

2024/25 NBL REGULATIONS

SUMMARY OF CHANGES



REPORT AUTHOR Gail Richards, Senior Delivery Manager

RECOMMENDATION

The Leagues and Competitions Group to agree to the proposed rules and regulation changes for the 2024/25 season.

INTRODUCTION

This report contains a summary of the changes and supporting appendices showing the tracked changes from the current season's regulations and other adjustments. We have other policies that will follow in April 2024 when we have concluded the work.

These include:

UPDATED GBE CRITERIA

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 2024/25 season:

GENERAL CHANGES

General changes take place annually regarding age ranges, fees, costs, general wording and other amendments.

Major changes to the rules and regulations in 2024/25 are related to the new addition of Conference League Men, that will be a stepping stone into playing senior men's basketball from local league. The regulations have been adapted to include all aspects of this league like all other leagues.

In the definition and terminology section, the words 'awarded' and 'forfeit' with regard to fixtures more thoroughly explains the outcome from a fixture when it is scored 20-0 and the reasoning for this, to allow the rules and regulations to become more fluid as required.

A regulation on club accounts it now much clearer and ties in with the membership portal process, this can be seen as regulation 8.1.1.

A word change from 'application' to 'league entry' has been made to regulation 14.1 promotion and relegation.

Additional wording has been added to regulation 17.3 regarding refunds of licences, when the playing season has begun.

Regulation 17.5 has been reverted to its previous wording to ensure it is clearer to understand. The running scoresheet has been listed in regulation 30.1 to make it more formalised than just being listed in the definitions and interpretations section.

For the first time in ten years, there is an increase in club compensation when claiming back from opponents in line with regulation 24.3 (game postponement). The increase is £25.00 per league type due to the rise in facility hire, travel costs and officials. The regulation has also been re-worded along with changing 24.4 to 24.3.1 to make this regulation easier to understand.

Live stats are to be undertaken for all National Cup rounds when the home team are from Division One Men and Women or Division Two Men.

The late payment online form and the option for payment to be made to officials on third party payment options, such as 'Yes Ref', are now regulated for officials to complete in line with regulation 40.3.

For first aiders, we have removed the minimum requirement 'trained up to a one-hour emergency first aid course'. This is recommended by the medical team, and 'full first aid course' is now required.

The appendix on 'All Must Play' has been amended in line with feedback from teams. This relates to the switching of players at five minute interval, and the document has made it clear that the game is stopped, players switch over, and this is now a timeout to lengthen the game.

ENTRANCE INTO THE COMPETITIONS

The New Team entry pack will be added as an appendix as well as regulated, which was implemented in 2023/24 season. The appendix is attached and has been in place for around five seasons, but owing to an appeal in August 2023, this document is now to be added as an appendix.

STANDARDS

Owing to the current Business Transformation project and Pyramid Review, we have formalised the standards for NBL Division One Men's teams to work towards for year zero, the 2024/25 season.

All teams in this league must meet these year zero standards throughout this season.

Appendix 17 has been created to list the standards in finer detail.

POSTPONEMENT OF FIXTURES

Removal of wording to regulation 23.2, taking away Jnr. NBL/WNBL Premier competitions and 23.4.4 by removing a £35.00 fine after the eighth day. This is to tie in current processes and the membership portal.

23.4 after 31 August, the request to change any Match from its published date will not be considered by Basketball England for Senior Competitions unless the reason to change the date is due to venue unavailability and in line with regulation 23.8 Documentation is required by the facility operator in advance of the game must be submitted and proof that the original game was booked in.

23.4.4 For all Jnr. NBL/WNBL competitions a request to change any match date, tip time and venue 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. All changes 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.

CONFERENCE LEAGUE MEN

There are added changes to the rules and regulations to encompass this new league, which sits below Division Three Men. Whilst regulations haven't changed specifically, wording has been added with additional information, such as cost of league, level of officials, officials costs etc.

The major changes and additions to the regulations due to this additional league are:

- 14.2.3 Conference League Men must win their promotional playoffs and may make a league entry to join Division Three Men
- 14.3.3 that finishes in the bottom two places of Division Three Men or does not meet the National Basketball League Recommended Standards will compete against the top two places of the Conference League Men to determine promotion and relegation between the two leagues.
- 14.4.2 finishes in first or second place in Division Two or Division Three Men in two successive seasons or wins their promotion games in Conference League Men and fails to apply for promotion.
- 18.6.2 Clubs in the Division Three Men, Conference League Men, Division One and Two Women may licence a maximum of three Non-Nationals Type 1 Players (please see appendix 10 for breakdown) and there is no limit on the number of Non-Nationals Type 2 players listed in appendix 10.
- 40.2 For all Division One Men and Women, Division Two Men and Women and Division Three Men league fixtures, National Cup and Playoff competitions, all referees will be appointed by Basketball England for each Match.

For Conference League Men, referees will be appointed by the home team. Where a Conference League Men team is hosting a National Cup game or promotional playoff fixtures, all referees will be appointed by Basketball England for each Match.

- 40.4 For age group competitions and Conference League Men the following shall apply:
 - 40.4.1 For all Jnr. NBL and Conference League Mens games the Crew Chief (and on occasions, the Umpire) may be appointed by Basketball England for each Match. When an official is not appointed by Basketball England, the Home Club is responsible for the appointment of licensed, qualified neutral official(s) who must

have no connection with the Home Club (the only exception to this is in line with Regulation 40.4.4). For those who use a third party regional/local Officials coordinator to appoint Home club officials, they must ensure they meet the criteria outlined above, with ultimate responsibility still with the Home team for officials to meet this regulation

40.4.4.

LEAGUE	N.O. REFEREES (LEVEL 2)	N.O. REFEREES (LEVEL 1)
Mens Conference League	2	0
Under 18 Premier & Conference		
U16 Premier & Conference	2	0
U14 Premier		
Under 16 Regional Under 14 Conference & Regional U12 Leagues	1	1

41.2. The minimum number of Table Officials, at each level, that should be appointed to each League and/or Playoff Match should be as follows, this includes 24 second operators:

LEAGUE	N.O. TABLE OFFICIALS (LEVEL 3-5)	N.O. TABLE OFFICIALS (LEVEL 2)	N.O. TABLE OFFICIALS (LEVEL 1)
Division One Men	3	0	0
Division Two Men	2	1	0
Division Three Men	1	2	0
Conference League Men	1	2	0
Division One Women	2	1	0
Division Two Women	1	2	0
Under 18/16 Premier	1	1	1
Under 18/16	0	1	1
Conference/Regional Under 14 Leagues	0	1	1
Under 12 Leagues	0	0	2

ABANDONED FIXTURE

To fall in line with other Basketball England competition's rules and regulations and to speed up the process of abandoned games, we have added a quicker decision making process to create more efficiency.

This will allow the current Delivery/Senior Delivery Manager to reach an outcome, based on the circumstances, rather than referring to a Competitions Review Panel. This has worked well for our other leagues and reduces the need to case conference a small matter that has the same desired outcome.

23.7 All Crew Chiefs have the power to stop and, where necessary, abandon a game if they feel the behaviour of anyone involved puts the welfare of a participant or spectator at risk.

All Basketball England officials will accept the moral authority to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for all participants and spectators.

Where a match is abandoned, the Competitions Review panel or the Delivery/Senior Delivery Manager shall reach a decision on the result and outcome of the match, based on the circumstances around each case. Only personnel listed on the original Scoresheet are eligible to play in any replay. If a Club is unable to field a full Team in the replay (by way of example only, due to injury or illness) then Basketball England shall (in its sole discretion) determine whether such replay should be rescheduled for an alternative date or be forfeited by the Club unable to field a full Team. The provisions of this Regulation 23.7 shall apply equally to any rescheduled replay.

AGE GROUP COMPETITIONS

This regulation is being reverted to previous wording whereby a game is awarded 20-0 to the opposition as it is technically forfeited if a head coach is ejected during an age group competition and there is no assistant coach to stand in, as a game cannot be played without a head coach.

This is the normal outcome from the Competitions Review Panel due to the severeness of the conduct undertaken. By adding this line into the regulation again it creates better decision making and efficiencies when dealing with cases of this nature.

30.4.1 In the event of a Coach being disqualified from an age-group game, where no suitable qualified and registered assistant coach is present and listed on the

scoresheet, the game will be stopped and the opposing team awarded the game 20-0 and/or referred to the 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)

APPENDIX CHANGES

APPENDIX 16 – New Team Entry Pack and Checklist.

APPENDIX 17 – NBL Division One Men - Year zero 2024/25 formalised standards