



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 Tier 1 – Tier 6B and any Scottish teams that compete in BUCS Premier North
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. The main point of contact for the SSS office will be Chris Purdie, Head of Competitions. chris@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 unless agreements is made between both teams.

Season Calendar Competition matches shall be played on Wednesday afternoons on the set dates from September until March unless both teams agree an alternative in line with BUCS deadlines

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 – the 14 day rule is only used when teams cannot agree to dates.

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. PUP template form can be found on the BUCS website.

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 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	Both teams will be asked to produce a copy of their team lines. If a copy is not produced, both Teams will be charged a fine of £10.
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. This pertains to missing cautions, incorrect squad numbers and missing player names.
Acceptable period for return of team lines	To encourage continued timely completion of team lines, all semester one completed fixtures must have team lines returned to SSS by Friday 15 th December 2023 at 12:00 to avoid any fines. Semester two team lines must be completed in their entirety by no later than Friday 12 th April 2024 to avoid any fines* * = with the exception of QPS and #SCSW cup matches, which has a further deadline of Friday 3 rd May 2024.

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 1 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 For any BUCS Premier Tier league matches and National Championship knockout competition matches, a maximum of five substitutions will be allowed from a maximum of five named substitutes.

For Men's and Women's fixtures in BUCS Tier 1, Trophy and all fixtures in BUCS Tier 2 and below (including Conference Cup/Conference Trophy) a maximum of five substitutions will be allowed from a maximum of five named substitutes.

For SSF Cup competitions (including the QPS, SCSWC and the College Cup), 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 Tier 1 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 Trophy (CT) Matches

Format The CC and CT are played by university teams that play in leagues below Tier 1. Tier 1 teams compete in the relevant National Trophy competition.

Cup Draw The draws will be made by the SSS office and available to view on the BUCS Play Football community



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), SheCanSheWill Cup (SCSWC) and College Cup Matches

Format	<p>The QPS, and SCSWC are played by university and college teams from within the Scottish Student Sport membership.</p> <p>The College Cup restricted to only college teams from within the Scottish Student Sport membership</p>
Cup Draw	The draws will be made by the SSS office and available to view on the SS Football Playwaze Community.
Dates of Fixtures	<p>The dates for the QPS and SCSWC are published in advance of the season and played during the league campaign. SSF Cups matches will not be arranged a specific date of fixtures. Institutions will be given a window of time in which each round is to be played before the final days in April 2024</p> <p>Dates for College Cup will be confirmed by the SSS office before the Festive Break and played during the second half of the league campaign as well as through the month of April.</p>
Play by Dates	<p>Institutions are required to complete each knockout round by the play by date listed on the Playwaze system. For the 2023-2024 season, institutions are not required to play matches on a Wednesday, allowing for flexibility of fixture arrangement.</p> <p>Failure to complete a fixture by the corresponding play-by date of that round will result in a void result. In this event of a void result occurs before the final round of the knockout competition, a coin toss will be conducted by the SSS office to determine a winner.</p>
Match Draw	<p>For preliminary Rounds and all playoff matches, including the semi-final matches for QPS, SCSWC and College National Finals, 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.</p> <p>Finals for the QPS and SCSWC – 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</p>



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. Format of Finals Day can be changed at the discretion of Scottish Student Sport dependent on the number of entries and venue requirements.

Final	<p>The final for QPS and SCSWC shall be played as part of the Football Finals day.</p> <p>The College Cup finals shall be played as part of the College National Finals Day.</p>
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Disciplinary Guidelines – Please see Appendix B (to follow)

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.

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 an 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

Please note that SSF reserves the right to go above and beyond the penalties listed should the nature of an incident warrant additional action. Further punishment above those listed in this Appendix will be only issued



under extraordinary circumstances and only be applied after consultation with SSS Head of Competitions, Chris Purdie as well as SSF Chair, Filippo Antoniazzi. A full rationale for any additional punishment will be provided during the communication of sanction sent directly to the affected member institution(s).

Fines

A yellow card is a £4 fine and a red card is a £6 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, by midday Monday.

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 2022-23 to 2023-2024 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 a 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. The Appeals Process is outlined in appendix C below.

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, scotstufootball@hotmail.com, or SSS Head of Competitions, [Chris Purdie](#).

Appendix C: Football Sanction Appeals

The pathway below sets out the steps for the SSS office to take upon receiving an appeal.

1. Request to appeal red card is submitted to office
2. Competitions Assistant (CA) to check it has been received within the appeal time limit
 - a. If it is, confirm request and advise that the sanction will stand until the appeal is resolved. In addition, confirm the cost of appeal is £25 if not already paid/acknowledged
 - b. If not, advise that the appeal is not valid as outside of the appeal deadline. **End of appeal.**
3. CA to advise Head of Competitions (HC) & Scottish Student Football Chair of Appeal Request and need to convene Appeal Panel
4. HC to advise Chair of Competitions Committee that there has been an appeal
5. HC to select Appeal Panel – Football Chair, Head of Competitions, Football Development Group Member*
6. HC to coordinate and set Appeal Panel date within 2 weeks of appeal receipt
7. HC to share Typeform link for appeal submission from appellant with 72 working hours deadline
8. After receiving appeal submission, share with referee/opposition (as appropriate) and request any supplementary submissions from them within 72 working hours
9. On receipt of any supplementary submissions, HC to share all documentation with all involved parties. Confirm panel meeting details for anyone that wishes or has been requested to attend
10. Appeal Panel meet via Conference Call. Anyone submitting documentation to the appeal may be asked to join the call to assist the Panel
11. Decision circulated by HC in writing to both appellant and referee within 24 hours of appeal panel meeting. **End of appeal.**
12. The Appeal Panel decision is appealable to the SSS Competitions Committee. Any party wishing to appeal the decision should advise the Chair of the Competitions Committee within 24 working hours of receiving the decision.

*where possible, the 3rd member of the panel should not be from the institution that is appealing, or from an institution with a team in the same league as the appealed match, or from an institution within the same SSS region as the appellant.