

# 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 2023/24 season.

General changes take place annually regarding age ranges, fees, costs, general wording and other amendments. Major changes to the rules and regulations in 2023/24 are related to the updated Player Exemption Policy, and Appeals Policy.

The term 'Court Announcer' has been added to the definitions, along with 'Regional and Local Co-ordinators' who are appointing officials in line with the officiating REDD program. The terms of EEA and NON EEA is fully removed.

The terminology of global pandemic has been replaced by the term force majeure to cover a range of unexpected or out of our control events that may happen.

To reduce duplication and simplify the regulations, we have made relevant changes to regulation 21.2 on National Cups and regulation 30.7 to the results from a fixture.

The commissioner role has been removed throughout and this section updated with technical commission for where this is required.

After game refreshments are no longer a requirement for home teams to provide for opponents across Division One Men and Women, cup or playoff games for all seniors and junior leagues. Teams can still provide after game refreshments if they choose to do so.

Finally, we have a new Competition Management System in place for 2023-24 season, with required process changes to fixture changes, tip time updates which will remove the need for completing forms and requested changes via the new system that will be in place.

### **PLAYER EXEMPTION AND APPEALS POLICY**

An updated exemption policy and an updated appeals policy are currently in work and will be presented to the board at the April meeting for review.

The modifications to both the appeal process and the player exemption policies have been developed with the intent to create a unified approach across all BE policies to ensure there is clarity in a single process to follow.

### **ENTRANCE INTO THE COMPETITIONS**

The New Team entry pack has been regulated to form part of the regulations. It is currently a part of the NBL entry process to enter NBL competitions but is now regulated requirement.

10.1.1 Basketball England reserves the sole right to decide which Clubs/Teams will be accepted to participate in the National Competitions and the Division that each Team will compete in. All new teams must complete a New Team Entry Form and meet all the requirements outlined in this document and the standards in place.

## **ENTRANCE FEES**

All league entries are now via a club's membership portal, payment is required at time of making an entry rather than 1<sup>st</sup> June of a season. This also includes changes on this subject on regulation 10.4 for Entry to Cup Competitions.

10.2.1 Applications to enter the National Basketball League must be accompanied by payment of the full entry at the time of making the league entry for that season.

## **SURETY FEES**

The surety fees are re-added to the regulations, rather than apart of the appendices with NBL entries and licencing, as this fee always remains in place.

10.3 Surety Fees

10.3.1 All Clubs must place a Surety Fee on deposit with Basketball England at the time of making a league entry. For senior teams the cost is £630.00 for junior teams the cost is £100.00.

10.3.2 Where a Club has two or more Senior Teams competing in the NBL, it shall pay an additional fee of £200 for each of its 'subsequent' Teams over and above the single Surety Fee it has lodged. Where a club has two or more junior teams competing in the NBL, it shall pay an additional £50.00 for each of its 'subsequent teams' over and above the single surety fee it has lodged. The single Surety Fee will always be paid.

## **CUP COMPETITIONS**

Clarification listed for teams wishing to enter the cup competition only. Previously the senior fee was listed only and not a junior fee.

10.4.1 Clubs that have not applied for entry to the NBL may enter the National Cup competitions by making an application to Basketball England at the time of league entry. An entry fee of £100.00 for seniors and £50.00 for junior teams must accompany such applications.

## **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

Defining how promotion works where there are multiple divisions within a league for seniors only as junior leagues are determined by promotional playoffs only between conference leagues and premier leagues where applicable.

14.1 Promotion and Relegation is determined on final league positions over the full season; playoff and cup competitions are not considered. For clarity for leagues with

multiple divisions, the overall standings across the leagues will be based upon win percentage that also calculates the league position to determine standings for teams to apply for promotion.

## **PARTICIPANTS AND LICENCING**

This regulation has been in place for clubs fielding an ineligible player, currently this is a £500 fine and an outcome by the Competitions Review Panel. The general outcome from the Competition Review Panel is that game awarded to opponent 20-0 and to ensure more serious sanction a coach will also gain a 2-match ban.

17.10.9.1 When a team fields an in-eligible participant as they have not complied with regulation 17 as a whole, the game will be awarded 20-0 to the opposing team, with the coach to face a minimum of two match suspension within the same competition, further disciplinary action may be applied in line with the Discipline Code. A fine will also be applied in line with regulation 49.16

Officials taking part within a match, must ensure they show their license and list their three digits from their license.

17.12.1.1 Before each Match, all Officials must present their license card if requested by the teams involved, listing the last three digits of the license number to be inscribed on the Scoresheet.

## **AGE GROUP COMPETITIONS**

A key part of a team registering with BE is that every team should have a minimum of 8 players, but also a designated head coach to fulfil the season. This is to try and ensure games are not cancelled for this reason. The Head coach wording is a new addition, as many teams rely on the same coach for multiple teams, which leads to postponements.

18.17 (viii) Teams must field a minimum of 8 players and have a designated head coach to fulfill the entire season for that age group team.

18.17 (xvi) An in-Game Sanction is to be applied in a fixture for teams that are in breach of playing a zone defence and not man to man defence, when this type of defence is not permitted at their respective age group competition. This is to be administered via the crew chief where applicable. Please see appendix 16.

New appendix 16 to cover this regulation.

## **TRANSFERS**

The process on inter club transfers has been tightened up, with teams now required to submit changes via an online form to monitor inter clubs transfers across a clubs internal teams.

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. All into club transfers must be notified to Basketball England Competitions department via the online form.

## RE-ARRANGEMENT, POSTPONEMENT, ABANDONMENT AND REPLAYING OF MATCHES

Due to the high number of fixture changes to senior games that affect referee deployment a fee is to be applied if the change is less than 7 days from the fixture in question.

- 24.3.1 Senior Tip-off time changes requested with less than 7 days prior to the fixture will incur a fee of £25 and will only be approved if both teams are in agreement to the change and suitable referees are still able to be appointed. This fee is still included even if it is a venue request, there are no exemptions applied to avoid paying this fee.

## FAILURE TO FULFILL FIXTURE OBLIGATIONS

Fines now listed to stipulate where a cup and playoff games are forfeited by a team, so any compensation claim from an opponent can be fulfilled.

COMPETITION	1 <sup>ST</sup> OFFENCE FINE (£)	SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES FINE (£)	MAXIMUM FINE (£)
Division 1 and 2 Men	500 plus 2 point deduction	Removal from league	
Division 1 and 2 Women & Division 3	150	300 plus 2 point deduction	500 or removal from competition
Senior National Cup and Playoffs	200		500 or removal from competition
U18 Competitions, Sure shot National Cup, Playoffs	100	200	

## WARM UPS AND PRACTICE TIME

The regulation 28.4 has been updated to accommodate junior fixtures to regulate a ten minute half time.

- 28.4 15 minutes should be allocated to half time for Senior Fixtures and 10 Minutes half time should be allocated for Junior Fixtures, unless agreed by both teams to reduce 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.

## GAME PROMOTION AND TEAM LISTS

This is a new regulation with appendix 16 to cover Game Day Court Announcers.

- 33.3 When using Game Day Courtside Announcers, they must ensure they follow Appendix 16 in terms of the guidance required for a game to take place.

## **APPOINTMENT AND EXPENSES**

New regulations to cover where games are cancelled by BE or where further support is required from home clubs with the appointment of officials.

40.2.1 Where a fixture is scheduled, and referees are unable to be appointed by Basketball England the game will be postponed, with a maximum claim for compensation for court hire or minibus hire only to the maximum of £150 for senior teams and £100 for junior teams. Invoices must be presented to Basketball England to make a claim.

40.2.2 Should a fixture not have a referee appointed too via Whos the Ref, the home club will be contacted by Basketball England to seek for them to appoint to their home game with the relevant number of referees.

The payment process between the clubs and officials has been updated, with information now clarifying cut off dates for officials to submit their expense forms and clubs to meet timelines for payments. A new fine issued to clubs who breach payment of officials for subsequent breaches.

40.3 Officials are required to submit their expense forms for games that have taken place in the prior week no later than Monday morning at 0900. Any expense form submitted after this time, will be considered as being submitted during the following week

Teams must ensure that any payment made by BACS has cleared into the officials account no later than the second Tuesday after the expense form has been submitted.

Where payments are not received on the second Wednesday after the expense form has been submitted, Basketball England will not appoint any officials to the next home game until payment is made. If no payment is made five days prior to the next scheduled match, then the game will be forfeited.

For clubs who breach this on the second occasion and further subsequent occasions they will be required to make payment in advance or on the day by BACS or by alternative payment by cash which must be made prior to the match. An additional fine will be applied to the club as a breach of payment of £25.00 per nonpayment of each official via the membership portal.

After the third occasion of failure to make a payment will result in disciplinary action against the club in line with regulation 49.

Amendments to the below rules in terms of the clubs who use a third party, regional/local officials co-ordinators who appoint for home clubs.

40.4.1 For all Junior NBL games the Crew Chief (and on occasions, the Umpire) must 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 40.3.6). 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.

40.4.2 In the event of a Home Club appointing an official that does not meet all of the above

regulations (40.4) the game will be forfeited, and the club may be subject to disciplinary procedures. Please note no blame can be placed on the local/regional Officiating Coordinators as the Home team have ultimate responsibility.

The timeline has been amended so that teams take responsibility of any senior changes/postponements after 12pm on a Friday, to inform officials of any changes to limit miscommunication and ensure last minute changes are communicated effectively.

40.7 All NBL Fixtures shall be published online via the Basketball England website. A list of all fixtures and all Senior Referee appointments only will be published on 'Whos The Ref' website. It is the responsibility of the Match Officials to gain access to this information on a weekly basis. Should a Club alter any of the information after 12.00pm 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.

## **DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTES**

An increase in the failure to provide qualified and licenced table officials and/o statisticians from £25 an official to £40 an official.

<b>OFFENCE</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
Failure to provide qualified and licensed Table Officials and/or Statisticians (Regulation 41)	£40 per official and possible disciplinary action for the club

## **Appendix**

Appendix 8 – All Must Play Triangular format – Removed

Appendix 15 – Court Announcer – New

Appendix 16 – Jnr.NBL In game Sanction - Zone defence and full court press breach