



# Essex Blades Walkover Policy 2023-24

## INTRODUCTION

The University of Essex is committed to trying to excel within the BUCS National League Table and as such has targeted a top 25 position as part of the BUCS Strategy objectives.

We want all our sporting teams to avoid giving away walkovers at all costs. Previous seasons have seen our teams lose hundreds of BUCS points through conceding voluntary walkovers, which could be avoided. T

Without conceding any voluntary walkovers, Essex would have finished higher up the BUCS points table. Our overall aim isto finish in the top 25 of the BUCS points table, therefore it is imperative that we worktogether to ensure these are avoided.

This policy outlines what sanctions will be enforced on Essex teams in the event of voluntary walkovers being conceded.

## BUCS REGULATIONS AND SANCTIONS

REG 13.7 Forfeited matches (Walkovers) A forfeited match will be deemed to have been caused by voluntary or involuntary circumstances. 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 (whether 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.

## REG 13.7.5 Penalties for conceding walkovers

**REG 13.7.5.1 Leagues walkovers** Unless indicated otherwise in sport specific regulations or Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information'), the following penalties shall apply:

	One walkover	Two walkovers	Three or more walkovers
<b>Premier Tier</b>	Loss of three league points and half of BUCS Points attained through final league position.*  If finish bottom of league table then ineligible to take part in playoff, i.e. automatically relegated.	Further loss of three league points and all BUCS points attained through final league position.  Automatically relegated following season regardless of final league position.  Not eligible to progress to knockout competition.	In addition to those listed to the left; loss of three league points per occurrence and having conceded three walkovers*, <b>an automatic £250 fine, increased by an additional £100 per subsequent concession.</b>
<b>Tier 1</b>	Loss of three league points and half of BUCS Points attained through final league position.	Further loss of three league points and all BUCS points attained through final league position.  Ineligible for progression to, or automatic withdrawal from, the knockout competition through an involuntary walkover.	In addition to those listed to the left, loss of three league points per occurrence and having conceded three walkovers*, <b>an automatic £100 fine, increased by an additional £50 per subsequent concession.</b>  Not eligible for promotion.
<b>Tier 2 and below</b>	Loss of three league points and half of BUCS Points attained through final league position.	Further loss of three league points and all BUCS points attained through final league position.	In addition to those listed to the left, loss of three league points per occurrence and having conceded three walkovers*, <b>an automatic £50 fine, increased by an additional £50 per subsequent concession.</b>  Not eligible for promotion.  Ineligible for progression to, or automatic withdrawal from, the knockout competition through an involuntary walkover.

**REG 13.7.5.2 Knockout competition walkovers** Unless indicated otherwise in sport specific regulations or Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information'), the following penalties shall apply:

	<b>One or more walkovers</b>
<b>National Championship and National Vase</b>	An automatic £750 fine and loss of all BUCS Points allocated to the knockout competition.
<b>National Trophy</b>	An automatic £500 fine and loss of all BUCS Points allocated to the knockout competition.
<b>Conference Cup/Trophy/Shield</b>	An automatic £250 fine and loss of all BUCS Points allocated to the knockout competition.

**REG 13.7.5.3 Playoff walkovers** Unless indicated otherwise in sport specific regulations or Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information'), the following penalties shall apply:

	<b>One walkover</b>	<b>Two walkovers</b>	<b>Three walkovers</b>
<b>Playoffs</b>	An automatic £300 fine.	An additional £300 fine.	An additional £300 fine.

**REG 13.7.5.4 Season total (in addition to those detailed for specific competitions above)** Walkovers conceded in leagues and knockout competitions (but not playoffs) will be tallied as a team's Season Total regardless of which competition they were conceded in. Meaning for example, if a team concedes a fixture in a Premier Tier league and in the National Championship, they will be regarded as having conceded two walkovers. Consequently, penalties would be applied as appropriate to conceding two walkovers plus those applicable to the specific competitions.

	<b>One walkover</b>	<b>Two walkovers</b>	<b>Three or more walkovers</b>
<b>Premier Tier and National Championship/Vase</b>	If finish bottom of final league table not eligible to take part in playoff, i.e. automatically relegated.	Automatically relegated following season regardless of final league position.	N/A
<b>Tier 1 and National Championship/Vase/Trophy</b>	N/A	N/A	Not eligible for promotion.
<b>Tier 2 and below and Conference Cup/Trophy/Shield</b>	N/A	N/A	Not eligible for promotion.

**REG 13.7.5.5 Elective central venue/tournament format walkovers** Any team deemed to have conceded walkovers will be subject to the same penalties as outlined in REG 13.7.5.1 – REG 13.7.5.4. There will be no exceptions for walkovers conceded where fixtures are organised in a central venue/tournament format.

### **ADDITIONAL ESSEX SANCTIONS FOR CONCEDED VOLUNTARY WALKOVERS**

Alongside the penalties incurred from BUCS, the Student Activities Team will be enforcing consequences for conceding voluntary walkovers.

1. **One walkover** - Your team will be charged the costs incurred from that BUCS fixture due to be played (including travel, officials etc.) and this will be charged to your club account. You will also be called into the SU Activities Office to have a review meeting of the team/club where you will have to formulate an action plan of how the team/club will avoid conceding any further voluntary walkovers.
2. **Two walkovers** - Your team will be charged 50% of the costs of your team participating in BUCS (including entry, travel, officials etc.) You will also be called into the SU Activities Office to have a further review meeting to reassess your action plan as well as your club's finances.
3. **Three or more walkovers** - Your team will be charged the full costs of your team participating in BUCS (including entry, travel, officials etc.)