



Appendix 11 - Pandemic Policy 2020/21

The purpose of this document is to outline the process that will be undertaken should a further pandemic take place during the 2020/21 season and provide details on what will happen should the season need to be suspended or curtailed at any point.

It is important that all members are aware of [Basketball England's Return to Play Guidance](#) and adhere to it at all times. This will limit the potential for COVID-19 issues throughout 2020/21.^x

Competitions and Entry

Should a second wave of Coronavirus occur and play is suspended, there will be a need for flexibility by all to adjust the playing season where applicable. This may mean reducing other competitions (such as the National Cup and Playoffs) to ensure the league games can take place.

For the junior age groups, there may be a change to triangular events taking place and singular fixtures permitted only. This will be done to help limit contact between teams and allow for better control measures should a COVID-19 case be detected.

To support clubs with NBL entry fees, they will be split into three instalments. The first instalment is required upon entry via card payment or PO. Cheques cannot be accepted at present. For teams unable to pay by card or PO, please email nationalleague@basketballengland.co.uk.

The deposit on entry is higher than the remaining payments as this will cover all initial administration, including creating structures, fixtures, and website updates. The remaining amount is split over two payments to cover the next stages of administration for operating the leagues. All new teams are required to pay a surety fee - this will need to be paid at the time of entry along with the first instalment fee. The breakdown for each league is as follows:

Payment dates

1. First payment - at the time of entry
2. Second payment - 17th August 2020
3. Third payment - 21st September 2020

DESCRIPTION	COST	First Payment on Entry	Second Payment	Final Payment
Division One Men (inc. National Cup)	£650	£250	£200	£200
Division Two Men (inc. National Cup)	£525	£225	£150	£150
Division Three Men (inc. National Cup)	£475	£175	£150	£150
Division One Women (inc. National Cup)	£325	£125	£100	£100
Division Two Women (inc. National Cup)	£325	£125	£100	£100
Junior NBL - Premier League Entry	£110	£60		£50

Junior NBL - Conference League Entry	£90	£45		£45
Junior NBL - Regional League Entry	£70	£70		
Junior NBL - Under 12 competitions	£70	£70		
Junior National Cup Entry	£35	£35		

Surety Fees will still be applied as normal at the time of entry, but the league fees can be paid via the instalment program above. If any team is struggling to pay the surety fee, please contact Gail Richards (nationalleague@basketballengland.co.uk) before completing the entry form.

Competition	Surety Fee
Division 3 Men	£630.00 New teams £200 for a senior second team with a team already in higher senior competitions.
Women's League	£300.00
U18 Men's League U18 Men's National Cup	*£100.00 or £50.00 N/A
U18 Women's League U18 Women's National Cup	*£100.00 or £50.00 N/A
U16 Boys League U16 Boys National Cup	*£100.00 or £50.00 N/A
U16 Girls League U16 Girls National Cup	*£100.00 or £50.00 N/A
U14 Boys League	*£100.00 or £50.00
U14 Girls League	*£100.00 or £50.00
U12s Mixed League	*£100.00 or £50.00
U12s Girls League	*£100.00 or £50.00

*First junior team surety fee is £100.00 and any additional junior team's surety fee is then £50.00 per team.

Should Basketball England make the decision to cancel the Senior National Cup at the start of the season, £50 will be deducted for all senior teams from the final payment and the £35 returned to Jnr.NBL Teams that have paid to be a part of the competition. Should the National Cup knock out rounds begin and then the Cup competition get cancelled by Basketball England, no refunds will be given.

If the league season is cancelled, a percentage of the team entry fees will be carried over to the following season. If a club doesn't re-enter the following season, a refund will be issued based upon the percentage of the league that has taken place, any refund would be issued in August 2021. Please note this is based on a normal 7 months league season. Should we get to the playoff stages, no refund will be given should the playoffs not take place.

Teams

- Teams may wish to take a year's sabbatical and not participate in a league for the 2020/21 season. No surety refunds would be returned during this time, but the team would hold its place in the league it was based within from the 2019/20 season. Teams that were deemed as being relegated, will still be relegated and be unable to hold its place in the league it was relegated from
- Newly promoted teams for the 2020/21 season to a higher league, would not be eligible to take a year's sabbatical - they would need to compete within the higher league, unless they choose not to take promotion
- Should a team withdraw from the league after they have entered and paid their fees, the following rules will apply for the 2020/21 season:
 - Team withdrawal by ~~31st July~~ **11th August 2020** the first team entry payment is non-refundable and the second or third payment is not required, and the surety fee is refunded.
 - Team withdrawal by **31st August**, the first team entry payment and second payment will be non-refundable, a third payment is not required, and the surety fee is refunded.
 - Team withdrawal by **30th September**, all entry fees are non-refundable, but the surety fee will be refunded.
 - Withdraw by **31st October**, the entry fee and surety fee will not be refunded.

Club Affiliation

All clubs that register with Basketball England must be affiliated. This affiliation fee covers insurance for your club and enables you to gain the services needed for your club in terms of safeguarding, compliance, club and workforce support, plus up-to-date news and information. All clubs must renew their club affiliation fee, if they wish to continue as a basketball club and it is a requirement for clubs competing within the NBL. The fee for the club will not be refunded should the 2020/21 season not take place or concludes earlier than normal.

Individual Membership and Licensing

As with the team entry fees, if the league season is cancelled, a percentage of the membership and licensing will be carried over to the following season. If a member doesn't re-enter the following season, a refund will be issued based on upon the percentage of the league that has taken place. Please note this is based on a normal 7-month league. No refund will be given should the playoffs not take place.

FIBA Player Fee (FIBA A Licence for WBBL/BBL individual players only)

No refund will be given for the **FIBA player fees** as this is required to be paid for at the time of applying for the registration on the BE portal. There will be no rollover of this element of the fee and this would need to be paid for the following season. No refunds will be issued should a team apply for an **International Letter of Clearance** for a player to FIBA.

The policy for the season start-up in terms of the full scenarios for competition will be as follows depending upon a league start-up date. This also includes start and finish dates for a regular season across all angles of the game.

Scenario	Season start	Season End	BE policy on:				
			Membership Fees	Registration deadline	Licences	Team Entry Fees	Local League
1	End of Sept (as planned)	Start of May events as normal 24/25 th April for seniors and 1/2 nd May JFF*	No change. Membership fees to run for duration of the season	NBL deadline for membership & licensing for players is 31 st January 2021	No change- licences to run for duration of season	No change- entry fees going live in June	No change - playing licences and membership to run for duration of the season
2	Nov (2-month delay)	End of May events event's as normal 24/25 th April for seniors and 1/2 nd May JFF*	Membership fees to run for duration of the season (Nov-May)	NBL deadline for membership & licensing for players is 12 th February 2021	Licences to run for duration of the season (Nov-May)	Should BE decide to cancel the National Cup then £50 deduction from senior fees for final instalment of entry fees.	Playing licences and membership to run for duration of the season (Nov-May)
3	Dec (3-month delay)	End of May events 15/16 th April for seniors and 22/23 May JFF*	Membership fees to run for duration of the season (Dec-Jun)	NBL deadline for membership & licensing for players is 1 st March 2021	Licences to run for duration of the season (Dec-Jun)	Should BE decide to cancel the National Cup then £50 deduction from senior fees for final instalment of entry fees.	Playing licences and membership to run for duration of the season (Dec-Jun)
4	Jan (4-month delay)	End of June/early July proposed seniors 26/27 th June and JFF 8/9 th July*	Membership fees to run for duration of the season (Jan-Jul)	NBL deadline for membership & licensing for players is 31 st March 2021	Licences to run for duration of the season (Jan-Jul)	Should BE decide to cancel the National Cup then £50 deduction from senior fees for final instalment of entry fees.	Playing licences and membership to run for duration of the season (Jan-Jul)

*Please note an update for the end of season dates for the end of the season for senior and junior events and dates for events.

Update 29.07.2020

Through our Return to Play Roadmap and current government advice, please find a further update for the rules and regulations for the 2020-21 season only.

The main consideration for change is the lead times to confirm fixtures with BE and league/cup opponents and what happens if there is a local lockdown or a case of COVID-19 within a team and where other personnel within the team have been exposed to the virus, in this case the government advice on this has to be followed. The following amendments to the rules and regulations on this are as follows below:

Local lockdown/COVID-19 case -Should a game be postponed due to a local lockdown or a case of COVID-19 within a team and where the team have been exposed to the individual and there is a need to postpone the game in question, both clubs should ensure they re-arrange the fixture in line with the re-arranging a fixture and a new date is confirmed within 14 days of the current one being scheduled. All games are expected to be fulfilled by the end of the season, with the option of playing the game midweek where possible. If the fixture cannot be scheduled by the end of the game will be void and the scoreline will be 0-0 and no fine applied to this.

Confirming fixtures: The date will be moved from the usual 31st August deadline to confirm fixtures to BE/opposing teams without a fixture change fee being applied, teams have to confirm all fixtures including tip times 7 days prior to the start of the season. This date will be communicated once we have a firm league start date and a date all games need to be confirmed by. Full rule update would follow as per below.

23 Re-Arrangement, Postponement, Abandonment and Replaying of Matches

- 23.1 Basketball England will prepare a fixture list prior to the start of the Season. In exceptional circumstances, Basketball England may require a Match to be rearranged.
- 23.4 No changes are permitted in respect of any fixture list relating to a Competition, save that:
- 23.4.1 prior to ~~31 August~~, **7 days prior to the official league start of the season, this date is to be confirmed by BE once we are in a safe place to do so**, 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 league start-up date is announced, once the 7th date prior to this has elapsed** 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 **or due to a local lockdown or the team has a COVID-19 case**. Documentation is required by the facility operator in advance of the game must be submitted or information **from local government documentation**. 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, tip time and venue after the ~~31 August~~ **the league start-up date is announced, once the 7th date prior to this has elapsed** 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, tip time and venue is agreed upon 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~~ **the league start-up date is announced, once the 7th date prior to this has elapsed** 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.
- 24.3 Where a Club is responsible for the postponement of a scheduled Match (within 72 hours of the tip off) or does not fulfil a fixture, without the consent of its opponents, the Competitions Review Panel may issue a fine no greater than the maximum amount set out above. In addition, the Match in question will be awarded to the non-offending Team 20 - 0 and such number of league points as the Competitions Review panel shall determine (in its sole discretion) may be deducted. Compensation may be sought from non offending team, for any charges that may be incurred due to the late cancellation of the game in line with this regulation, maximum amount that can be claimed is up to £75.00 for a Senior Fixture and £50.00 for a Junior Fixture, only facility hire, travel expenses and officials costs incurred in line with regulation 23.5 and 40.8 can be taken into consideration and evidence of the cost associated must be proved. The amount awarded is at the discretion of Basketball England and the compensation will be deducted from the fine issued by Basketball England and will only be compensated once the fine has been paid in full from the offending team. Any compensation claim must include evidence of costs and must be submitted within 7 days of the date of the scheduled Match. **Please note this rule will not be enforced should the reason be deemed due to a local lockdown due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic or due to an individual testing positive to COVID-19 and the team have been exposed to the individual, meaning the team has to self-isolate in line with Government advice. Teams should ensure they make their opponents at the earliest opportunity and ensure all officials are also made aware.**

The following rules will not be applied for the 2020-21 season for teams within the following leagues, or cup competitions/playoffs, meaning no after game refreshments are required, including the fines will be redundant for this. This may also include finals events, where it may not be safe to provide after game match refreshments to teams but will be confirmed in advance of an event taking place.

21.6 The Home Club shall provide suitable refreshments for the Away Team and the Match Officials at the following Matches, failure to do so will result in an automatic fine:

- Division One Men
- Division One Women
- All Senior Cup and Playoff games from Quarter Final onwards
- All Age-Group Cup and Playoff games from Quarter Final onwards

Aspire Sessions – No Aspire session will be listed in the fixtures up to December 31st 2020, only 2021 dates will be listed and communicated at a later date.

Promotion and Relegation for 2021-22– Following a meeting of Basketball England's Leagues and Competitions Advisory Group, it has been decided there will be no promotion and relegation between any National Basketball League divisions following the 2020/21 season due to the challenges for the sport caused by COVID-19. The group has met after hearing feedback from clubs across the senior and junior leagues and the decision has been made to suspend movement between divisions for one season. The NBL entry process for the new season has closed and the league structures finalised, with five teams taking up the option of a season-long league sabbatical. With a start date for the 2020/21 campaign yet to be finalised, the Advisory Group listened to concerns from clubs and unanimously opted to run fixtures with no promotion or relegation.

This means:

- Teams who finish in the top two places in the divisions in 2020/21 season cannot apply for the higher leagues for 2021/22, unless spaces become available from the higher leagues and a team can demonstrate the standards required of the division above during this season.
- Teams who finish in the bottom two places within a division at the end of the 2020/21 season, will not be relegated from the league they are based within and will hold their place into the 2021/22 season.

The Advisory Group considered the following factors in their decision:

- The need for flexibility during the season because of the possibility of a second wave of infection and further lockdown restrictions
- The potential for individuals within the basketball community to contract COVID-19 or needing to self-isolate, meaning teams are unable to compete at full strength, have to postpone fixtures or are unable to complete their season
- The potential loss of income for clubs because of restricted attendances or sponsorship
- Overseas players being unable to travel

National League Standards

The following standards will be updated for the 2020-21 season.

Match Program - to be supplied for each home game commensurate with its status. This must include all relevant sponsors' adverts as provided by Basketball England. Each program must carry any and all adverts for Basketball England sponsors as required.-This will not be applied for the 2020-21 season as physical handouts, these can be done in digital form and emailed to opposing teams to pass to any spectators. This affects as a mandatory requirement for Division One Men and Women, Division Two Men and Division Three Men.

