

# 2022/23 NBL REGULATIONS SUMMARY OF CHANGES



The NBL regulations are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure issues that have arisen during the previous season can be addressed and to ensure that the regulations remain current and applicable.

This can include rule amendments from FIBA, safeguarding, anti-doping guidance or legislation and Home Office updates in terms of a participant's eligibility. Feedback taken from clubs and officials, plus incidents that have occurred throughout the season and the cases heard by the appeals board, are also considered.

The following is a summary of the main changes to the NBL Regulations for the 2022/23 season. Regulation wording changes can be seen below in yellow where there is significant change.

General changes take place annually regarding age ranges, fees, costs, general wording and other amendments. Major changes to the rules and regulations in 2022/23 are related to the new Disciplinary Code and to the standards document to align with how the game has progressed to make the standards more up to date. The Pandemic Policy has been removed as COVID restrictions have been lifted.

The term BBF (British Basketball Federation) has been added to the definitions as we have removed the self declaration process as BBF now handles this in terms of International Player Registrations.

Commissioner has been removed from the Game Day associated regulations unless appointed by Basketball England.

## **DISCIPLINARY CODE**

The new policy has created significant changes to the NBL rules and regulations, particularly in relation to the following;

'Court Manager' has now been re-named 'Game Day Delegate' and is to be implemented across the whole of the game, with this person playing a pivotal role in supporting referees to manage spectator conduct.

A review has taken place of the discipline guidelines, and updated Discipline guidance to explain the whole process can be found as a separate document. Serious incidents, and those involving officials will be addressed through the Disciplinary Code.

The timescale for teams wishing to appeal the decision of the NBL Disciplinary Officer has been condensed, meaning that teams will need to submit appeals documentation more quickly, A single Independent Appeals Chair will preside over cases on correspondence only prior to the forthcoming weekend's fixtures.

## **SURETY FEES**

To align the two regulations, as same process has to be undertaken into of administering the teams, structures and fixtures, section b of regulation 10.3.4 has been removed.

10.3.4 Where a Team withdraws from a competition before June 30<sup>th</sup> preceding the season in question, Basketball England will refund the surety fee only. After June 30<sup>th</sup> Basketball England shall be entitled to retain half of the surety fee. After the 31<sup>st</sup> August Basketball England will retain the surety fee in addition to any fines that may be levied in accordance with Regulation 49.16. Any remaining funds will then be refunded to the club via BACS.

## **VOID GAMES**

In case of a pandemic happening again, due to the pandemic policy being removed, void games due to global pandemic are listed as 0-0 and no league points awarded.

11.3 Games voided due to a global pandemic will be listed as 0-0 and no league points awarded to either team.

## **EQUALITY OF POINTS**

This additional regulation is to cover any leagues where an uneven amount of games are played within a division against the teams involved.

12.1.4 If more than two Teams are tied and where an alternative playing format has been approved at the start of the season, leading to an uneven amount of games played between the teams involved, the positions will be determined by taking into account only the results of the Matches between the Teams that are tied and win percentage will deem the order of the placings and not the total number of league points created from the playing results.

## **PLAYER LICENCE TRANSFER**

The transfer process has been changed to fall in line with the membership portal process of a player leaving one club, igniting the process via the players individual profile on the portal. This removes the paper form. The club has 7 days to acknowledge the request and place any restrictions, if on day eight the request to leave the club has not been acknowledged. The player will automatically leave the club.

17.10.2 Once an application has been submitted, Basketball England may require additional documentation to be provided in order for such application to be approved, including but not limited to:

- a) A completed transfer request via the BE membership portal where the player (Parent/guardian must request this if player is Under 18) requests to leave their current club and the players current club confirms the transfer via the membership portal or if the 7 days lapses due to the current club the player is registered with fails to confirm the transfer in the 7 day window for the player to leave their cub.

Regulation 20 has been updated in its entirety to reflect the new process for transfers:

- 20.3 A transfer of a Player / Coach from one Club to another during the course of a Season shall not normally be permitted, unless the Player / Coach, the transferee Club and the transferor Club have all consented to such transfer and the terms of such a transfer. To initiate this the current club the player/coach is registered with must decline the request from the individual via the membership portal within seven days of the individual requesting the release from the club. The club must state on the request why and email [Competitions@basketballengland.co.uk](mailto:Competitions@basketballengland.co.uk) the reason for decline of the request. The transfer will be placed on hold. If all parties cannot come to an agreement, Basketball England shall consider the matter, whose decision shall be binding on all parties.
- 20.4 If a Player / Coach wishes to seek a transfer of his licence during the course of a Season, he/she must submit this request in writing to both the Club concerned and make the request to be released from the current club via the Basketball England membership portal. For a Player / Coach who has not signed a contract with a Club, the Club must comply with this request within seven days and confirm the request on the Basketball England membership portal..
- 20.5 Where the transferor Club and the transferee Club cannot agree terms for the transfer of a contracted Player, either Club shall have the right to invoke arbitration by Basketball England in accordance with Regulation 50.7.
- 20.6 All transfer requests must be done on the Basketball England membership portal, This must be initiated by the player/coach on their individual profile and the transferee club need to acknowledge this within seven days if the request, if not on day eight the player will be released and they will be able to join a new club and purchase new licence for the new team. On the 8<sup>th</sup> day the player is then deemed a 'free agent'
- 20.7 The applicant shall only become eligible to represent the new Club once the Basketball England Membership portal approves the transfer and any other documents have been received and approved by Basketball England, such approval to be communicated to the Clubs via e-mail from Basketball England should there be an issue with the applicants transfer. It is the responsibility of the transferee Club and transferor Club to ascertain that the transfer has been successfully completed. The player/coach and new club will then have to register for a new licence to compete in the National Basketball League.

To fall in line with the transfer process via the membership portal, the intra club U18 player transfer has been updated as follows:

- 20.11 All Under 18 intra-club transfers can take place as long as each team has a minimum of eight players and not relying on the same players representing two teams to fulfil fixtures. Players can be transferred between the teams within a club up to seven days in advance of the regular playing season ending for the new team they wish to transfer to. An inter club transfer is not permitted to take place on a Saturday or Sunday.

## **PLAYER RETIREMENT**

As part of the UKAD Assurance requirements Appendix 14 has been created for the Formal Player Retirement Process in place for players in our testing pool at International and National Level. The regulation associated with this is 17.14. This appendix can be reviewed as a separate document.

## **NATIONAL CUP**

Changes to regulation to 18.2 to permit Division One Mens clubs to field two NONNational players in all rounds of the National Cup and not one until a certain round if playing against Division Two Mens Teams and below. This falls in line with all other sports and allows Division One Men to play at full strength like all other teams in the cup. Newly worded regulation is below and highlighted in yellow is the change and additional wording.

18.2 Subject to the remaining provisions of Regulation 18, a Team shall only be able to field a maximum of one NON-National Type 1 Player listed in appendix 13 in any Match.

In Division One Men for any Match in the League competition a Club can register on the Scoresheet a maximum of two NON-National Type 1 Players (see Appendix 13 for breakdown). In addition, Division One Men's teams are permitted to play two Non-National Type 1 Players in all rounds of the National Cup competition regardless of the level of team they are to play against, For clarity, teams in Division Two and below can only field One Non National Player should they compete against a Division One Mens Team in the National Cup in any round.

## **AFTER GAME REFRESHMENTS**

Amendments to the rules and regs on after game refreshments and to ensure meeting food safety and hygiene and also avoid food wastage.

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, please note that all food should be prepared in line with Food Standards Agency and Basic Food Hygiene and Safety certificates should be obtained by those preparing the food with the understanding of allergies of all individuals., If the AWAY team or Match Officials do not wish to take up the after game refreshments, they need to make the HOME team aware when confirming the fixture in question.

Division One Men

Division One Women

All Senior Cup and Playoff games from Semi- Final onwards

All Age-Group Cup and Playoff games from Quarter Final onwards

## **CLASHES WITH NATIONAL TEAM EVENTS**

Update to the number of players a game can be changed due to a National Team clash in line with talent feedback .

25.3 Any National League Team with three (3) or more Junior National Team Players in their squad has the right to request a change to the date of their Matches to avoid clashes

with National Team training camps or matches provided that such request is made on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November in the relevant year. This change must be agreed to by the requesting Team's scheduled opposition. This provision only applies to National Team training camps or matches are a part of the official calendar.

## **HALF TIME**

New regulation, confirming the time allocated for half time, not just going by FIBA rules.

28.4 15 minutes should be allocated to half time, unless agreed by both teams to reduce this time and confirmed with the officials. If both teams disagree the crew chief can set the time allocated to meet in between both team's needs. The timescale available can also be confirmed ahead of the game when confirming the fixture in question.

## **SCORESHEETS AND MATCH RESULTS - Senior Competitions**

Update to regulation 30.2 in terms of using FIBA Live stats, the live link and covering the game retrospectively and update on National Cup Rounds.

30.2 When FIBA LiveStats software is used, it should be operated with two licenced statisticians who hold at least the Introduction to Statisticians qualification. Failure to provide licenced and qualified statisticians will be a breach of the regulations and a fixed penalty in accordance with regulation 49.16 will be applied. A live webcast, using the League Licence Code provided by Basketball England and FIBA LiveStats software, is mandatory for all Division One Men, Division One Women and Division Two Men's teams. This is applicable throughout their respective League and Playoff games, and where two teams from these leagues meet in the National Cup from quarter final onwards. Failure to live webcast the game will be a breach of the regulations and a fixed penalty in accordance with regulation 49.16 will be applied. Where stats have not been completed live using the League Licence Code it is mandatory for the game stats to be completed retrospectively from video using a Match Key

## **COACH DISQUALIFICATION**

Where a coach from a senior game is disqualified the team captain can take over that role, this is in line with FIBA rules and approved by the Governance and compliance team. For clarity Under 18 players playing senior competition have to complete a waiver to play up to in senior competitions.

30.10 In the event of a Coach being disqualified from an age-group game, where no suitable qualified and registered assistant coach is present the game will be abandoned and referred to the Competitions Review Panel and/or Disciplinary Officer for consideration regarding the outcome of the game. Where a Coach is disqualified from a Senior game, in accordance with FIBA Rules Article 7.9, the team captain may fulfil the role of the Coach.

(Note: All Age-Group National League teams are expected to travel with at least two appropriate adults in line with the Basketball England Safeguarding Policy)

## **TEAM KIT**

To bring Division One Men and women in line with FIBA rules as games are profiled and live streamed, they are to follow FIBA rules on all aspects of permitted uniform, this includes compression wear etc. Lower senior and junior leagues to abide by the rules below. Rule on Hijab is removed as it's a FIBA rule to permit as a rule of the game.

38.3 All Division One Men and Women must follow FIBA rules on permitted uniform and equipment.

38.4 All Division Two Men and below, Division Two Women and all junior leagues are permitted uniform/equipment contrary to the FIBA rules as follows:

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

38.4.2 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.

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

## **COMPLAINTS**

The process aligned with BE internal processes and complaints to go through the complaints process.

50.8 Where the query or complaint relates to complaints about the governance or administration of the Competition by Basketball England, such complaints will be dealt with through the Basketball England complaints procedure.

## **CHANGING ROOMS**

Update for teams on officials changing facilities should incorporate for match day officials in the standards section of the regulations, section in yellow is new wording.

### **Changing Facilities**

The home club shall ensure that two separate changing rooms can accommodate a minimum of 17 people per team are available and include access to shower and toilet facilities.

A further two separate changing rooms which can accommodate three people (both male and female officials) with access to a seating area, showers and toilet facilities are also required for use by match officials. Ideally there should have access to store the officials' belongings and clothing.

## GOVERNING BODY ENDORSEMENTS

Our current Governing Body Endorsement documents have been reviewed and updated. In October 2021 mid way through the season Tier 2 and Tier 5 Visas have been re-placed with International Sportsperson Route with options for short and long stay by the government, this has led to updated documentation.

Final documentation with these changes has yet to be received back as final changes, with some alternations to the permitted eligible leagues to classify if the migrant is eligible or not, this is due to the Home Office tightening up on their eligibility creating restrictions to ensure players are 'Elite' and 'International established'.

## STANDARDS

Please see updated changes to bring the standards up to date and more reflected against the game of today.

- **Video recording of game** – desirable for 2022-23 for all senior HOME teams to record and store for the season. Games to be made available to BE, Officials and opponents, to become compulsory for 2023-24.
- **Live streaming** – mandatory for Division One Mens teams to each live stream minimum 5 HOME games throughout the season (doesn't include playoffs which to be done additionally where applicable), determined and confirmed with BE when fixtures released. Division One Women desirable but to become mandatory 2023-24.
- **Gameday Reporting** - to ensure teams are meeting standards of the league, home, away and referees to complete gameday feedback form.
- **First Aid** - Division One men and women to have a sports therapist and/or first aider present during a fixture, on the HOME team bench at a minimum and teams to have sports therapist available for during and post games for players. For all other league's a First Aid at Work Certificate / Emergency Aid Certificate holder must be present and removed 'recommended'.
- **Defibrillator new standard** and a Defibrillator to be present at the venue preferably court side, no more than 5 minutes from the playing court. Desirable for 2022-23 and enforced 2023-24 for all leagues.
- **Programmes** – removed and replaced with Game Promotion.
- **Game promotion** - teams to promote their league game on social media, All graphics must include BE sponsor logos, BE/NBL logos and team logos at a minimum. Two levels of promotion:
  - Division one men and women** - Minimum of seven graphics. Promotion 48 hrs prior to game taking place. Day of the game teams lists, starting fives's, quarter, half time score line and result with top three scorers details.
  - Division two women and three men** - Minimum of six graphics. Promotion 48 hrs prior to game taking place. Day of the game teams lists, quarter, half time score line and result with top three scorers' details.
- **Game Day Delegate** - The club has Gameday Dele; gate present during each teams fixture, this must be the persons only role and named person. This was previous court manager but now mandatory for all teams to have this named role present at all fixtures for all leagues.
- **Social media** - Clubs to have social media outlets and a person responsible for social media, this can be combined with other marketing, media, PR roles.

## FACILITY STANDARDS

Section added for Division One Men to gain spectator numbers season on season to reach the minimum seating numbers and to gain a netter game day experience.

Provision of the number of spectators required for a Division One Mens Fixture to build the fan base and game day experience. Failure to meet this could result in removal from the league in question.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Spectators	50	100	150	250

## APPENDIX CHANGES

- **Appendix 10** – Player Exemption Policy - new section added in line with consultation with Governance, Compliance, safeguarding and medical teams:

4) Applications will not be considered under the following circumstances

- a) Males will not be permitted to play in female-only National League competition on general safety grounds. at U14 and above
- b) Females will not be permitted to play in male Premier competition at U14 and above on general safety grounds
- c) Females will not be permitted to play in male leagues where the player has reasonable access to an alternative Women/Girls programme. Basketball England consider reasonable access to be within 30 miles of their home address
- d) Applications will not be accepted for players in EABL Competition

Exceptions to the above may apply where a player can be considered under the Transgender policy.

- **Appendix 11** - Pandemic Policy - Removed this policy in its entirety and the regulations still list what happens in the case of a Global pandemic. Therefore remaining appendix documents to be re-numbered.
- **Appendix 11** – Live streaming – general safeguarding updates to links provided.
- **Appendix 13** – Game day Delegate is a new role implemented for Game day, new document attached.
- **Appendix 14** – Player retirement and return to the game is attached.
- **Appendix 15** – Game Day Schedule