

Briefing – Policy Proposal

Title: Change to the Structure of the Sports Rep System

Date: 22/01/2025

Audience: Activities Zone

What is the current situation at UCL related to this proposal?

The Students' Union defines Sports Reps as elected students whose duties are to represent the interests of students participating in sports clubs, to the Union, UCL, and the Activities Zone. To be elected, hopeful Sports Reps must be registered members of at least one sports club, and those voting for them must also be members of at least one sports club. Furthermore, there are expected to be six Sports Reps.¹ This role is advertised to be part-time, with an expected duration of '10-15 hours per term'. This is because they will be working closely with the Activities & Engagement Officer and Sports Officer on specific projects to increase the quality of student life for students in the Union's sporting community.²

Sports Reps are expected to aid the Sports Officer in their work in the following areas:

- **Varsity & Competition** - Organising and promoting varsity.
- **Sports Night** - Being a point of contact for Milkshake promoters/ SU bar managers and passing on student feedback.
- **Campaigns** - Working closely with TeamUCL staff to lead the way on new and existing campaigns.
- **Alumni & Events** - Expanding our alumni networks through the Mandy Walker games and supporting fundraising initiatives at a club level, working to increase the engagement of our mass-participation events like the Campus Run and the Swimathon.
- **Volunteering & Workforce Development** - Support clubs in expanding their volunteering initiatives and developing and supporting our student coaching network.
- **Facilities** - Being a contact for advocating for better facilities for TeamUCL and attending the Somers Town Sports Centre User Group and Bloomsbury Fitness User Group, representing students.³

Previous election data shows that Sports Reps have been elected in the Rep Elections, previously known as the Autumn Elections, since 2019.⁴

What would change if the policy was successful?

If this policy was successful, there would be logistical changes as to when Sports Reps are expected to be elected. This would mean five of the six positions would be elected during the academic year 2024/25 Leadership Race period, and one position aimed at encouraging Post Graduate engagement would be elected during the 25/26 Rep Election. This change would mean the majority of the Sports Reps and the Sports Officer would begin training at the same time, which would positively impact their ability to become a cohesive team. However, the additional Post Grad Sports Rep elected in the Rep Election would not gain this same benefit and the student occupying the role may be negatively affected because of this. Extra effort from the Sports

¹ <https://studentsunionucl.org/bye-laws>

² <https://studentsunionucl.org/activities-representatives>

³ <https://studentsunionucl.org/election/rep-elections-2024/sports-rep>

⁴ <https://studentsunionucl.org/election/autumn-rep-elections-2019>

Officers, Sports Reps, Activities & Engagement Officer and Union staff would need to be had in order to ensure they were well integrated.

What is the relevant national / international context to this situation?

N/A

Are there any legal implications to this policy proposal?

N/A

Does this relate to any existing Union policy?

N/A

Are there any financial, resource or stakeholder / public relations issues with this policy proposal?

N/A

Are there any sustainability implications to this policy proposal?

N/A

Are there any equity and inclusion implications to this policy proposal?

N/A

What would the next steps be if the proposal passed?

If passed, the policy would be ratified at the Union Executive. Due to the immediacy of the Leadership Race nominations opening on Monday February 03 2025, the decision for whether this role is to be included in that election needs to be determined by the Deputy Returning Officer.