



2020/21 National Basketball League Regulations - Summary of Changes

The NBL regulations are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that issues that have arisen during the previous season can be overcome and to ensure that the regulations remain current with other progress, for example, rule amendments from FIBA, Safeguarding or Anti-Doping guidance and legislation, feedback taken from clubs and officials, incidents that happened over the season and the Appeals board.

The following is a summary of the main changes to the NBL Regulations for the 2020/2021 season.

General Changes

General changes take place annually in terms of the age ranges, fees, costs and other annual changes. There have also been corrections to the general terminology of Crew Chiefs back to Referees, and Referee terminology includes the officials that shall be a crew chief and 1 or 2 umpire(s). Changes to the definition of Table Official, to include the table officials that shall be a scorer, an assistant scorer, a timer and a shot clock operator. Match Officials shall include Statisticians.

Regulation 23.3 listing BBL/WBBL as a part of Basketball England competitions, where a club play a Final Match, the Club may request that all other Matches involving their teams that day be rearranged. Basketball England will normally approve such a request provided that the request is submitted within 48 hours of the Team being confirmed in the Final.

Significant wording changes and removal of some regulations where there is duplication of some of the meanings of the regulations to Match Officials, in terms of regulation 40.3 (Age Group Competitions) and to make them more meaningful and concise. A table applied to show the relevant level of officials that are required for these games, rather than just initial wording.

Further changes have been made to the disciplinary process for Coach Technical fouls leading to a Coach being disqualified in a game, by receiving two Coach Technical fouls or three Bench Technical Fouls or combination of them. From the 2020-21 season, these infringements will not need reporting for disciplinary action, as this has been dealt with in the game. However, if the game is a junior age group game and the game has to be abandoned due to regulation 30.9, the official must ensure a report is still sent to the National League Department, as an outcome for the game would need to be reached.

There are changes in terms of scoresheets - only the 'Running Scoresheet' will be the official scoresheet of the game and not the 'Traditional Scoresheet', this is listed in the 'Definitions and Interpretations' at the start of the rules and regulations document. Further communications to clubs will be issued on this matter.

The Playoff Structure has been determined for the 2020-21 season. The decision is to keep playoffs in the similar structure as the 2019-20 season and the following teams eligible for playoffs:

Premier Level – Playoffs to lead to the Junior Finals Fours

Conference/Regional & Under 12 leagues – No Playoffs to lead to Junior Finals Fours

However, for conference leagues, teams will have the option to have additional games after the end of the regular playing season to determine promotion and relegation for the 2021-22 season. These promotion/relegation playoffs would involve conference winners and the Premier level teams that finished bottom of the leagues. Games would be hosted by clubs, in one game series, however no medals or trophies awarded, as the overall winners will be offered promotion for the Premier competition the following season. The higher seed would always get home court advantage. Please see separate document on how this would work within the leagues.

All other key regulation changes are listed below, with change of wording in red.

Bench Personnel

Adding additional clarification for players with a licence but not participating in a fixture but a part of the team.

*A person at least 12 years of age that has a defined role within the Team, other than a Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Players-**including those that are not playing in the fixture, not in playing kit but a part of the team** and authorised by the Crew Chief to sit on or by the Team Bench, and be in communication with the Team during the Match, including statisticians.*

Jurisdiction

Adding the term 'Bet' to General terms and definitions and to the regulations for 'Individual Player and membership'

To risk a sum of money or valued item on the result of an event or competition.

17.8 All licenced participants shall not accept, lay or otherwise enter into any Bet with any other party (whether individual, company or otherwise) in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any basketball match or Competition under Basketball England Jurisdiction or BBL/WBBL games.

17.9. All licenced participants shall not directly or indirectly solicit, induce, entice, instruct, persuade, encourage, intentionally facilitate or authorise any other party to enter into a Bet in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any basketball match or Competition.

The Trophies

To ensure there is a fair nomination process of the end of the regular season award winners, it will become regulated that teams must submit their nominations.

15.6 Where the 'End of the Regular season Awards' nominations are applied to leagues,

it is compulsory for all teams to provide nominations and votes for these awards. This is a mandatory process and any teams that do not provide these submissions will be fined £150.00 in line with regulation 49.16.

Age Group Competitions

At the junior age group, a player can apply via the talent exemption policy to play a higher age group than what is regulated for their age. This regulation also combines with the New Talent Exemption Policy found in Appendix 10,

18.17 *(vi) A Junior Age Group player can apply for talent exemption in line with Appendix 10, where a panel of experts will have the ability to authorise talented individuals to play at the senior level or up in age as appropriate. The player must meet the conditions outlined in Appendix 10 and provide all supporting evidence of this, with their case submitted to nationalleague@basketballengland.co.uk.*

National Cup Final

New structure to the National Cup Finals, day for male cup finals and also a day for female cup finals, freeing up a day for league competitions to take place depending the competition taking place on a day.

21.12 *No Jnr. NBL/NBL league fixtures shall be played on either Jnr. NBL/NBL League Cup Final date and no Jnr. WNBL and WNBL fixtures shall be played on the Jnr. WNBL/WNBL Cup Final date.*

Re-Arrangement, Postponement, Abandonment and Replaying of Matches

Due to teams changing games on a regular basis and through feedback, many clubs create a backlog of fixtures, leading to games being voided and teams not fulfilling fixtures. Many team's lose money on court hire and other expenses due to this. Therefore, to try and limit the amount of games being postponed, we are looking at introducing the below changes in red. We also have a question raised on the amount of days that are deemed reasonable for changing tip times.

23.4.1 *prior to 31 August, whenever two Clubs reach agreement regarding the rearrangement of a Match (including a change in date, venue or tip time), they may jointly make an application in writing to Basketball England using the Fixture Change Form (available to download from, or provided upon request by, Basketball England) for the matter to be considered; and*

23.4.2 *after 31 August, the request to change any Match from its published date will not be considered by Basketball England for Senior Competitions and **Jnr. NBL/WNBL Premier Competitions across all age groups** unless the reason to change of the date is due to venue unavailability. Documentation is required by the facility operator in advance of the game must be submitted. The change of tip time is permitted only in exceptional circumstances, it must be changed and confirmed up to **28** days in advance of the fixture and teams must be aware that by doing so, there is no guarantee officials may be appointed it must also be authorised by Basketball England.*

23.4.3 *For all **Jnr. NBL/WNBL Conference and Regional into Under 12 competitions** a request to change any match date after the 31 August will be considered by*

*Basketball England, The Club responsible for the change shall be liable to pay an administrative charge of £15.00 if a new date, is agreed within 7 days of the original fixture postponed on or after the 8th day the charge will rise to £35.00. All changes after 31st August must be approved by the opponent of the team making the request. **The maximum a team can request a postponed fixture is twice per team for the regular playing season.***

Where a game is postponed or cancelled by a club or Basketball England and where an official turns up to this fixture, or where it is deemed a fault of Basketball England the following changes are to be applied and fees paid to the officials.

- 23.5 *Where a Match is re-arranged in accordance with Regulation 23.4.2 or 23.4.3 above, the Home Club shall be responsible for notifying the Match Officials of such change. In the event that the Home Club or **Basketball England** fails to notify the Match Officials of such a change and the Match Official(s) arrive at the venue on the original date that the Match was scheduled to be played, the Home Club will be liable for the travel expenses and **half of the match fee of such Match Officials***

Re-Arrangement, Postponement, Abandonment and Replaying of Matches

Due to the Global Pandemic additional changes have been made in the event of a game being postponed during the season and the protocol that is undertaken.

- 23.9 *In the event that a Match is postponed due to a **Pandemic**, severe weather conditions, unforeseen road delays or breakdowns:*
- 23.9.1 *the travelling expenses (if applicable) of all the Match Officials will be paid by the Home Team;*
- 23.9.2 *the Team responsible for the postponement of the Match shall be liable for the costs of court hire where such Match is re-arranged for a later date. In the case of a forfeit, the Home Club may make a compensation claim as set out in Regulation 24.4 below;*
- 23.9.3 *the responsibility for notifying Match Officials of a postponement rests with the Home Club;*
- 23.9.4 *any dispute over the Team responsible for the postponement and/or the amount of any costs will be resolved by Basketball England within 7 days;*
- 23.9.5 *Basketball England may ask for confirmation or proof of the travel that was intended, type of vehicle used and details of the breakdown, including any roadside assistance.*
- 23.9.6 ***If a Pandemic arises, Basketball England have the right to cancel all fixtures until it is safe to continue. In some cases, this may lead to the season finishing earlier than normal. Please see Appendix 11 for guidance on the 2020-21 season.***

Warm-ups and Practice

Changes to follow in line with FIBA to warm up time, minimum 20 minutes from 15 minutes,

- 28.1 ***20** minutes prior to the actual tip-off time of the Match, the court must be available for warm-up.*

Team Uniforms

The current regulation listing all Uniform and other items of garments are to be replaced with the following:

38.7 *Permitted uniform/equipment contrary to the FIBA rules:*

38.7.1 *Socks do not have to be the same dominant colour for all team members but do need to be visible.*

38.7.2 *Players are permitted to wear a hijab.*

38.7.3 *All players on the team who wear arm and leg compression sleeves, headgear, wristbands and headbands and tapings, do not need to be the same solid colour.*

38.7.4 *Any other equipment not specifically mentioned in this article must be approved by Basketball England.*

BACS Payments

Update on payments made by BACS and the process when payments are not met in the timescales applied.

40.2 *Payments by BACS must be paid within 7 working days from the conclusion of the match. Where payments are not received on the 8th day, Basketball England will not appoint any officials to the next home game until payment is made. If no payment is made 5 days prior to the next scheduled match, then the game will be forfeited. For clubs who breach this on the second occasion, they will be required to make payment in advance or on the day by BACS or by alternative payment option listed below.*

Often officials can be re-deployed where a game is cancelled/postponed. On occasions the home team don't contact the officials, leading to loss of income from the fixture for the officials, where they could have supported another game elsewhere, therefore this rule has been amended:

40.8 *All NBL Fixtures shall be publish online via the Basketball England website a list of all fixtures and all Senior Referee appointments only will be published on Assignr website. It is the responsibility of the Match Official's to gain access to this information on a weekly basis. Should a Club alter any of the information after 5.00pm on a Friday, the Home Club shall be responsible for informing the Match Officials of the change and where an official attends a fixture that has been cancelled/postponed the Home Team is liable for the travel expenses and half of the match fee.*

Officiating a game where an official cancels in an emergency.

More clarity has been listed for when a game takes place, where an official fail's to attend for various reasons, predominantly junior age group competitions, however full clarity is now listed below and the previous regulation 44.2 is re-worded. Please note all games should take place with 2 person officiating (in case of Division One Men and National cup games take place with 3 person officiating):

44.2 *All fixtures require two suitably qualified referees in line with regulation 40.3.6 for the game to take place. If it is not possible to allocate two referees by 24 hours*

prior to the game taking place, then the game will be cancelled. Should the teams not agree to a postponement, the matter will be referred to the Competitions Review Panel to determine an outcome.

If two referees were appointed to a game, however, should one or both Referees withdraw less than 24 hours prior to the game due to (a) injury, (b) illness, (c) unforeseen circumstances), then the following shall apply:

44.2.1 A member of either team who holds a suitable qualification and licenced with Basketball England, can take over with agreement from both teams.

44.2.2 If no suitable replacement official is available, then the game can go ahead with one Match official, only if both teams agree to this, and the Referee also agrees and is minimum Level 2 qualified and 18 years of age. Alternatively, either team can choose to postpone the game. If the game is subsequently cancelled or postponed as a decision by either team, the game must be rearranged for a later date in line with regulation 23 in terms of re-arranging a fixture and any costs incurred are the responsibility of the home team.

44.2.2 In the event of a dispute the home team will be asked to provide evidence to BE of the Match Official's appointments within 7 days of the original fixture date, that should have taken place. Should such evidence not be available, this may result in game being declared Forfeit by the home club.

Disciplinary Action/Appeals

The fee for appeals process is to be the same fee as the same process is undertaken.

49.5.2 The appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of £250 for senior competitions and age group competitions.

Disputes

Additional wording to explain when games tip off, the game goes ahead under the conditions it started with and then cannot be contested.

50.3 If either team, or the Match Officials, has any reason to consider the circumstances may be such as to invalidate or forfeit a match, **this should be declared at the start of the game prior to tip off**, and reported to Basketball England by the Match Officials and the Home team. Should a match then take place or continue under the existing conditions **the game shall start and no further complaint or dispute shall be allowed**. The Scoresheet and all reports forwarded to Basketball England who will determine the validity of the events.

Junior Competitions- changes to the following age group competitions and appendices. The talent exemption policy has been added as Appendix 10.

Appendix 7 - All Must Play Rule and Formats for Single Fixtures

Appendix 8 - All Must Play Rule and Triangular Fixture Rules

Appendix 9 - Rotational Structure

Appendix 10 - Talent Exemption Policy

A pandemic policy has been created to manage the competitions during the season as the guidance should COVID-19 continue, or a second wave takes place.

Appendix 11 - Pandemic Policy 2020-21