

# FAQ: Changes to the Mixed Adult Playoff Structure for 2025



## 1. Why is BAFA introducing changes to the playoff structure?

BAFA is implementing these changes to align with playoff practices in other sports and create a more competitive and sustainable league system. These changes are designed to reward performance while providing fair opportunities for promotion and relegation based on results.

## 2. How will promotion and relegation work in 2025?

- The **winner of the D1 North Final** will be automatically promoted to the Premiership.
- The **runner-up of the D1 North Final** will compete in a promotion-relegation game against the 5th placed team from the Premiership North.
- The **6th placed team in the Premiership South** will compete in a promotion-relegation game against the D1 South promotion-eligible team.
- **Division 2 promotion-eligible teams** will compete against Division 1 relegation-eligible teams in promotion-relegation games.

## 3. Will the number of teams eligible for promotion and relegation change?

No, the number of eligible teams will remain consistent with previous years, with two exceptions:

- The **5th place team in Premiership North** will defend their Premiership spot due to the loss of Edinburgh.
- In Scotland, no teams will be relegated from Division 1 due to regional limitations.
- If the system was to remain for future years, the Northern and Southern Premiership Team in 6<sup>th</sup> place would defend their place.

## 4. How will yellow carded teams be affected?

Teams issued **yellow cards** for forfeiting games during the regular season will be automatically demoted and will not be eligible to defend their place in the promotion-relegation game. In such cases:

- The **promotion-relegation game will be forfeited** by the yellow-carded team.
- **Automatic promotion** will be applied to the promotion-eligible team.

## 5. What happens if a team refuses to play the Promotion/Relegation game?

In both cases, whether Promotion or Relegation eligible the usual Yellow Card

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rules will apply, the team will be automatically demoted to either the lower division or associate status. The Promotion eligible team will be automatically promoted.

## 6. How will the Division 1 playoffs be structured?

The Division 1 playoffs will follow the same format as in previous years:

- 6 teams from the North and 6 teams from the South will qualify for the playoffs.
- The playoffs will progress as usual until the Northern and Southern Finals.
- Following the finals, the winner of the Northern Final will be automatically promoted, and the runner-up will play in the promotion-relegation game.
- The winner of the Southern Final will play in the promotion-relegation game.

## 7. What is the structure for D1 South with three relegation-eligible teams?

In the **D1 South**, there will be three relegation-eligible teams but only two promotion-eligible teams from D2. The process is as follows:

- The three D1 South relegation-eligible teams will be **seeded** based on their standings.
- The **lowest-seeded team (3)** will automatically play in one promotion-relegation game.
- Seeds 1 and 2 will compete in a **reverse playoffs game**. The winner will remain in D1 South, and the loser will play the remaining promotion-relegation game.

## 7. How will the Division 2 playoffs be structured?

The Division 2 playoffs will consist of **one round of cross-divisional games** to determine the teams eligible for promotion-relegation games.

- In the North, this will be Winner of NFC 2 East vs Runner up of NFC 2 West and Winner of NFC 2 West vs Runner up of NFC 2 East
- In the South, this will be Winner of SFC 2 East vs Runner up of SFC 2 West and Winner of SFC 2 West vs Runner up of SFC 2 East
- The winners of these games will then be scheduled in games against the nearest relegation placed opponent, starting with the ones that are furthest away, this allows for travel to be shared equally between playoff eligible teams.

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## 8. Who will host the promotion-relegation games?

Relegation-eligible teams will host the promotion-relegation games.

To reduce travel burdens, BAFA will schedule games to minimize travel distances for both travelling teams. An example of this would be;

- Cornwall and Oxford are Promotion Eligible
- Bristol Apache and East Kent are Relegation Eligible
- The scheduled games would be Cornwall vs Bristol and Oxford vs East Kent, the fairest travel for both travelling teams.

If the hosting team cannot host due to unforeseen circumstances, and are unable to find an alternative venue, the hosting availability will be switched to the promotion eligible team instead.

## 9. Will BAFA provide any financial support for hosting teams?

Yes, BAFA will support hosting teams by covering BAFRA fees for these promotion-relegation games. Payment for these will be made directly to BAFRA once games are confirmed.

## 10. Will travel subsidies apply to playoff and promotion-relegation games?

Yes, the **normal travel subsidy rules** will apply to all playoff and promotion-relegation games, ensuring that travel costs for qualifying teams are supported.

## 11. What will happen after the 2025 playoffs?

After the 2025 playoffs, BAFA will conduct a full review of the new structure to assess its effectiveness and viability, including working with participating teams to understand the effect of the change on them. This review will help determine if the system will continue for 2026 and beyond.

## 12. Why is there no relegation from Division 1 in Scotland?

Due to regional limitations and the smaller number of teams in Scotland, there will be no relegation from Division 1 in Scotland to ensure sustainable competition structures in the region.

## 13. How will these changes improve British American Football?

These changes aim to enhance fairness, competitiveness, and opportunity within British American Football. By introducing promotion and relegation games, teams have a clear pathway to advance based on their performance, while ensuring competitive balance across divisions.

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## 14. What are the dates for Playoffs for each level?

### Premiership

- Semi Finals - 24/8/2025
- Britbowl Final - 7/9/2025
- Promotion/Relegation 31/8/2025

### Division 1 Promotion

- Wild Card Week - 27/7/25
- Quarter Finals - 3/8/2025
- North/South Finals - 17/8/2025
- Promotion/Relegation - 31/8/2025

### Division 1 Relegation

- Reverse Playoff (South only) - 27/7/2025
- Promotion/Relegation - 31/8/2025

### Division 2 Promotion

- Cross-Divisional - 27/7/2025
- Promotion/Relegation - 31/8/2025

## 15. What does this mean for Britbowl Weekend?

The top Premiership teams from North and South will compete for Britbowl XXXVII on Sunday 7 September at Coventry Butts Park Arena. In addition, on Saturday 6 September U19 D1 and NWFL 9s will compete for their championships.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate in having your club GM or Chair contact BAFA Competition Management.