



BUCS Strategic Plan for Lacrosse 2012-15

Introduction

Lacrosse has been one of the fastest growing sports in the BUCS programme with a well established women's competition and a more recently developed men's competition. The aim of this document is to gather support for the continued growth of the BUCS programme.

Women's lacrosse is more established within Great Britain and a well developed schools programme ensures that more women have played the game prior to joining HE than men. This is not the case in the men's game where a large proportion playing at university will not have played previously.

The landscape in both sport and HE is experiencing significant political and economic turbulence and challenge. This strategy needs to be mindful of the added financial pressures on HE sports provision over the next few years at least, alongside increased pressure across HE to improve the quality of student experience and enhance graduate employability.

Higher education makes a significant contribution to Lacrosse nationally in terms of playing numbers and investment in the sport and this is recognised by English Lacrosse as a key area of priority for them. Lacrosse Scotland is also engaged in the development of the strategy. English Lacrosse is the largest and most well resourced of the home nations governing bodies and has traditionally been the lead partner with BUCS with the largest resources available of any of the home nations governing bodies.

Students will face increasing pressure financially, in terms of time and critically in the job market. The challenge to the BUCS programme from students is to deliver competitions and events that provide a valuable and worthwhile experience.

This strategy will need a larger workforce to be successful but in doing so will offer many opportunities to gain valuable experience in lacrosse and general sport delivery and presentation. The opportunity exists to enhance student employability and staff development by offering roles that challenge and maximise the skill sets of those involved.



We will ensure the programme is transparent and open to those who are able and willing to contribute to its development. We will produce an annual progress report and seek opinions from members, participants and other key stakeholders.

English Lacrosse has received funding for a 3 year programme via Sport England's Active Universities. This will enable English Lacrosse to work with 30 institutions in England to increase participation. This strategy will take into account work being done by National Governing Bodies to increase participation and ensure that the BUCS programme is adaptable and provides a competitive structure for those introduced to the game to continue their development.

An implementation plan will accompany this document outlining how the strategy will be delivered.

BUCS Programme

There are currently 64 women's teams and 58 men's teams competing in 22 leagues across the BUCS programme. Both competitions are now established and there is unlikely to be a lot of growth with new universities offering the sport. There is an established league pyramid with universities playing in conference based leagues at the lower levels which rise to Premier Leagues North and South. At the end of the season teams qualify for one of three competitions: Championship, Trophy or Conference with finals for the first two held as part of the BUCS Championships.

Lacrosse in HE has consistently struggled with the number of officials available on Wednesday afternoons. This is one of the biggest barriers to the sport developing the quality of play within HE and this strategy will look to address this alongside National Governing Bodies.



Areas of Focus

1. Participation

Participation in Lacrosse has risen in HE very quickly over the last few years. This has presented a number of challenges that need to be addressed if the experience for students can be maintained. Two areas of major concern are the number of qualified officials available and access to equipment for new male players. The sector will have to take the lead in developing officials for the university game as Lacrosse nationally does not have the number of officials available and certainly not on Wednesday afternoons.

Strategic Priorities

- 1.1** Develop student officials for BUCS matches
 - 1.1.1** Work with national governing bodies to provide accessible courses for all university teams
 - 1.1.2** Work with national governing bodies to provide support for all student officials
 - 1.1.3** Use regulation to ensure all teams provide a minimum number of officials
- 1.2** Develop innovative methods for gaining access to equipment for new male players
- 1.3** Encourage links between universities and local clubs to share resources and offer more opportunities for participation
- 1.4** Develop competitions that encourage participation and qualification of officials



2. Competition

The growth in institutions entering the lacrosse leagues has slowed in recent years and is unlikely to increase dramatically. However there is potential to grow existing university clubs by providing more access to developmental competitions and link with strategic priority 1.4. The women's competition is well established and most matches are competitive between teams. The men's competition is still developing and in the most part most matches are competitive between the premier league and conference teams.

Strategic Priorities

- 2.1** Ensure the leading women's teams play competitive matches throughout the season
- 2.2** Promote the full range of opportunities to students and ensure BUCS and SGBS have an integrated calendar for HE participants
- 2.3** Increase the profile of BUCS Lacrosse



3. Performance

Lacrosse is not a professional sport in Great Britain and as a result the performance pathway is not through professional clubs. HE should be a clear part of the pathway to full international representation. There are currently no competitions in the World University Games or Championships for Lacrosse. Currently there is no relationship between BUCS Lacrosse and performance directors of the national governing bodies. By developing this relationship there is the opportunity to work for the mutual benefit of both the best players in HE and the national teams

3.1 Ensure the best players are identified and are known to national governing body performance directors

3.2 Ensure top level BUCS competitions are embedded within governing body calendars



BUCS Lacrosse Key Performance Indicators

Strategic Priority Area	Key Performance Indicator
1. Participation	1.1 Number of qualified officials linked to student clubs 1.2 Number of teams playing in developmental competitions
2. Competitions	2.1 Number of teams in BUCS Competitions 2.2 Number of hits on BUCS Lacrosse pages
3. Performance	3.1 Number of players playing internationally having played in BUCS Lacrosse