game as approved by the Scottish Football Association.

League Matches

Promotion /Relegation	It is normal that one team shall be promoted and one team shall be relegated each year. SSF and BUCS reserve the right to amend this on an occasion where a Scottish team is relegated / promoted into / out of the Premier League.
-----------------------	---

Points Per Match	There shall be three points for a win and one point for a draw.
------------------	---

Equal points	On completion of the Leagues the final positions of teams' level on points shall be decided on games played against each other, then goal difference, then goals scored then the toss of a coin.
--------------	--

Fixture Cancellation	If a match is postponed or abandoned then the rearranged date of the fixture must be set within 48 hours of the cancellation between the two institutions sports unions or equivalent.
----------------------	--

Match Organisation

Kick Off	The normal start time for Wednesday fixtures shall be 14.00 hours where possible. No matches should start earlier than 13:00.
----------	---

Season Calendar	Competition matches shall be played on Wednesday afternoons on the set dates from September until March unless both teams agree an alternative.
-----------------	---

Match Details	All match information should be coordinated by your institutional fixtures administrator (start time, directions to ground, playing colours, post-match catering arrangements, match day contacts), and entered onto BUCS Play as early as possible. Any changes should be confirmed by both institutions a minimum of 14 days prior to the fixture.
---------------	--

Arrival at Venue	Teams, both home and away, should arrive at the match venue a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the start of the match and be ready to play a minimum of five minutes before the set time of the kick off. It is recommended that teams should supply the match referee with team lines 15 minutes prior to the set time of the kick – off.
------------------	--



Travel arrangements for away teams should allow for delays caused by travel problems or other unexpected circumstances.

Late Arrivals Where a team arrives late to a fixture, every effort should be made for the fixture to be played in full. If the match cannot be played to a full conclusion, it should be played to 75%. Where the team arrives too late for a minimum of 75% of the fixture to be played, if the lateness of the team was caused through no fault of the team, the fixture should be rearranged.

Appointment of Officials It is the responsibility of the home team to appoint the referee.

Playing Under Protest Within BUCS competition, if a team does not believe that their opposition are adhering to the rules & regulations they MUST complete a Playing Under Protest (PUP) form and have it signed by the opposition captain as soon as they become aware of the regulation breach. Failure to do this will rule any appeal null and void. A PUP does not guarantee the acceptance of any appeal, it is merely the minimum level of required evidence.

Eligibility

Matriculated students only Players taking part in SSF competitions must be matriculated students of their Institution.

Players on professional contracts Matriculated students who are bound by completed player registration forms to represent football clubs other than their institution may, with permission from the Club that holds their registration, represent their institution in SSF competitions.

Any player competing under this arrangement must provide written proof of permission from the club that holds their player registration within five days if requested by the Head of Competitions. Failure to do so will result in a possible suspension, ban from the league and the loss of points to the team.

Note: This only applies to SSF Leagues. Those teams who compete in SAFA Leagues at weekends must adhere to the constitution of SAFA and their local league.

Team Lines

Completion of team lines Official team lines giving the full names and team or the SSFC registration details of the players must be completed in duplicate ink for all SSF matches and handed to the match referee prior to the start of the game.

Referee to return team lines and report The Referee shall return one copy of the team lines to the SSS Office together with the match result and any official reports and comments.



Opposing team	The Referee shall give one copy of the team lines to the opposing team prior to the start of the game
BUCS Play	Team lines must be completed by each captain on BUCS Play and should be done in advance of the fixture. Where this is not possible, the official SSF team line will suffice for the game but BUCS Play should be updated ASAP following the game. ALL players must be registered on BUCS Play to be eligible to play.
Failure to submit team lines	A fine of £10 will be levied against any club who does not submit team lines prior to the match. If the home team does not receive a copy of the away team then they should advise the SSS office within 24 hours.
If a referee does not return team lines	A fine of £20 (£10 per team line) will be levied against any home team if the team lines are not returned to the SSS office by the end of season.
If a team line is returned incomplete	A fine of £10 will be levied against any team if the team lines are returned incomplete to the SSS office.

Referees

Home teams appoint referees	<p>Qualified Referees must be arranged by the home team.</p> <p>The level required for BUCS league matches as is per the BUCS Officials Regulations document, appendix 5 of the BUCS Regulations found here.</p> <p>For Scottish Student Football Cup competitions, all referees should hold, at a minimum, a level 6 qualification.</p> <p>For assistance in appointing referees, you should contact the Secretary from your area. The details of each Secretary can be found on the SFA website or by clicking on the following link:</p> <p>https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish-fa/referees/referee-associations/</p>
Referee assistants	<p>All BUCS Tier 1A fixtures must have a qualified and neutral referee.</p> <p>Wherever possible Referees' Assistants should be provided but in their absence nominated substitutes may not be used.</p> <p>Below Tier 1, all fixtures must have a qualified referee.</p>
Substitutions	<p>For any BUCS Championship/Trophy match and BUCS Men's fixtures in Tier 1, a maximum of three substitutions will be allowed from a maximum of five named substitutes.</p> <p>For Women's fixtures in BUCS Tier 1 and all fixtures in BUCS Tier 2 and below (including Conference Cup/Conference Plate) a maximum of five substitutions will be allowed from a maximum of five named substitutes.</p>



For SSF Cup competitions, a maximum of five substitutions will be allowed from a maximum of five named substitutes.

Cancelled matches In the event of a game being postponed by the weather and the Referee being present at the ground, the Referee shall be paid half of the match fee.

Match Fee The standard match fee varies by region.

Facilities

Standard facilities Playing facilities should be of an appropriate quality for SSF competitions and should comply with national governing body regulations.

BUCS Tier 1A In BUCS 1A pitches should, as a minimum, be roped off to prevent spectator encroachment.

Medical Cover Host Institutions should ensure that there is an appropriate level of medical/first aid cover available either at or within close proximity of the pitch.

Colour Clash Where there is a similarity of playing colours, the home team shall change.

Synthetic Pitches Synthetic pitches are permitted however a booking time of a minimum of 2 hours 30 minutes must be placed.

Knockout Competitions

BUCS Conference Cup (CC) and Conference Plate (CP) Matches

Format The CC and CP are played by university teams that play in leagues below tier 1A.

Cup Draw The draws will be made by the SSS office.

Dates of Fixtures The dates are published in advance of the season and played during the league campaign.

Match Draw If a match ends in a draw after 90 minutes then the referee should instruct the match to go straight to penalty kicks. Normal penalty kick rules should be applied.

Final The final shall be played as part of the Conference Finals day.



SSF Cups – Queen’s Park Shield (QPS), Women’s Cup (WC) and College Cup Matches

Format The QPS, and WC are played by university and college teams from within the Scottish Student Sport membership.

The College Cup restricted to only college teams from within the Scottish Student Sport membership

Cup Draw The draws will be made by the SSS office.

Dates of Fixtures The dates for the QPS and WC are published in advance of the season and played during the league campaign.

Dates for College Cup will be confirmed by the SSS office following the Festive Break and played during the second half of the league campaign as well as thorough the month of April.

Match Draw Finals for the QPS and WC – if a match end in a draw after 90 minutes then the referee should instruct the match to go to extra time. If a match ends in draw after the allocated extra time, the referee should instruct the match to go to penalty kicks. Normal penalty kicks rules should be applied.

Finals for College Cup - If a match ends in a draw after 90 minutes then the referee should instruct the match to go straight to penalty kicks. Normal penalty kick rules should be applied.

Final The final for QPS and WC shall be played as part of the Football Finals day.

The College Cup finals shall be plated as part of the College National Finals Day.

Disciplinary Guidelines

A full breakdown of the disciplinary guidelines is available in Appendix B.



Scottish Student Football

Disciplinary Guidelines – Appendix B

Rationale

This document has been drafted to clarify our stance on discipline within Scottish Student Football (SSF). This document will be used across all SSF matches in Scotland. This document has been drafted up in consultation with the Scottish Amateur Football Association.

Fixed Penalties for Standard Offences

The following penalties will be applied to anyone (players as well as coaching staff) who has been reported or shown a red card by the referee of the match:

Offence	Punishment
Kicking and punching opponent	8 Matches
Elbowing opponent in face	8 Matches
Stamping on an opponent	8 Matches
Grabbing opponent by throat	6 Matches
Punching / kicking / striking and opponent	4 Matches
Elbowing opponent on body	4 Matches
Attempting to punch / kick / strike an opponent	3 Matches
Adopting a threatening or aggressive attitude	3 Matches
Pushing an opponent	3 Matches
Offensive, insulting or abusive language towards the referee	3 Matches
Offensive, insulting or abusive language	2 Matches
Serious Foul Play	2 Matches
Denies a goal or goal-scoring opportunity	1 Match
Receiving a Second Caution in the same match	1 Match

Fines

A yellow card is a £3 fine and a red card is a £5 fine. Institutions will be invoiced the fines at the end of the season including the fines for missing and incomplete team lines.

Fixed Penalties for Accumulative Cautions

A player will be subject to the application of the following suspensions for every set of three cautions accumulated during the course of the playing season. The record will be maintained on a seasonal basis only. Cautions for one playing season will not be carried forward to the next season.

Accumulation of cautions:

First set of 3 cautions	1 Match
Second set of 3 cautions	2 Matches
Third set of 3 cautions	3 Matches



Communication of Sanctions

The SSS office will process all team lines to identify sanctions on a weekly basis. All sanctions will apply to, and be communicated in the following manner:

Sanctions will be communicated to institutions once a week, on Friday afternoon.

All Sanctions will apply for the following week of competition

Only sanctions from team lines received by Noon on Friday will be applied for the following week.*

All sanctions will be added to the SSS website on the football sports page for reference.

*if a team is aware that a player will be sanctioned (either for a red card or accumulation) they may apply the sanction before receiving the official notice of sanction. In this case, the institution must inform the office that the player has already been held out of a match as the sanction.

Application of Sanction

Sanctions received shall only apply to the competition in which they were received. Should a sanction not be served to its fullest extent by the end of the season, any remaining matches of that particular punishment will be carried over to the following season of play. It will be the responsibility of each team prior to the start of the season to confirm that students who have played for other institutions are not subjected to any outstanding sanctions. Please note that this provision will commence starting in 2019 – 20 to 2020 – 2021 season.

Right of Appeal

No player, committee or club has the right to appeal against any caution or cautions (i.e. a yellow card) received except in the case where there may have been a case of mistaken identity.

Any player wishing to appeal against a sending off offence (i.e. a red card) is required to do so via their club committee or staff member from their sports union. An email must reach the Scottish Student Sport office no later than five days after the suspension has been issued. Payment of £25 must also be made within the same time period for the purposes of the review process. This email must include as much detail as possible, in order that a fair decision may be reached. If available, video evidence may be supplied. The appeals panel will consist of the SSF Chair, SSS Head of Competitions plus one other from the SSF Development group. Clubs will be notified of the decision within two days of receiving the appeal.

Failure to Comply

It is the responsibility of the respective club to enforce the fine. Any player caught playing during a suspension will be subsequently banned from playing for their institution permanently, will be deemed ineligible for representative selection and will be reported to the Scottish Amateur Football Association. The club and team in question will forfeit the match in question and be fined £100 by SSF.

For further information on discipline and conduct, please write to: SSF Chair (Details TBC) or SSS Head of Competitions, [Ben Philip](#).