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# British University Gymnastics League




## Handbook 2026/27

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# Welcome to BUG League!

**Hi there!**
**We are BUGL. A new University Gymnastics League for university students in Britain.**

**We have spent a lot of time working on getting this league set up, and we are all very passionate about keeping university gymnastics going at the standard that students deserve.**

**All of us on the BUGL team are either recent graduates or are still students so we have a very good understanding of how things have run in the past for university gymnastics and how things can be improved.**

**We are here to bring consistency and fun, and provide exciting new events and opportunities for students to take part in throughout the year.**

**Please enjoy reading through our handbook as this should help to explain how everything will work and provide you with all the information you will need for this year of competition.**

**We look forward to welcoming you into the BUG League community!**

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# Table of Contents


**Meet the BUGL Team!** 4

**Categories** 5

**North & South Leagues** 6

**Entries** 7

*How to Enter*
*Entry Fee*
*Oversubscription*

**Entry Regulations** 8

*Student ID*
*Insurance*
*Sanctions*
*Readiness to Compete*
*Coaches*
*Judges*

**Competition Requirements** 9

*Affiliation*
*Attire*

**Competition Information** 10

*Paramedics*
*Photography*
*Live Scores*
*Sponsorship*

**Inclusivity** 11

*Accessibility*
*Adjustments*

**Judging** 12

*Judges*
*BUGL Judging Workshops*

**Scoring Disputes** 13

**Event Awards** 14

**League Points** 15

*Calculation of League Points*
*University League Scoring*
*University League Standings*

**Additional Information** 16

*Moving Up*
*Results*
*Ties*
*Conduct*

**Closing Remarks** 18

# Meet the BUGL Team!

**Hi!**
**We're the BUGL Team**

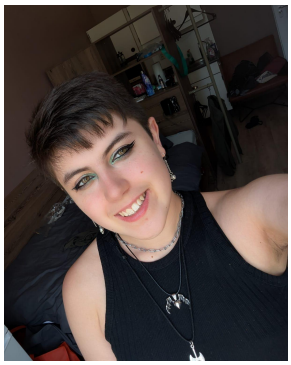
Here are some names and faces and our roles within the team so you know who we are and what we're here to do!



**Hariesh Jegatheepan**
**President &**
**Head of WAG**




**Scarlett Cherry**
**Administrator**



**Robyn Garner**
**Treasurer &**
**Inclusivity**



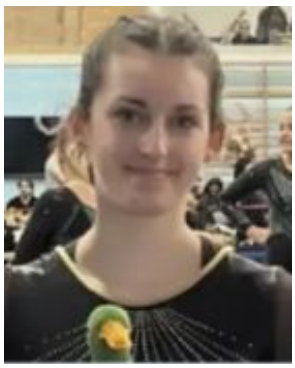
**Emma May**
**Welfare Officer &**
**University Liaison**



**Charlotte Wells**
**Development Officer**



**Olivia Cartwright**
**Social Media**



**Charlotte Bainbridge**
**Social Media**



**Joseph Gunning-Thompson**
**Head of MAG**



**Lucy Freeland**
**WAG Rep**



**Blake Eldridge**
**MAG Rep**



**Hierthika Jegatheepan**
**WAG Rep**

**Keep an eye out for us at comps and feel free to ask us any and every question you can think of!**

# Categories

We have chosen to include categories that will help accommodate a wide range of gymnasts, from those who are new to the sport to those who have been training and competing at the highest level.

There is a category open to all, designed to set gymnasts up with the skills needed to progress in both MAG & WAG:
**Introductory**

There are 4 categories for MAG:
**Novice**
**Intermediate**
**Advanced**
**BUGL FIG**

There are 5 categories for WAG:
**Novice**
**Intermediate**
**Advanced**
**Advanced+**
**BUGL FIG**

We require all gymnasts to compete in the category that is suitable for them and that they are **fully capable** of competing in.

Anyone competing skills that appear unsafe, dangerous or beyond a gymnast's ability in anyway will be asked to stop and **may be asked to leave** the competition floor.

We encourage gymnasts to remain in the category that they choose throughout the season, however if a gymnast needs to drop down a category due to medical or personal reasons we do ask that they contact us at office@bugl.co.uk so we can approve.

Alternatively, if a gymnast feels they have progressed enough throughout the season to move up a category they are more than welcome to do so as long as they are fully capable of competing in that category.

Gymnasts **may not** compete in more than one category in a single BUGL competition.

Please find information about 'Moving Up' on page 16 for more details on why we may ask gymnasts to move up a category.

# North & South Leagues

There will be a total of **9** BUG League competitions throughout the 2026/27 season. This will include **4 North League** and **4 South League** competitions followed by **1 National BUG League Final** at the end of the season.

The two Regional Leagues will run independently with universities being split into either the North or the South. The respective Regional League scores will transfer over to the joined BUG League Final. **We ask that universities clarify which Regional League they will be affiliating with when joining us.**

Each region will have a **Regional League Final** at competition number **4** where a university will be crowned BUG North League and BUG South League champion. This will be determined by each university's **top 3 scores**.

The Regional League scores will then carry forward to the **National League Final**, where each university's **top 3 scores** across the season, **plus** National Finals, will determine which university takes home the British University Gymnastics League shield! Only universities and gymnasts who compete at the BUG League Final in May will be eligible for National League medals and trophies.

All rules in this document will be relevant for all leagues unless stated otherwise.

Regional Leagues are created to minimise oversubscription to BUGL competitions and to make venue locations more convenient for universities and competitors to get to.

In the interest of continuing tradition, the North League will be green and the South league will be orange, all else will be purple!

Link to website with all our competition dates and venues: www.bugl.co.uk
You can also find these on our Instagram: @bug.league

# Entries

## How to Enter

Entries to BUGL events can be made on our website www.bugl.co.uk. Specific details can be found on our 'Entries' page.

## Entry Fee

The price to enter any BUGL event will be **£25 per competitor**.

Universities will be invoiced for the total number of entries they submit.
Individual entrants will be invoiced directly for their entry.

Entry fees must be paid within **30 days** of the invoice date of issue. If payment is made after this period, a late invoice fee of £50.00 will be applied. This will be requested as a separate invoice. A further late invoice fee will be added to the account for every 7 calendar days that the invoice has not been paid. However, we understand that some clubs may not have direct access to their bank accounts, so if you have submitted your payment and are waiting for finance approval from your university, please let us know and we can remove this fee.

Clubs that have outstanding payments with late invoice fees attached will NOT be able to attend any further competitions until these have been paid.

We will not make any changes to competition entry fees throughout the year. It will be £25 per competitor for every competition, whether that be a North, South, or National League event. Our prices will be reviewed in future, and we are always seeking ways to make BUG League accessible to as many people as possible. However at present, as a new organisation, we are unable to have any flexibility in our prices.

## Oversubscription

If a competition is oversubscribed, the BUGL team has the right to allocate reserve spots for universities. A university may choose to switch which of their gymnasts has been reserved, depending on category numbers.

Should a gymnast no longer be able to compete, the university should let us know so we can allow a reserved entrant to replace them.

# Entry Regulations

## Student ID

Students are required to bring proof of student status and show this upon request; a student ID card is acceptable. Non-student competitors may be asked for ID to prove they are over the age of 18.

## Insurance

Insurance for BUG League events is the responsibility of the participating club or entrant. To participate in BUG League competitions, clubs must hold sufficient insurance and ensure that all competing members are appropriately covered for the activities undertaken. Clubs must be able to provide evidence of this on request or risk exclusion from the BUG League and all BUGL affiliated events.

## Sanctions

At BUGL, we reserve the right to remove competitors, sanction or disqualify universities, and invalidate scores for instances of misconduct, without refund. Sanction letters will be sent to any universities following misconduct, which will clearly outline the decision made by the BUGL Team and make clear of any repercussions that will follow. These will be sent via email to the university in question.

## Readiness to Compete

**Competitors must not enter themselves at a level that is beyond or below their ability and must be physically and mentally ready to compete at the level entered.**

## Coaches

Competitors must be accompanied by a relevant level coach throughout the competition. Coaches may be shared across universities. Coaches must know which gymnasts they are responsible for.

It is the responsibility of the university or individual to ensure they have a relevant level coach with them for the duration of their competition.

## Judges

See p12 for judging requirements.

# Competition Requirements

## Affiliation

We do not charge an affiliation fee.

Affiliation is subject to the rules and regulations set out in this handbook.

To affiliate your university, the **affiliation form** must be filled out once (per year). It can be found online on our website www.bugl.co.uk on the 'Documents' page.

Universities may affiliate with BUGL at any point throughout the year, but are encouraged to do so sooner rather than later.

## Attire

Gymnasts must wear safe and appropriate attire for the skills they are performing, in line with British Gymnastics guidelines. Where possible, gymnasts competing in the same round should wear matching attire. Any gymnasts who are in inappropriate attire will be asked to change or leave the competition floor. All permissible competition attire can be worn by any competitor, irrespective of gender identity.

Coaches should wear appropriate attire whilst in active competition, according to BG standards. Any coaches who are in inappropriate attire will be asked to change or leave the competition floor. Coaching in shorts is permitted.

Judges should wear casual clothing. We understand that judges may also be gymnasts, so we ask that leotards are removed or covered while they are judging.

Jewellery must be removed or covered for gymnasts and coaches. Any jewellery worn during competition is at the risk of the wearer, and BUGL will not be responsible for any consequences.

# Competition Information

## Paramedics

BUGL events may have a paramedic team in attendance.

Should an incident occur which needs medical attention, please alert a member of the paramedic team and a member of the BUGL team.

## Photography

Please be aware that photography and videography will be taking place.

We cannot guarantee you won't be in any photography/videography, but if you do not wish to be in any of our promotional materials please email us at office@bugl.co.uk. If we include you in promotional material in error after you have requested we not do so, please contact us and we will attempt to remove any content including you.

Competitors/spectators may take photos/videos, but **MUST ensure the flash is OFF**.

Feel free to tag us in anything and everything you post!

- Instagram @bug.league

## Live Scores

Live scores will be available on www.bugl.co.uk

## Sponsorship

This year we are pleased to announce that we are being sponsored by Stag Leotards!

A stall selling Stag Merchandise will be present at select events.

# Inclusivity

## Accessibility

At BUGL we want to make it clear that we welcome anyone who wishes to compete at our competitions. We understand that not everyone fits into the binary of male or female (which gymnastics is so often structured around) and we wish for our competitions to reflect this, so we encourage all gymnasts to compete in the category that they feel most comfortable in. Our only requirement is that all gymnasts must enter the category they are fully capable of competing in.

If you have any enquiries about this please feel free to contact us at office@bugl.co.uk or at @bug.league on Instagram. Robyn Garner is our inclusivity officer, so you can also message them directly at robynatgarners@gmail.com

## Adjustments

If you or your gymnast require any adjustments during the competition then an **Adjustment Form** must be completed and sent to us in an email at least 7 days prior to the competition. This can be found on the 'Documents' page on our website www.bugl.co.uk
Reasons include, but are not limited to:

- Equipment to be raised due to being tall
- Adjustments to be made due to disability or medical reason
- Additional matting required
- Dropping down a category for a certain reason

Adjustment requests will be dealt with on a case by case basis. If the adjustment is agreed to be season long, then only one form will need to be submitted and we will keep a note for future competitions.

If an issue arises within the seven days prior to the competition, please email us to explain your situation and your request, and we will try our best to accommodate you, however no accommodations can be guaranteed.

Additionally, if you or your gymnast want us to be aware of any medical conditions, disabilities, diagnoses, or personal circumstances that may affect your ability to take part in our structure of events, but do not need us to make any adjustments to accommodate your circumstances, you can contact us at office@bugl.co.uk in advance, or come and speak to us on the day if any issues arise.

**We want as many gymnasts to be able to attend and enjoy our competitions as possible. If you feel there is more that we can be doing, please let us know. We are always looking to improve accessibility and inclusivity here at BUG League :)**

# Judging

## Judges

For every 5th competitor entered, a university must provide 1 judge. So a university entering more than 4 competitors must provide 1 judge, a university entering more than 9 competitors must provide 2 judges, and so on.

Judges who are also competitors will not be asked to judge every round, however they must be available to judge at least half a day. If this is the case, then the university should have someone available to judge the other rounds.

There will be a £50 fine if the club cannot provide a judge if they have 5 or more competitors.

If a university has more judges than the minimum requirement, please do submit them still. The more judges available, the less each person will be required for. We will allocate judges as fairly as possible throughout the day. Most will be judging Execution (E), however some may be asked to judge Difficulty (D).

Judges must have a minimum club level British Gymnastics (BG) or BUGL judging qualification. Courses to prepare you to pass this qualification will be run by BUGL in October and available to watch as recordings year round upon payment.

Free lunch will be provided for judges.

## BUGL Judging Workshops

We will be holding judging workshops online with the aim of preparing participants to a BG club judge standard. These workshops will cost £10 per attendee. Please see the instagram @bug.league for further details.

We encourage attendees to get their BG Club Judge qualification afterward, which can be completed online for a fee of £35. For those who do not wish to pursue a BG qualification, you will be able to instead take a short test provided by BUGL for an additional fee of £5 to get a BUGL judging qualification. This does not qualify you to judge anywhere outside of official BUGL competitions.

Link to WAG BG club judge qualification
Link to MAG BG club judge qualification

For those seeking to get their judging qualification later in the year, parts 1 and 2 will be recorded and will be available to watch back upon payment of the £10 fee. This will be available to purchase on the BUGL website after the courses are complete.

# Scoring Disputes

To dispute a score decided by the BUGL judges, you must fill out an official 'Score Enquiry' form after the score has been released on the live score software.

We will have forms printed and available on the day which must be handed directly to a member of the BUGL team by the end of the round, not a judge. The form must be submitted by the gymnast in question, their club president/comp officer or their coach. An outcome and explanation will be given as soon as possible.

Gymnasts are not to talk to a judge for information before submitting a score enquiry. Gymnasts must not attempt to dispute E or D scores directly with judges. Please find a member of the BUGL team that is NOT actively judging. Failure to follow this will result in your dispute being invalid.

If you have a video of the disputed routine, we ask that it is made available to our team.

Gymnasts may only dispute their Difficulty (D) score. Execution (E) scores are fixed. The only exception being if there is an obvious error in the E score (for example a negative score, or a clear typo), in which case our team will investigate and take action. In this instance, please inform a member of our team as soon as possible.

Gymnasts are welcome to speak to judges for feedback after the round has concluded, however it is not realistic for judges to give each gymnast a full execution breakdown of their routine, and we ask that gymnasts respect the judges' time. If anyone in attendance at a BUGL competition is found to be harassing or otherwise interfering with judges, they will be asked to leave and BUGL reserves the right to grant sanctions should it be deemed necessary.

# Event Awards

At each competition the following awards will be presented:

Apparatus Awards
Bronze, silver and gold medals will be awarded for each apparatus in every category.

All Around Awards
Bronze, silver and gold medals will be awarded to the individual with the highest combined:

- 3 scores in Introductory, Novice, Intermediate, WAG Advanced, and WAG Advanced+
- 4 scores in MAG Advanced and WAG FIG
- 6 scores in MAG FIG

Team Awards
Bronze, silver and gold medals will be awarded in every category.
WAG Advanced+ will be part of the FIG team.
Teams will consist of the 4 highest scoring competitors from a single university in each category, across both WAG and MAG. If a university has 8 competitors in a category then they will have 2 teams; the 4 highest AA scorers will make up the first team and the next 4 highest AA scorers will make up the second team. There must be 4 competitors to form a team, a group of 3 competitors will not be eligible for a team medal.

Regional League Awards
Bronze, silver and gold medals will be awarded to individuals based on their combined 3 highest scores from regional competitions.
These will be awarded for the AA competition, as well as each individual apparatus.

National League Awards
Bronze, silver and gold medals will be awarded to individuals based on their combined 3 highest scores from across the whole league, including national finals.
These will be awarded for the AA competition, as well as each individual apparatus.

British University Gymnastics League Shield
The BUGL Shield will be awarded to the university with the highest total league points calculated using the proportionate points ranking system [see page 15] at the National Finals awards ceremony.

## Medal Threshold

The medal threshold score must be reached on an apparatus to be eligible for a medal.

Medal threshold score for all categories: 2.0

# League Points

## Calculation of League Points

All league results will use a proportionate points system. As a result, scores from competitors in novice contribute similarly to competitors in FIG and advanced; hoping to not disadvantage universities based on the number of participants in each level that they enter. This hopes to make BUGL fair and accessible to all universities.

For example, if a novice competitor medals in first place AA, with a score of 24.0 (100%) they would win 100 league points for their university. If second place scored 21.6, this is equivalent to 90% of 1st place so therefore they would score 90 points for their university.

Proportionate scores will be calculated in this manner for all competitors in every category. Only all-around scores will be used to calculate the league points; individual apparatus scores will be calculated via this system but will only count towards individual league medals and, therefore, will have no bearing on the overall league totals for the university.

Scoring Equation: $\frac{(n^{th} \text{ place score})}{(1^{st} \text{ place score})} \times 100$

## University League Scoring

BUG League scores will be calculated as the following:
Regional League: Top **8** AA scores per competition will count towards each university's Regional League total.
National Finals: Top **12** AA scores will be added to each university's Regional League total to make up their National Final total.

## University League Standings

Using the proportionate points system (described above) at each competition, a table of league points for universities will be posted and updated throughout the season. **Only current students of an affiliated university will be eligible to earn league points.**

# Additional Information

## Moving Up

Competitors may be asked to move up a category and will be dealt with on an individual basis. Reasons may be based on, but are not limited to:

- AA score is significantly higher than the rest of the category
- Your skill level is higher than the category requirements

## Results

The results of each BUGL competition will be posted to the BUGL website www.bugl.co.uk within two weeks of the conclusion of the event.

BUGL holds the right to make alterations to the results where evidence of error or misconduct have arisen. BUGL holds the right to withhold awards in such situations if necessary.

## Ties

In the instance of a medal tie-break between individuals, the individual with the highest execution (E score) will be place ahead in the tie-break.

## Conduct

We as a team have created the BUGL league to bring together all the university gymnasts into one sporting community through a set of competitions. Thus we expect all participants and officials to act with decency, integrity and with sportsmanship in the nature of the sport and the league. We believe that the league is a force for good and can only be good through the actions of every individual through the league. Be nice, have fun and enjoy the league.

# Closing Remarks

**All BUG League competitions will be conducted in accordance with the aforementioned BUGL specific regulations and the FIG (International Gymnastics Federation) Code of Points (2025-2028).**

**The BUG League reserves the right to make adjustments to the handbook at any point during the season and competition. The BUG League team holds the final verdict on anything that may be stated in the handbook.**

**Further event specific requirements, rules, and regulations will be contained within the entry and pre-event information for each BUGL event.**

**We really hope you have a great experience with us at BUG League this year and we look forward to welcoming you again for many years to come.**


BUG LEAGUE
NORTH
BUG LEAGUE
SOUTH