

NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

RULES & REGULATIONS

2025-26



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GENERAL

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 In these Regulations the following terms shall (unless otherwise required) have the following meanings:

“Amateur Leagues”	Senior leagues under the governance of Basketball England, including Division One Women, Division Two Men, Division Two Women, Division Three Men, Conference League Men.
“Awarded”	Whereby a game is awarded to a team 20-0 on a decision by Basketball England executive staff.
“Away Team”	The Team which plays or is to play or should have played a Match (except for a finals Match) but is not the Home Team for such Match.
“BACS”	Bankers' Automated Clearing Services is a popular UK payment system for transferring funds between bank accounts.
“Basketball England”	The National Governing Body for basketball in England, company number 01429756 with registered office address NSC, Gate 13, Rowsley St, Manchester, M11 3FF.
“BBF”	British Basketball Federation which runs GB Basketball in Britain. It liaises directly with FIBA and also undertakes all aspects of the International Player Registrations.
“Bench Personnel”	A person at least 12 years of age that has a defined role within the Team (other than a Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Player-including those that are not playing in the fixture, not in playing kit) 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.
“Bet”	To risk a sum of money or valued item on the result of an event or competition.
“British Basketball National Championship Men / Women (BBNCM/W)”	The professional leagues in Great Britain, governed by BBF.

“British Player”	(i) a Player eligible to play for Great Britain in accordance with the FIBA Regulations; and/or (ii) a Player that holds British Citizenship.
“Club”	Any Basketball club which is, for the time being, affiliated by Basketball England.
“Club Affiliation Fee”	The fee set out in Appendix 1 which must be annually.
“Club Secretary”	The person responsible for the administration of a Club.
“Club Welfare Officer (CWO)”	The welfare officer appointed by a Club to lead on its safeguarding initiatives.
“Coach”	The person appointed as to lead the Team, directing tactics and controlling substitutions, and 'Coach' shall be deemed to include assistant coaches unless otherwise stated.
“Competitions Review Panel”	Will consist of three members of Basketball England Staff as elected by the Competitions management staff.
“Court Announcer”	Is a person appointed by Basketball England or a Club to make public announcements in relation to the presentation of a game and be responsible for playing music and where appropriate other audio recordings.
“Game Day Delegate”	A person nominated, in respect of each Match, by the Home Club to be responsible for all aspects of the Match (other than the playing of the Match), including hosting officials and responding to spectator issues. See Appendix 12 for a role description.
“Cup Competitions”	The National Cup (Senior Men, Senior Women, U18 Men, U18 Women, U16 Boys, U16 Girls).
“DBS”	The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check which coaches, bench personnel and officials are required to complete.
“Director”	A person legally appointed as a director of a Club.
“Disciplinary Officer”	A person appointed by the Executive Board to be responsible for disciplinary matters related to misconduct.

“Division”	Each division of a League Competition.
“Domicile”	The country, which an individual regard as their natural home. It is the place of abode to which they intend to return in the event of their going abroad. Everyone has one domicile only. Unlike dual nationality, it is not possible to have two domiciles under English law.
“EU Settlement Scheme”	The EU Settlement Scheme allows a European Economic Area/EU/Swiss National to apply for either settled or pre-settled status to remain in the UK after the 1 January 2021.
“Entry Fee”	The entry fees for teams listed in Appendix 1.
“Executive Board”	The executive board of directors for the time being of Basketball England.
“FIBA”	The International Governing Body for basketball Fédération Internationale de Basketball.
“FIBA Regulations”	The general statutes, internal regulations, other rules and regulations and decisions of FIBA from time to time in force.
“Forfeit”	Whereby a team does not fulfil a fixture, and the game is listed as 20-0 to its opponents.
“Free Agent”	A Player or Coach who is neither licensed by Basketball England nor contracted to any Club.
“Goal Difference”	The difference between points for/scored and points against/conceded.
“Governing Body Endorsement”	The process of obtaining an endorsement from British Basketball Federation of an application for a migrant licence under the Sports section of the UK Border Agency Points Based System for Managed Migration.
“Home Team”	The Team at whose venue a Match (except for a finals Match) is played or is to be played or should have been played.
“Intra-Club Transfer”	A transfer between two Teams within the same Club in accordance with Regulation 21.

“International Clearance”	A letter of approval from another federation granting approval for a Player to be licensed in England.
“Junior Leagues”	The age groups that make up these leagues are Under 18, Under 16, Under 14 and Under 12.
“League Competition”	The National Basketball League Competitions together with the British Basketball Championship.
“Match”	An individual game of basketball played in accordance with these Regulations, forming part of the Competitions.
“Match Officials”	The Crew Chief, Umpire(s), the Table Officials and the Statisticians.
“National”	An individual who is a British or Northern Irish Citizen.
“National Basketball League Competition”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Division One Men known as the Basketball Championship, including Playoffs b. Division Two Men, including Playoffs c. Division Three Men, including Playoffs & relegation playoffs d. Conference League Men, including promotional playoffs e. Division One Women, including Playoffs f. Division Two Women, including Playoffs
“National Basketball League Standards”	The document attached at Appendix 5.

“National Competitions”	<p>The following competitions (and the following letter codes will be used to designate fixtures):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Division One Men, including Playoffs B. Division Two Men, including Playoffs C. Division Three Men, including Playoffs D. Conference League Men, including Promotional Playoffs E. Division One Women, including Playoffs F. Division Two Women, including Playoffs G. National Cup Men H. National Cup Women N. Under 18 Men's National Cup P. Under 18 Women's National Cup Q. Under 16 Men's National Cup R. Under 16 Women's National Cup S. Under 18 Men's League T. Under 18 Women's League U. Under 16 Boys League V. Under 16 Girls League XB. Under 14 Boys League XG. Under 14 Girls League Y. Under 12 Girls League Z. Under 12 Mixed League
“National Competitions Licence”	A licence for Players, Coaches and Bench Personnel to participate in the National Competitions.
“The Basketball Championship”	The competition name for Basketball England Division One Men.
“National League Team”	Any Team participating in a League Competition.
“National Team”	The Great Britain basketball team and/or England basketball team.
“National Team Player”	A Player that plays for the National Team.
“Non-National”	A person who is not a British & NI Citizen.
“Nursery Team”	An additional senior team that operates, and is registered with Basketball England, under the same Club management as a Principal Team.
“Officiating Appointments”	The appointment of Match Officials in respect of each Match.

“Participant”	Players, Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Bench Personnel.
“Personal Data”	Has the meaning as set out in the Data Protection Act 1998.
“Player”	An individual licensed by Basketball England to participate in a Match.
“Playoff Competition”	The knockout stages of a League Competition at the end of the Regular Season.
“Principal Team”	Where a Club fields two or more senior teams in any British Basketball National Championship Men / Women or NBL Competition, the team participating in the highest League Competition.
“Professional Leagues”	Division One Men’s Leagues Only.
“REDD”	Basketball England’s officiating programme – recruit, educate, deploy, develop.
“Referees”	The officials shall be a crew chief and 1 or 2 umpire(s).
“Regional/local officiating Coordinators”	Where a local/regional person appoints officials for a given home team, that works with clubs locally.
“Regular Season”	The Season up to the commencement of the Playoff Competition.
“Right to Work”	The Right to Work is a legal requirement for anyone looking to work in the UK.
“Rules of Basketball”	The rules published by FIBA according to which the Sport is played throughout the world.
“Scoresheet”	A standard form used to record the score in a Match, which also records the participating Players and Coaches along with the Match Officials; The scoresheet permitted is the Official running scoresheet only (FIBA/Non-FIBA Copies permitted).

“Season”	The playing season which extends from the first date on which the Competitions involving a Team takes place until the last date on which the Competitions involving that Team takes place.
“Self Employed”	Working for oneself as a freelance or owner of a business rather than for an employer. Self-employed workers aren’t paid through PAYE, and they don’t have the employment rights and responsibilities of their employee and are responsible to pay their own PA.
“Senior National Cup Competitions”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. National Cup Men b. National Cup Women.
“Significant Interest”	A shareholding of ten per cent (10%) or more in the controlling company.
“Standard Contract”	The standard playing contract from time to time in force, as issued and approved by Basketball England.
“Statistician”	The statisticians shall be an inputter and a spotter who record the statistics from the game.
“Surety Fee”	The fees noted in regulation 10.3.
“Table Official”	A person appointed by Basketball England, a regional representative or Home Club as a table official in respect of a Match; The table officials shall be a scorer, an assistant scorer, a timer and a shot clock operator.
“Team”	A team of Players representing a Club in a Match.
“Team Bench”	The designated courtside area for members of the Teams in accordance with Regulation 37.
“Team Delegates”	A maximum of 21 individuals made up of the Players, Head Coach, up to 2 Assistant Coach(es) and Accompanying delegation members.
“Team Representative”	Any person nominated by a Club to represent its interests at any time during a Match (who shall not be a Match Official or the Game Day Delegate but may be a member of the Team).

“Technical Commission”	An appointed group, present at a fixture (usually a finals event) who are in place to provide advice, give guidance and opinion on disciplinary matters should the need arise.
“The Basketball Championship”	The competition name for Basketball England Division One Men.
“UK Anti-Doping”	The body responsible for ensuring sports bodies in the UK are compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code through implementation and management of the UK’s National Anti-Doping Policy.
“UK Anti-Doping Rules”	The UK Anti-Doping Rules (as amended from time to time) as adopted by Basketball England.
“Umpire(s)”	The non lead referee(s) in a match.
“WADA”	The World Anti-Doping Agency.
“WADA Code”	The World Anti-Doping Code.
“Win Percentage”	Win percentage is calculated by dividing the number of games won by the total number of league games available to be played in the league (games played + any voided games) and multiplying by 100.

1.2 Where the context so admits:

- words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.
- words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender.
- words importing persons shall include firms, corporations and unincorporated associations.

1.3 Reference to any Act, Statute or statutory provision shall include a reference to that Act, Statute or statutory provision as amended, re-enacted or replaced from time to time, whether before or after the date of adoption of these Regulations, and any former Act, Statute or statutory provision replaced (with or without modification) by the Act, Statute or statutory provision referred to and any subordinate legislation made thereunder respectively.

1.4 Section, Regulation and Appendix headings are for ease of reference only and shall not affect the construction of these Regulations.

- 1.5 Any reference in these Regulations to the National Basketball League (NBL) includes the corresponding Playoff Competition and Cup Competitions unless otherwise stated.
- 1.6 The terms including, include, in particular or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding those terms.

GOVERNANCE

2. JURISDICTION

- 2.1 These Regulations apply equally to all the National Competitions, unless otherwise stated in the Regulations.

On the Basketball England website, you will find links to Basketball England's Rules and Regulations, the Basketball England Code of Ethics & Conduct, and other Basketball England policies and procedures (together, the "Basketball Rules"). All relevant documents can be downloaded from the Basketball England website and should be read prior to applying for Membership of Basketball England. The Basketball Rules govern important issues such as anti-doping, safeguarding, whistleblowing, and social inclusion etc. On becoming a member, you and the club committee agree(s) to (i) comply with the Basketball Rules; and (ii) ensure that individual members of your club also comply with the Basketball Rules when taking part in any Basketball activity.

- 2.2 All games must be played in accordance with the FIBA Official Basketball Rules, unless otherwise stated in these regulations.

3. DELEGATION

- 3.1 The Executive Board has delegated responsibility for the National Competitions to the Competitions Review Panel. Responsibility for the decisions of the Competitions Review Panel is vested in Basketball England's professional officers.

4. AFFILIATION

- 4.1 In order to participate in any of the National Competitions, a Club must be affiliated to Basketball England.

- 4.2 Where a Club's normal home venue is situated outside England that Club shall ensure that it is affiliated to:

- Basketball England; and
- the appropriate governing body in the country in which its home venue is situated

Provided that the application for affiliation to Basketball England is endorsed and approved by the Clubs Home Country Association, a club can enter teams in Basketball England competitions.

5. NURSERY TEAMS

- 5.1 No Nursery Teams, or Clubs having any official or unofficial obligation to or connection with another Club in the British Basketball National Championship Men, British Basketball National Championship Women, National Basketball League is permitted to participate in:
- the same Division as its Principal Team (without the prior approval of Basketball England); and/or
 - the Senior National Cup Competitions (except where the principal team competes in the British Basketball National Championship Men or British Basketball National Championship Women).
- 5.2 A Nursery Team may contract directly with Players on its behalf and novate such rights under that contract in favour of its Principal Team, provided that provisions enabling this are specified in the Player's contract.
- 5.3 A Nursery Team may use the same team name and/or the same home venue as that of its Principal Team. Where a Nursery Team does not use the same home venue as its Principal Team, the Nursery Team must use a home venue within a 11- mile radius of the home venue of its Principal Team, unless otherwise approved by Basketball England.
- 5.4 Where a Club fields a Principal Team and Nursery Team(s) in a British Basketball National Championship Men, British Basketball National Championship Women, or National Basketball League Competition, all senior players shall only be licensed for one Team, with no movement permitted between the Teams except where a formal transfer occurs (in accordance with Regulation 21 below).
- 5.5 Notwithstanding Regulation 5.4 above, any Under 23 British Player licensed for the Nursery Team, may be listed on the Scoresheet for the Principal Team during the Season ("Play-Up"). For the avoidance of doubt, there is no limit or restriction on the number of Matches an Under 23 Player can Play-Up. Players licensed by Basketball England for the Principal Team are not permitted to be listed on the Scoresheet for the Nursery Team ("Play-Down").
- 5.6 Any Under 23 Player that plays-up must participate in:
- 5.6.1 fifty percent (50%) of available Regular Season Matches for the Nursery Team to qualify for the Nursery Team play-off Matches; and
- 5.6.2 fifty percent (50%) of available National Cup Matches to qualify for the Nursery Team finals of that tournament.
- For clarity, this only applies to players in the Under 23 category.
Under 18 players can play up in a senior team without restriction.
- 5.6.3 'Available matches' include all matches on the nursery teams schedule for the duration of the players registration. The player playing up on the same day does not make the nursery team match 'unavailable'.

- 5.7 It is intended that Nursery Teams should primarily exist to enable young players who are no longer Under 18, or who are exceptionally talented and therefore unsuited to play in the Under 18 competitions, to participate at a higher level. Permission for a Nursery Team to participate in the National Basketball League is therefore dependent on the operation of this philosophy, and Basketball England reserves the right to withdraw permission for a Nursery Team to participate in the National Competitions if Basketball England is of the opinion (in its sole discretion) that this philosophy is not being respected.
- 5.8 In all other respects in these Regulations a reference to a Club shall be considered to apply equally to a Nursery Team, and Nursery Teams must conform to these Regulations in the same way as all other Clubs, unless there is a specific statement to the contrary. A Nursery Team must always promote its Matches, as if it is a standalone Club, and comply with the National Basketball League Standards.
- 5.9 Any Club found to have breached Regulations 5.4 to 5.8 (inclusive) above may be disqualified from the Competition in which such breach occurred and may also be fined and/or have League points deducted.

6. MANAGEMENT OF CLUBS

- 6.1 All Clubs shall register with Basketball England the name of the company or other legal entity that is responsible for controlling the affairs of the Club, or the names of at least three persons who are responsible for the management of the Club. If the Club is under the control of a company or other legal entity, this company shall register with Basketball England the names of the persons designated as Directors of that company and submit a copy of its memorandum and articles. Where a Club is not controlled by a company, the names of the persons responsible for the management of the Club shall be considered to be the Directors, and these shall be subject to approval by Basketball England.
- 6.2 The name of the Club Secretary shall be registered with Basketball England. This person may, but need not necessarily, be a Director, and may, but need not necessarily, be the secretary of the company controlling the Club. In the case of a company, the name of the company secretary shall also be registered with Basketball England. All actions by the Club Secretary are deemed to carry the full authority of the club unless and until such time as an action may be countermanded by a mandate supported by a majority of the Directors. A Club is deemed to be responsible for actions by its Directors relating to the Sport, (which may include, but is not limited to, public statements, letters to the media and approaches to players licensed to play for other clubs).
- 6.3 No person may be added to or deleted from the list of Directors of a Club, except by a written statement signed by a majority of the other Directors, or by a decision of the company, unless such Director(s) submit their resignation in writing.

- 6.4 No person may:
- be a Director or a Club Secretary of more than one Club at the same time; or
 - have a Significant Interest in more than one Club at the same time; or
 - have a Significant Interest in a Club and be a Director or Club Secretary of another Club; or
 - be a Director or Club Secretary or have a Significant Interest in one Club and be a licence holder for another Club, except where the Clubs are competing in mutually exclusive competitions.
- 6.5 Where a Director and/or Club Secretary applies to be registered for another Club, such application automatically constitutes a statement of resignation as a Director, Club Secretary, or other officer of the first Club, except that where the person is registered as a Director of a Club-company, their application to be licensed for another Club cannot be approved until such time as they are officially removed from the list of Directors of that company. Failure to notify Basketball England of dual membership would be a breach of these Regulations and may be referred to the Disciplinary Officer.
- 6.6 A Club Secretary may only be replaced by a mandate supported by a majority of the Directors, unless the Club Secretary resigns, in which case the existing Directors shall nominate a new Club Secretary as soon as possible.
- 6.7 All communications between a Club or Team and Basketball England will be conducted through the Club or Team Secretary unless the Club or Team has informed Basketball England of a nominated alternative. The Club shall notify Basketball England in writing of any permanent or temporary change to the Club Secretary.
- 6.8 Each Club in the National Basketball League shall comply with the National Basketball League Standards and have an adequate level of administration to enable it to discharge the essential functions of a Club to a level acceptable to Basketball England.
- 6.9 Each club within the National Basketball League shall have a Club Welfare Officer and dedicated DBS verifier. Their details shall be registered with Basketball England. Club Welfare Officers will have completed the Basketball England Safeguarding and Club Welfare Officer Training (within the last 3 years) and maintain a current enhanced DBS (valid for three years) also supplied to Basketball England.
- 6.10 Each Club in the National Basketball League shall promote, present and develop the Sport to the best of its ability, and at a level of competence and suitability to the satisfaction of Basketball England.

7. TEAM NAMES

- 7.1 All team names are subject to final approval by Basketball England.

- 7.2 All team names must include a specific geographical location (the county, city or town where the Team/venue is based). A nickname can also be included (e.g. Rockets, Magic etc).
- 7.3 Any club sponsor names are subject to approval by Basketball England.
- 7.4 The approved geographical location, nickname and Sponsor will be used in Basketball England's official schedules.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1 Each Club in the National Basketball League must display adequate levels of finance to enable it to perform in all respects in a manner that is consistent with its status.
- 8.2 Each Club shall keep accounting records which:
 - 8.2.1 are sufficient to show and explain the Clubs' transactions.
 - 8.2.2 are such as to disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Club at that time.
 - 8.2.3 comply with any legal requirements applicable to the Club.
 - 8.2.4 comply with such provisions as may from time to time be reasonably specified by Basketball England; and
 - 8.2.5 comply with such requirements as are contained in the FIBA Regulations or regulations made thereunder from time to time.
- 8.3 In the event that Basketball England considers that a Club may be unable to fulfil its obligations under these Regulations then Basketball England shall be entitled to require such Club to provide to Basketball England and/or its appointed representatives or advisers such accounting records referred to in Regulation 8.2 as Basketball England deems necessary.
- 8.4 Such accounting records shall be kept confidential by Basketball England and its appointed representatives and advisers save as required by law or to the extent that the same are in the public domain otherwise than by reason of a breach of the provisions of this Regulation 8.4.

9. LIABILITY

- 9.1 Each Club agrees to indemnify Basketball England (together with its members, officers, employees and contractors) from and against any and all costs, damages, losses, expenses and/or claims (including but not limited to claims for loss of profit or income and reasonable legal or professional fees) which may be made by any third party and which are a consequence, whether directly or indirectly, of the Club not complying with these Regulations (whether wilfully, negligently by action or omission or otherwise howsoever) and whether or not such loss was foreseeable by Basketball England and/or the relevant Club at the time of the Club's agreement to be bound by these Regulations.

THE NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

10. ENTRANCE TO THE NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

10.1 Approval

- 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.
- 10.1.2 All clubs competing in the NBL must be at least a Basketball England Level 1 Accredited Club as defined by the Basketball England club Minimum Operating Standards.
- 10.1.3 In addition, all new teams must complete a New Team Entry Form found on the Basketball England website and meet all the requirements outlined in this document and the standards in place.
- 10.1.4 Basketball England shall be responsible for the selection of Teams to compete in the National Basketball League for the following Season, and of Teams to compete in tournaments organised by Basketball England.
- 10.1.5 A Club/Team shall be entitled to appeal the decision of Basketball England made in accordance with Regulation 10.1.1 and/or 10.1.4 provided that such appeal is made in accordance with Regulation 49.5

10.2 Entrance Fees

- 10.2.1 Applications to enter the National Basketball League must be paid by the stipulated deadline set by Basketball England. Basketball England reserves the right to withdraw a team from the competition if they fail to pay their entry fees.
- 10.2.2 The Entry Fee is automatically forfeited if the Club withdraws their entry. If entry into any Competition is declined the Entry Fee will be refunded in full.
- 10.2.3 All Clubs must also pay an annual Club Affiliation Fee to be received by Basketball England no later than 1 September preceding the season in question.

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 £200.00 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 'subsequent teams' over and above the single surety fee it has lodged. The single Surety Fee will always be paid initially
- 10.3.3 Where a Club has Surety Fee at the end of the Season and intends to participate in the NBL in the following Season, the Surety Fee will be retained by Basketball England throughout the close season period. Where a club does not make an entry into the league, Basketball England will refund the money by BACS. However, where a club does not fulfil this request by the 31 December following the previous season the team played within the league, Basketball England will retain the surety fee.
- 10.3.4 Where a Team withdraws from a competition the following fines will apply:
- a) before June 30 preceding the season in question, Basketball England will refund the surety fee only.
 - b) between July 1 and August 31 Basketball England shall be entitled to retain half of the surety fee.
 - c) after the 31 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.

10.4 Entry to Cup Competitions

- 10.4.1 Entry to the senior competitions shall include automatic entry into Cup Competitions for which the Team is eligible unless the Club informs Basketball England that it does not wish to participate in these Cup Competitions at the time of league entry; save in respect of Division 1 Men & Women and Division 2 Men and Women, where participation in all Cup Competitions is mandatory.
- 10.4.2 Clubs that have not applied for entry to the NBL may enter the National Cup competitions by making an application to Basketball England. An entry fee of £100.00 for senior teams and £65.00 for junior teams must accompany such applications.

11. CLUB POSITIONS AND LEAGUE RANKINGS

- 11.1 The League positions shall be determined by awarding:
- 11.1.1 two points for a win and zero for a loss in senior leagues.
 - 11.1.2 three points for a win and one point for a loss in all junior leagues.
- 11.2 Zero points shall be awarded for a Match lost by forfeit.

- 11.3 In junior leagues, one point shall be awarded for a Match lost by default. In senior national leagues, zero points shall be awarded for a Match lost by default.
- 11.4 In the event that a Match is lost by default or forfeit, Basketball England may also deduct a number of points as it considers to be appropriate in accordance with Regulation 25.
- 11.5 Where a game is awarded in junior national leagues, it is at the discretion of Basketball England whether one point for a loss shall be awarded.
- 11.6 Void games will be listed as 0-0 and no league points awarded to either team.

12. CLASSIFICATION OF TEAMS

- 12.1 If two or more Teams have the same number of league points, the positions of such Teams in the league shall be determined as follows:
- 12.1.1 The result of the match(es) between the two or more teams who are tied shall be used to decide the classification.
- 12.1.2 If these two or more teams have the same win-loss record of the games between them, further criteria shall be used in the following order until the teams can be separated:
1. Higher goal difference of the games between them.
 2. Higher number of points scored in the games between them.
 3. Higher goal difference of all games in the league.
 4. Higher number of points scored in all games in the group.
- 12.2 If at any level of these criteria one or more team(s) are already classified, the procedure of shall be repeated from the start for all the remaining teams not yet classified.
- 12.3 If, upon application of these criteria the teams cannot be separated, the final classification shall be determined with a random draw.
- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 Cross-Divisional Classification
- 12.5.1 Where teams are required to be ranked (seeded) across divisions, the following methodology will apply. Teams will be ranked first by league position, then by win percentage, then by points difference per game, then by total points scored per game.

12.5.2 Where the teams in the divisions have played an uneven number of games, the games between the lowest ranked teams in the respective division will be nullified until the same number of games have been played between all divisions.

12.5.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the nullification of games for the purposes of cross-group classifications, shall not alter the initial standing of teams in a particular league.

13. PLAYOFFS

13.1 Senior Competitions:

Playoff Competitions for Division One Men, Division One Women, Division Two Men, Division Two Women and Division Three Men will take place at the completion of the Regular Season with Playoff format to be published by Basketball England prior to the commencement of the Regular Season.

In all playoff fixtures, the highest ranked team shall be the listed home team.

13.2 Age-Group Competitions:

Playoff Matches for Under 18, Under 16 and Under 14 Premier competitions will take place at the completion of the Regular Season. Matches will be played as single leg matches on the home courts of one of the competing teams unless otherwise decided by Basketball England, for example a Final Four Tournament. Basketball England will publish playoff formats, prior to the commencement of the Regular Season.

In all playoff fixtures, the highest ranked team shall be the listed home team.

14. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

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 league will be based on the ranking methods in Regulation 12.

14.2 Teams which finish in first and second place in:

14.2.1 Division Two Men may make a league entry to join Division One Men.

14.2.2 Division Three Men may make a league entry to join Division Two Men.

14.2.3 Division Two Women may make a league entry to join Division One Women.

Provided that such Clubs fulfil the National Basketball League Standards for the relevant Division found in Appendix 5. In addition, teams applying to join Division One Men – known as ‘The Basketball Championship’ – must meet the Division One Men Minimum Operating Standards.

- 14.3 Conference League Men league winners and runners up must win their promotional playoffs to make a league entry to join Division Three Men. Basketball England may increase the number of seeds from the Conference league to enter the Promotional Playoffs at its own discretion.
- 14.4 Relegation places are based on the size of the league at the start of the season. The maximum number of teams in any league outside of Division One Men is 12, except for Division Three Men which is a maximum of 10.
- 14.5 Any Team:
- 14.5.1 In Division One Men, known as 'The Basketball Championship', that does not meet the National Basketball League Recommended Standards or Division One Men Minimum Operating Standards (Appendix 16), will be relegated to Division Two Men.
 - 14.5.2 Any team that finishes in the bottom two places of Division Two Men (11th and 12th) or does not meet the National Basketball League Recommended Standards will be relegated to Division Three Men.
 - 14.5.3 Any team that finishes in 10th place in each pool of Division Three Men or does not meet the National Basketball League Recommended Standards will be entered into the promotion/relegation playoffs along with the top eight seeds (pending 14.3 additions) from the Conference League Men to determine promotion and relegation between the two leagues.
 - 14.5.4 Any team that finishes in 9th place in each pool of Division 3 Men, may be entered into the promotion/relegation playoffs in addition to the teams listed in 14.5.3.
 - 14.5.5 Any team that finishes in the bottom two places in Division One Women (11th and 12th) or does not meet the National Basketball League Recommended Standards, will be relegated to Division Two Women unless otherwise decided by Basketball England.
 - 14.5.6 Any team that finishes in the bottom two places (11th and 12th) in the junior NBL Premier level competition or does not meet the required standards may be relegated to the conference level at the same age group unless otherwise decided by Basketball England. Where applicable 11th and 12th placed teams will take part in promotional playoffs.
- 14.6 Basketball England shall be entitled to withdraw the licence of any Team to play in the National Basketball League where that Team:
- 14.6.1 finishes in last place in the lowest Division of its relevant League; and/or
 - 14.6.2 finishes in first or second place in Division Two Women or Division Three Men in two successive seasons or wins their promotion games in Conference League Men and fails to apply for promotion.

- 14.7 The performance of all Clubs with regard to their compliance with these and other relevant regulations issued by Basketball England shall normally be reviewed on both 30 November and 31 January during the playing season. Clubs will be advised in writing of perceived shortcomings and the remedial action necessary. This will be based on the Basketball England Standards Document. Basketball England shall be entitled to take whatever action it deems appropriate for Clubs consistently failing to comply with appropriate rules & regulations.

15. THE TROPHIES

- 15.1 All trophies awarded to League, Cup and Playoff winners remain the property of Basketball England. When the winning Clubs have been ascertained, Basketball England will present the appropriate trophy to that Club, who will be responsible for its return to Basketball England, prior to 1 September of the following Season, in good order and condition. In the event that a trophy is not returned by this date, Basketball England shall be entitled to collect the trophy, at the cost of the Club. Basketball England shall keep the trophies at all other times.
- 15.2 Should a trophy be damaged whilst under the care or custody of a Club, the Club shall be liable to pay to Basketball England either (in the sole discretion of Basketball England) (i) an amount equal to the value of the trophy (at the time such damage occurred); or (ii) or an amount equal to the cost of complete repair. Should a trophy be lost, destroyed, or damaged beyond repair whilst under the care and/or custody of a Club, the Club may be required to pay to Basketball England a sum equivalent to the present value of the trophy in addition to any other penalty that Basketball England may impose.
- 15.3 Basketball England will present 18 individual mementoes to the Teams which have finished in first and second place in all Senior National Competitions.
- 15.4 No additional identical mementoes will be awarded or purchased other than those set out in Regulations 15.3 and 15.5.
- 15.5 Basketball England will present mementoes to the Players and Coaches that participate in the Cup and Playoff Finals. When a Player or Coach taking part is disqualified, the memento to which they may be entitled in accordance with this Regulation may be withheld at the discretion of Basketball England.
- 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.

16. CUP AND PLAYOFF FINALS

- 16.1 National Cup Finals, Senior Playoff Finals and Junior Final Fours (Playoff Semi Finals, 3rd/4th Place and Finals) will be played at a neutral venue unless otherwise decided by Basketball England.
- 16.2 Basketball England will arrange for the organisation and promotion of the Cup Finals and the Playoff Finals as appropriate. At such events, accompanying delegation members must be dressed in smart clothing; tracksuits and denim are not permitted save that a Team manager and/or physiotherapist may wear a Team tracksuit.
- 16.3 A Technical Commission will, in respect of each Cup Final and Playoff Final organised by Basketball England, be nominated by Basketball England to take responsibility for disciplinary action and such other decisions related to such matches as may from time to time be necessary.
- 16.4 In the event that Basketball England appoints an organisation, Club or individual to promote the Cup Final or Playoff Final on its behalf, such promoter shall be responsible for providing benefits for each competing Club as agreed with Basketball England. However, Basketball England shall ensure that the promoter reserves a minimum of 100 tickets for any Cup Final and/or Playoff Final for a competing Club to purchase. These tickets shall remain available for the competing Clubs until 10 days prior to the event unless otherwise agreed with the event promoter.
- 16.5 In addition to the reserved tickets made available in accordance with Regulation 16.4 above, each competing Club will receive a maximum of 21 event tickets/event passes for use amongst the players, coaches and accompanying delegation members of the competing Club. These event tickets/event passes are not transferable and must be held by licensed players, coaches and accompanying delegation members.
- In addition, clubs competing in the events, may request up to 4 tickets for directors and their guests.
- 16.6 Spectators are not permitted to use air horns, including Vuvuzelas, or whistles at National Events in line with FIBA regulations.

PARTICIPANTS

17. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP & LICENSING

- 17.1 All Participants in National Competitions must be registered as an individual member with Basketball England and pay the fee set out in Appendix 1.
- 17.2 In addition to Regulation 17.1 above, all Participants in National Competitions are required to have a National Competitions Licence in accordance with the fees set out in Appendix 1.
- 17.3 All fees are exempt from VAT and are non-refundable once the playing season has started.

- 17.4 All Coaches including assistant coaches must hold at least the Basketball England Level 2 Coach Award. In Division One Men and Women, the Head Coach must hold a Basketball England Level 3 Coach Award prior to the issue of a National Competitions Licence except when a Non-National Coach has not previously been registered in England. This exception is only valid for their first season in England.
- 17.5 No player may hold a valid BE National Competitions licence to represent more than one club in any National League Competition. The only exemption to this regulation is where a Junior Player is licensed to participate in a senior basketball competition for another club, which does not have its own junior program, and their junior age group club is not connected to a 'parent' senior club.
- 17.6 No Coach can be licensed for two Clubs that compete in the same league or competition at any one time.
- 17.7 A clear, enhanced DBS valid for three years (any unclear DBS certificates shall be risk assessed individually) and Basketball England safeguarding training (except where previously acquired Basketball England approved safeguarding training is validated on the member's profile) are required for anyone registering in regulated activity with children including, but not limited to, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Accompanying Delegation Members and officials.
- 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.
- 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.
- 17.10 Issue of Licences
- 17.10.1 Each Club shall ensure that all applications for National Competitions Licences are made via Basketball England's online registration system. Applications may be submitted at any time, and Basketball England will normally consider all completed applications within seven Business Days.
- 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 club.
- b) a completed International Clearance Request Form: if a player has been registered with a National Federation outside of England, it is the responsibility of the Club to send this information to British Basketball Federation (BBF).
- c) a Confirmation of Amateur Status form: if a Non-National player competes in Division Two Men or lower or Division One Women or lower, they must confirm that they do not hit any of the professional sports person indicators, as defined by the UK Government which are summarised in in Appendix 3.
- d) such other documents as may be requested or required by Basketball England (such as, by way of example only, a valid Disclosure and Barring Service check); and
- e) in the case of a senior or U20 Non-National Player / Coach, valid UK entry documentation (Work Permit/Certificate of Sponsorship and or Visa), photocopy of a valid passport and a signed valid contract where applicable (in accordance with Regulation 20 below).
- f) all officials must submit proof that they have the 'Right to work' in the UK, to permit them to work in a 'self-employed' manner. Proof of this is required at time of making a licence application.

17.10.3 Payment must be made in full to Basketball England for all National Competitions Licence applications prior to approval.

17.10.4 In the event that Basketball England approves an application, the licence will normally be issued with effect from the date that the approval was given. Approved licences (Digital Licences) will be available on the Basketball England Membership portal. The approval and issue of a licence can only be undertaken on Business Days between the hours of 09:00-17:00.

17.10.5 Once a National Competitions Licence has been approved and issued, the participant becomes eligible to participate in National Basketball League, Cup and Playoff Matches. By participating obtaining a licence, the participant:

- a) accepts the authority and jurisdiction of Basketball England and agrees to abide by its rules and regulations and the Code of Ethics and Conduct.
- b) agrees to comply with the UK rules anti-doping regulations and penalties in force from time to time for the official competitions of Basketball England and FIBA.

- c) agrees to submit to doping control tests and to abide by the respective anti-doping regulations as appropriate; and
 - d) agrees that Basketball England may forward the participant's Personal Data to FIBA and/or UK Anti-Doping for use in connection with doping control.
- 17.10.6 A Player who was previously registered in any other country is not permitted to play in the Basketball England National Basketball League Competitions until clearance has been received from that country in accordance with the regulations of FIBA.
- 17.10.7 Where Basketball England (in its sole discretion) considers there to be any doubt as to the national status of the person concerned, all relevant documents should be submitted to Basketball England so that Basketball England can determine that person's national status.
- 17.10.8 Basketball England reserves the right to decline to license a person for any Club(s), at its sole discretion; similarly, it may choose to cancel or suspend a licence for any person at its sole discretion.
- 17.10.9 Failure to comply with any of the conditions relating to licensing will render a person ineligible to represent that Club.
- 17.10.10 When a team fields an ineligible participant (player, coach or bench personnel) as they have not complied with Regulation 17, the game will be forfeit and recorded as 20-0 to the opposing team, with the Club to face further disciplinary action in line with the Discipline code. A fine will also be applied in line with Regulation 49.16.
- 17.10.11 No licence will be issued for a Non-National (that is being paid to play or coach) unless a current Work Permit has been presented to Basketball England. Only teams in Division One Men may apply to Basketball England or the British Basketball Federation.
- 17.10.12 For a licence to be issued for Non-National Players or Coaches in Amateur Leagues, documentation must be provided to Basketball England which demonstrates that such Player and/or Coach holds appropriate entry clearance into the UK. A licence will not be issued for a Player and/or Coach who does not have leave to remain in the UK.

A declaration of Amateur status is also required for Non-National (Players or Coaches, background checks will be carried out by Basketball England to determine whether the player meets amateur status requirements (listed in appendix 3) to be licensed for Basketball England Competitions in line with Home Office rules of Amateurs playing in Amateur Leagues. At any point during the season, Basketball England reserves the right to remove a Player / Coach's licence if they are found to be in breach of this rule and action may be taken in line with Regulation 17.10.10 for any fixture in which the player has played, where their licence status should have been ineligible.

- 17.10.13 The number of licences that may be issued to a Club is restricted in accordance with Regulation 18 below. In the event that a Club which has a full quota in any category wishes to license an additional person in that same category, the application for the additional licence must be accompanied by confirmation of their new status. Such person is ineligible to represent a Club once the new application is received by Basketball England.

17.11 Validity of Licences

- 17.11.1 Prior to the start of the Season, all Clubs should submit via Basketball England's online registration system applications, accompanied by any other required documents, for persons they wish to license in the forthcoming season (in accordance with Regulation 17.10 above). If a person or Club submits more than one licence application in the course of a Season, without having been first released or transferred, they shall be deemed guilty of misconduct in accordance with Regulation 49.1. Applications will be considered by Basketball England, and a licence granted for each application that Basketball England deems to be acceptable.
- 17.11.2 Players may be licensed at any time during the season up to and including 31 January. To be eligible for consideration, an application for a Player's licence, accompanied by the relevant documents and fees, must be received by Basketball England on or before 31 January of the Season in question. Thereafter licence applications can only be considered in respect of Coaches and Bench Personnel. The exception to this rule is for new registrations for age group conference teams and Intra Club transfers. Please see below:
- a) A player can be registered for an age group conference team, in which compete within the conference leagues and where a new registration can be applied for up to the last game of the regular playing season; no transfers are permitted from club to club. The player must not have been registered previously with Basketball England or registered for the last two seasons for any BE National League Competitions or any other International Federation that is recognised with FIBA

- b) Junior age group, Intra club transfers are permitted within a club up to seven days prior to the season deadline (as stated on the Basketball England website) for their new transfer team based within the club and must meet regulation 21.10.
- 17.11.3 Players playing in all leagues may be licensed to participate in a competition prior to 31 January however their work permit, Entry Clearance / International Clearance / Transfer Form can arrive after this date. In all cases the person does not become eligible to coach/play until such time as work permit Governing Body Endorsements / Certificate of Sponsorship & Entry Clearance / International Clearance / Transfer Form is received.
- 17.11.4 A person does not become eligible to represent a Club until their application has been approved by Basketball England. The arrival of any application via Basketball England's online registration system does not in itself guarantee the eligibility of the person concerned.
- 17.11.5 To be valid, a licence must be issued and endorsed for the Season, Club and Team in question.
- 17.11.6 No Player licence applications may be received, and no transfer may take place after 23:59 on the 31 January until the end of the Season. The exception to this rule is for new registrations for age group conference teams in line with regulation 17.11.2 (a).
- 17.11.7 In respect of calculating the deadlines set out in these Regulations the European Convention on the Calculation of Deadlines applies, which provide that when a deadline expires on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, it is extended to include the very next working day. (unless otherwise stated).

17.12 Licence Cards

- 17.12.1 Before each Match, the Club must present to the Match Officials the licence cards of all participants who are to compete in the Match. The last three digits of the licence numbers for the players, head coach and first named assistant coach (if present) must be inscribed on the Scoresheet. In addition, the licence cards of any Accompanying delegation members must also be present for inspection. This can be done by either presenting the digital licences on a device or printing the licences page off (in colour) and presenting to the crew chief.
- 17.12.2 Before each Match, all Officials must present their licence card if requested by the teams involved. All referees and table officials must ensure the last three digits of their licence number are inscribed on the Scoresheet.

- 17.12.3 Only persons holding a Coach Level 2 or above qualification can licence and act as the Coach or assistant coach. Only persons holding a referee licence and relevant qualification to the league they are officiating in can act as a referee.
 - 17.12.4 In the event of a valid licence not being produced for a Player, Coach or Bench Personnel that person shall not be permitted to participate in the Match in question. A valid licence card is described in regulation 17.11.
 - 17.12.5 If a player listed on the scoresheet fails to arrive before the end of the Match, the Scorer must cross the name of that player off the Scoresheet.
 - 17.12.6 The Crew Chief should review the licence cards and accept the licence of the individual as proof of eligibility. Should any challenge be made to the validity of such licences, this should be reported to Basketball England within 24 hours of the fixture taking place.
- 17.13 Loss of Licence
- 17.13.1 A team that withdraws from a competition shall automatically lose its licence to compete, and any application in future seasons will only be considered for the lowest available division.
 - 17.13.2 Teams that have been accepted into a Competition, and who subsequently withdraw, will be fined and the Surety Fee may be retained by Basketball England in part or in full acting in its sole discretion, in addition to any fine that may be levied.
- 17.14 Player Retirement and Return to competition**
- 17.14.1 As part of the UKAD Assurance requirements please see Appendix 15 for the Formal Player Retirement and Return to Competition Policy in place for players in our testing pool at International and National Level and they wish to end their competition playing licence with Basketball England.

18. ELIGIBILITY

Senior Competitions:

- 18.1 Players may play in Senior Competitions having attained their 15th birthday.
- 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 10 in any Match.

In Division One Men a Team can field a maximum of two Non-National Type 1 Players in any match (see Appendix 3 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 Type 1 Player should they compete against a Division One Men's Team in the National Cup in any round.

- 18.3 All Division One Men Non-National Type 1 players/coaches must have a valid contract of employment as a basketball player/coach with their club in order to be classified in the appropriate category. Clubs are reminded that they are responsible for the operation of PAYE & NI requirements for all employees and Basketball England may require documentary evidence to verify that where such a contract of employment exists, the due statutory procedures are being followed.
- 18.4 All regulations regarding FIBA International Clearance will apply to National and Non-National players.
- 18.5 After a person has been licensed for a Season, they cannot apply to alter their national status during the course of that Season.
- 18.6 During the course of the Season:
 - 18.6.1 Teams in Division One Men may licence a maximum of four Non-National Type 1 (see Appendix 3 for breakdown) Players; and there is no limit on the number of Non-Nationals Type 2 players listed in Appendix 3.
 - 18.6.2 Teams in the Division Two Men, Division Three Men, Conference League Men, Division One and Two Women may licence a maximum of three Non-Nationals Type 1 Players (see Appendix 3 for breakdown) and there is no limit on the number of and there is no limit on the number of Non-Nationals Type 2 players listed in Appendix 3.

The requirements of Regulation 18.3 must be satisfied, and a licence must be cancelled before an alternative licence may be issued. Where a licence is cancelled by virtue of the application of this Regulation 18.6, the Player shall become a free agent, unless they currently hold a standard form contract which has been deposited with, and approved by, Basketball England and continues to be honoured by the Club. Rotation of Non-Nationals Type 1 (see Appendix 3 for breakdown) Players can take place provided that a Team does not exceed the quota of Non-Nationals type 1 (see Appendix 3 for breakdown) Players allowed by Regulation 18.2 in any one Match.

- 18.7 A Club is permitted to license a maximum of one Non-National Coach per Team providing they meet and fulfil UK Visa and Immigration requirement. Any Team that has a Non-National Coach must also have a National assistant coach and authorised by Basketball England.

- 18.8 Whenever a person holding a senior competition licence is absent from the UK for a continuous period in excess of 30 days during the period 1 September – 31 May, their licence shall automatically be suspended and cannot be activated again until after the following 31 May save where a new licence application is received by Basketball England.
- 18.9 In order for a licence application to be considered, the individual must be present in the UK at the time of such application. For the avoidance of doubt, applications will not be considered or approved by Basketball England in respect of individuals who remain outside of the UK and intend to enter the UK at a later date.
- 18.10 The regulations of FIBA prohibit players / coaches being registered until they are present in the UK. It is permissible for a Club to make an agreement with an individual, prior to his or her arrival in England, so as to secure exclusive rights for their services. Basketball England shall have the sole right to interpret, enforce or annul any such agreement at its sole discretion.
- 18.11 A Player who was previously registered in any country other than the UK is not permitted to play in any national competition until clearance has been received from that country in accordance with the regulations of FIBA.
- 18.12 Where an individual holds two or more legal nationalities, their eligibility to play in the National Competitions shall be determined in accordance with Regulation 18. Where that individual is eligible to play as a British Player, they shall declare (if eligible) in writing before they are registered for the National Competition that if summoned to represent the relevant National Team for Great Britain, England, Scotland or Wales, they will play for that Team.
- 18.13 Basketball England may, in its absolute discretion, refuse to issue a licence to any Player, Coach, Match Official or Bench Personnel. Any such refusal shall be subject to Basketball England's appeals procedure as set out in Regulation 49.5.
- 18.14 Asylum seekers and refugees may be licensed as British Players if the Player has been granted asylum or refugee status in the UK, proof of being granted asylum or refugee status is required to be uploaded in the membership portal, in the visa section. This will be at the sole discretion of Basketball England and reconsidered on an annual basis.
- 18.15 In order to participate in the Final of the National Cup, a Player must hold a full Performance membership with Basketball England no later than the second Friday before the Match.

Age-Group Competitions:

- 18.16 Eligibility for all Junior Leagues and all Junior National Cup:
- (i) Junior Age Groups: ages of players taken at 1 September of each season

- (ii) At the U12 age group- minimum age permitted is for the player to be attaining their 10th birthday from the 1 September of each academic year.
- (iii) At the Under 14 age group- minimum age permitted is for the player to be attaining their 11th birthday from the 1 September of each academic year.
- (iv) At the Under 16 age group- minimum age permitted is for the player to be attaining their 13th birthday from the 1 September of each academic year.
- (v) At the Under 18 age group- minimum age permitted is for the player to be attaining their 15th birthday from the 1 September of each academic year.
- (vi) A player can apply for exemption in line with the Basketball England Eligibility and Participation Exemption Policy. A player, along with their representatives must complete the Eligibility and Participation Exemption form and provide all supporting evidence; <https://basketballengland.wufoo.com/forms/r1kkr07x0bcddgv/>.
- (vii) There are no restrictions on the number of Non-National players in a Team.
- (viii) Teams must field a minimum of 8 players and have a designated head coach to fulfil the entire season for that age group team.
- (ix) A Player who is licensed with Basketball England to play for a Junior Club may also license with Basketball England to play for a different Club in order to participate in the senior competitions if their Junior Age Group Club is not connected to a 'parent' Senior Club, provided that the senior club does not have their own junior outlet. This is subject to the written approval of both Clubs.
- (x) A Player who is licensed with Basketball England to play for a Junior Age Group team which also has a 'parent' senior team may only play for that senior team in the National Competitions.
- (xi) Where a Junior Age Group player is licensed to play in the senior competitions for a Club that does not have a team in the Junior NBL competitions, the Player may also play for a different Club in the Junior Age Group competitions provided that such Club does not have a senior team in the National Competitions.
- (xii) A club not competing in the Under 18/Under 16 Leagues may license up to a maximum of 15 players for the Under 18 or Under 16 National Cup.
- (xiii) The age group restrictions are applied to Junior teams and ages permitted to play at an age group can be found in Appendix 2.
- (xiv) An U18 Player who is licensed with Basketball England will be limited to play (and be licensed) for only two teams at any one time, this includes play in all competitions (British Basketball Championship Men, British Basketball Championship Women, Senior NBL and Junior NBL). The two age group teams cannot be at the same age group; it must be two separate age groups/senior competitions.

19. JUNIOR NBL SPECIFIC RULES

- 19.1 Zone/Combination defences are permitted at the Under 16 and Under 18 conference level competitions in quarters one and three. Man to Man defence can be played throughout but is mandatory in quarters two and four. There are no restrictions for premier level competitions (this includes if there is just one tier of one competition for female junior leagues). Where two teams meet in playoffs or cup competitions and one team is conference level and the other team is premier level, the game will be bound by the highest of the two leagues rules and therefore, zone defence can be played throughout the game, as per premier level rules at this age group.
- 19.2 Zone/Combination defences are not permitted in any Under 16 Regional, Under 14 and Under 12 competitions. Man to Man defence is mandatory.
- 19.3 A team is not permitted to full court press when leading by 20 points or more in Under 16 Conference and Regional competitions, Under 14 Conference competitions and all Under 12 competitions. Where two teams meet in playoffs or cup competitions and one team is conference level and the other team is premier level, the game will be bound by the highest of the two leagues rules and therefore, a full court press can be played throughout the game, as per premier level rules at this age group.
- 19.4 An in-game Sanction is to be applied in a match for teams that are in breach of playing a zone defence or applying a full court press when not permitted at their respective age group competition. This is to be administered via the referees where applicable. See Appendix 9 for the sanction and how this is applied.
- 19.5 Teams in the below leagues must adhere to the Basketball England's All Must Play Rule. The details of the rule can be seen in Appendix 7. Teams should use the Rotational Schedule in Appendix 8.
- Under 12 Girls
 - Under 12 Mixed
 - Under 14 Girls Conference
 - Under 14 Boys Conference
 - Under 16 Boys Regional

Where two teams meet in promotional playoffs or cup competitions and one team is conference level and the other team is premier level, the All Must Play rule shall not apply.

- 19.6 When a player in junior NBL competitions (regardless of age) is disqualified from a match, a designated coach or bench personnel who is licensed to the team and club must accompany the disqualified player out of the sports hall and remain with them. If there is no such coach or bench personnel member available, the player must remain in the hall on the opposite side of the court to their bench and must not intervene or communicate with either team or the officials. If the disqualified player is to remain in the hall, any further intervention or incidents will be taken into account in any disciplinary investigation after the Match.

- 19.7 When a player under 18 years of age in Senior NBL competitions is disqualified from a match, a designated coach or bench personnel who is licensed to the team and club must accompany the disqualified player out of the sports hall and remain with them. If there is no such coach or bench personnel available, the player must remain in the hallway on the opposite side of the court to their bench and must not intervene or communicate with either team or the officials. If the disqualified player is to remain in the hall, any further intervention or incidents will be taken into account in any disciplinary investigation after the match.

It is the responsibility of the head coach to ensure all players under the age of 18 are indicated on the team list provided to the table officials before the start of the match.

- 19.8 In the event of a Coach being disqualified from a Junior NBL game, where no suitable qualified and licensed assistant coach is present and listed on the scoresheet, the game will be stopped. The game will be lost by default. If the team to which the game is awarded is ahead, the score shall stand as the time it was stopped. If that team is not ahead, the score shall be recorded as 2-0 to the non-offending team.

(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. From the 2026-27 season, this will be regulated to require two licensed coaches with each junior team).

- 19.9 In the event of a Coach being disqualified from a Senior NBL game, where no suitable qualified and licensed assistant coach is present and listed on the scoresheet, in accordance with FIBA Rules Article 7.9, the team captain may fulfil the role of the Coach. If there are players under 18 years of age in the team, they must leave the game with the Coach. If this leaves the team without enough players to finish the game, the match shall be lost by default.
- 19.10 Spectators are not permitted to use air horns - including Vuvuzelas – or whistles at Jnr. NBL games in line with FIBA regulations. The crew chief shall have the authority to stop the game and order the game day delegate/home team to remove such items.

20. CONTRACTS

- 20.1 All National Competition Licences expire on the last day of the Season in question in accordance with the official calendar of Basketball England.
- 20.2 After expiry of any licence:
- 20.2.1 a non-contract Player shall become a Free Agent and may subsequently be licensed or contracted by any Club. Any Club for which the Player was formerly licensed shall have no entitlement to request any compensation for the Player's services.

- 20.2.2 a Player who has been subject to a Standard Contract, as issued and approved by Basketball England, which expires prior to the start of a forthcoming Season, shall become a Free Agent and may subsequently be licensed or contracted by any Club. Any Club for which the Player was formerly licensed shall have no entitlement to request any compensation for the Player's services; and/or
- 20.2.3 a Player who is subject to a Standard Contract which extends into the forthcoming Season shall, except by agreement of his Club, only be licensed for that Club in the forthcoming Season.
- 20.3 A Free Agent may, subject to FIBA Regulations, sign an application for a Competitions Licence at any time, and for any Club, except during the period 1 February to 31 May each year, or as otherwise restricted by other rules and/or regulations, and any Club for which he was formerly licensed shall have no entitlement to request any compensation.
- 20.4 A Club may at any time release a non-contract Player and shall notify the Player of such release and shall surrender their licence to Basketball England (by confirming the release in writing), whereupon the Player shall immediately become a free agent.
- 20.5 A contracted Player shall be entitled to apply for a licence to coach at the Club he or she is contracted to without compensation. Any subsequent request by the Player or their new Club for a licence for the coach to play will be subject to the terms embodied in the Standard Contract for the period of time stipulated by the Standard Contract.
- 20.6 In order to establish the existence of a Standard Contract, a Club shall, within 7 days of signature by both parties, forward to Basketball England the signed Certificate of Contract contained in the Standard Contract. Where a Player and their Club, (or related companies, organisations or sponsors of the Club) have agreed more than one contract to cover the same period of time, both contracts must be sent to Basketball England.
- 20.7 A Player, Coach and/or Bench Personnel may, at any time, demand their release. The Club for which they are licensed must comply within 7 Days, unless it is of the opinion that the Player, Coach and/or Bench Personnel owes money to the Club (the Club must submit an account of the debt for Basketball England to consider). Basketball England shall hold the individual participants licence until such time as Basketball England is satisfied that such money has been paid (to the extent that the debt is considered by Basketball England to be accurate and a true account of agreement between the parties).
- 20.8 A Player shall have the right to invoke arbitration by Basketball England, in accordance with Regulation 50.8, where the Player reasonably considers that a Club is acting unreasonably in relation to the provisions of the Standard Contract governing expiry, release and transfer.

- 20.9 In the event that Basketball England determines that a Club is in breach of the terms and conditions of a Standard Contract so as to merit the immediate termination of that contract, the Player shall thereafter be deemed to be a non- contract Player for the purposes of these Regulations.
- 20.10 This Regulation 20 and Regulation 21 below shall apply to a person who is licensed solely as a Coach, save in so far as they relate to the Standard Contract and, therefore, at the end of a Season, a Coach shall have the status of a free agent. This Regulation 20 shall apply to a person who is licensed as both a Player and a Coach as if the person is a Player only.

21. TRANSFERS

- 21.1 The terms and conditions contained in the Standard Contract shall govern the transfer of any Player / Coach to whom such a contract applies and shall take precedence over any conflicting terms in these Regulations.
- 21.2 Where a Player / Coach is transferring between Clubs, the new contract must be sent to Basketball England within seven days of signature by both parties.
- 21.3 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. If there is no consent, 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 nbl@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.
- 21.4 If a Player / Coach wishes to seek a transfer of their licence during the course of a Season, they 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.
- 21.5 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 50.8.
- 21.6 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 of the request, if not on the eighth day the player/coach will be released, and they will be able to join a new club and purchase new licence for the new team. On the eighth day the player is then deemed a 'free agent'.

- 21.7 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 applicant's transfer. It is the responsibility of the transferee Club and transferee 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.
- 21.8 If any transfer fee is payable in respect of the transfer of a Player / Coach in accordance with these Regulations, such fee shall be deemed to be exclusive of Value Added Tax, unless specifically stated otherwise, and the Value Added Tax at the current rate shall be payable in addition to the fee stipulated if the transferor Club is registered for Value Added Tax.
- 21.9 An approved transfer via the Basketball England's Membership Portal including those that have expired on day eight where the club have not confirmed the request shall constitute proof that the transferor Club is satisfied that the fee and any Value Added Tax thereon has been or will be paid to them by the transferee Club and a transfer shall not subsequently be annulled by virtue of a breach of contract by the transferee Club.
- 21.10 A transfer shall not be approved by Basketball England if it includes an automatic return clause. A transfer may include a provision related to payment by a transferor Club if the licensed person re-joins the transferor Club at a later date.
- 21.11 All Junior NBL 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 deadline (as stated on the Basketball England website) for the new team they wish to transfer to. An intra-club transfer is not permitted to take place on a Saturday or Sunday. All intra-club transfers must be notified to Basketball England via the online form here - <https://basketballengland.wufoo.com/forms/x1ei65r811k9ufl/>.
- 21.12 Whilst a person holds a Competition Licence, no person representing any other Club shall approach the person with a view to inducing him/her to leave that Club, unless permission has been granted in writing by a duly authorised representative of the Club to which the person is currently licensed. Any infringement of this rule shall be treated by Basketball England as misconduct and action may be taken in accordance with Regulation 49.1.
- 21.13 The use of an agent to conduct any aspect of a transfer of a Competitions Licence is strictly prohibited and accordingly any such transfer shall be arranged directly between the transferor Club, transferee Club and the individual concerned.

- 21.14 A person having represented a Team (i.e. by having their name included on the Scoresheet) as a Player in any Cup Competition cannot subsequently represent any other Team as a Player in the same Cup Competition during the Season.

FIXTURES

22. ARRANGEMENT OF FIXTURES

- 22.1 Basketball England will prepare a fixture list prior to the start of the Season. The dates of the season will be as defined in the Competition Calendar published on the Basketball England website.
- 22.2 National Basketball League
- 22.2.1 In all Divisions, all Teams shall play each other for a scheduled number of Matches home and away to determine the League champions.
- 22.2.2 No Senior NBL league fixtures shall be played on the National Cup Final date, and no Junior NBL fixtures shall be played on the Junior National Cup Final date.
- 22.2.3 All fixtures must be played no later than the league deadline as published by Basketball England. Any fixtures that have not taken place by the league deadline will be marked as Void and neither team receive points.
- 22.3 National Cup
- 22.3.1 Basketball England will conduct the draw for each National Cup competition (Men, Women, U18 Men, U18 Women, U16 Boys, U16 Girls) which will include geographical organisation and seeding in the rounds prior to the semifinals. Basketball England shall determine which teams (if any) are awarded byes in its absolute discretion. All rounds are single knock out fixtures.
- 22.3.2 All National Cup games will take priority over league fixtures, on the date that they are set by Basketball England.
- 22.3.3 National Cup fixtures can take place ahead of the scheduled date but not after or replacing an existing league game.
- 22.3.4 Semifinals: this will involve the four winning Teams from the Quarter Final Round Matches. Drawn at random.
- 22.3.5 Final: this will involve the winners of the Semifinal Matches and will be played on a single leg basis at a neutral venue arranged by Basketball England.
- 22.4 For age-group competitions the following shall apply:

- 22.4.1 Under 18, Under 16, Under 14 Premier Leagues: teams shall be split into divisions playing each other home and away culminating in end of season Playoffs.
- 22.4.2 Under 18, Under 16 and Under 14 Conference Leagues: teams shall be split into divisions playing each other home and away. The Conference divisional winner will be determined by a team winning their division. There will be a promotional playoff for this level of competition only, where the lowest seeding teams from the premier level will compete for the following season promotional spots with top seeds from the conference level.
- 22.4.3 Under 16 and Under 14 Regional Leagues: teams shall be split into divisions playing each other home and away format. A Regional League Division winner will be determined by a team winning their division.
- 22.4.4 Under 12 Leagues: teams shall be split into divisions playing each other in singular fixtures. A divisional conference winner will be determined by a team winning their divisional conference.

23. TIP OFF TIMES AND GAME CONFIRMATIONS

- 23.1 Matches shall normally be played on a Saturday or Sunday. They may, however, be played on such other days as Basketball England may from time to time stipulate or by mutual agreement provided that such days have been approved by Basketball England.
- 23.2 All Matches shall take place at the following times (times outside of the required tip times must be mutually agreed by both teams), unless special authorisation has been given by Basketball England. For Junior National Cup Quarterfinal and Semifinal and Playoff Quarterfinal games, the earliest a game can tip for juniors is 12pm, due to greater travel distance, unless mutually agreed between the two teams.

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	WEEKDAYS
SENIOR NBL	13:00 – 20:00	13:00 – 17:00	19:30 – 20:00
JUNIOR NBL	11:00 – 18:00	11:00 – 17:00	By mutual agreement

- 23.3 Normally, no Team shall be required to undertake a weekend fixture that does not enable its Players to arrive back at their home base/meeting point by:
 - 23.3.1 Midnight on Sunday, unless otherwise agreed, for senior teams; or
 - 23.3.2 22:00 on a Saturday or 21:00 on a Sunday (unless otherwise agreed by Basketball England) for Junior NBL Teams.
- 23.4 No days and times (other than those set out in Regulations 23.1 to 23.3) will normally be permitted by Basketball England except in the case of televised Matches.

- 23.5 For each Match, a minimum of two hours court time must be booked by the Home Team to allow enough time for teams to warm up and participate in the fixture.
- 23.6 The Home Team must re-confirm all details prescribed in the Game Day Schedule as Appendix 13 with the Away Team at least fourteen days before the Match and the Away Team must acknowledge such confirmation. If confirmation hasn't been received by the Away Team under fourteen days prior to the fixture, the game will still go ahead, and the away team must make contact with the home team to establish if the details of the fixture are as per the Basketball England website (after 31 August). If the game was to be postponed it must be mutually agreed in line with regulation 24.4
- 23.6.1 Where a home team does not confirm the game fourteen days in advance of the fixture and the game details (date/tip-time/venue) are in anyway different from what is listed on the Basketball England website, the home team will be liable to find alternate arrangements, should the away team not be able to attend the amended date/time/venue.
- 23.6.2 The exemption to this rule is where the away team doesn't acknowledge the game confirmation seven days prior to a fixture taking place. After this time the away team forfeits the right to contest any amended game details, and the game details stands as per Basketball England website.
- 23.7 If a Team arrives after, but within fifteen minutes, of the scheduled tip off time:
- the Crew Chief (in consultation with both Game Day Delegates) will decide what time the Match will start; and
 - that Team shall be liable to a fine in accordance with Regulation 49.16.
- 23.8 It is the intention of Basketball England that wherever possible a Match should take place, and Match Officials are requested to keep this in mind when making decisions. The Crew Chief may in consultation with the Game Day Delegate amend the designated tip off time for any Match.
- 23.9 If a late tip off caused by the Away Team results in the Home Team incurring additional court hire costs, the Away Team will be liable to reimburse the Home Team for such additional court hire costs provided that the Home Team submits proof of such additional court hire costs in the form of an official invoice from the Home Team's venue. This must be provided within seven days of the date of the scheduled Match.
- 24. RE-ARRANGEMENT, POSTPONEMENT, ABANDONMENT AND REPLAYING OF MATCHES**
- 24.1 In exceptional circumstances, Basketball England may require a Match to be rearranged.

- 24.2 Where a Club is required by Basketball England to play a Semi Final or Final Match within 36 hours of a scheduled League Match, then that Club may request that the League Match be rearranged (and Basketball England will normally approve such request). Applications for rearrangement must be submitted within 48 hours of the definitive date of the Match becoming known to the Club seeking the rearrangement. A rearrangement will only be approved for Matches taking place before a fixture, not for those scheduled after (i.e. if a Cup Match takes place on a Sunday, a Match taking place on the Saturday can be rescheduled but where the Cup Match occurs on the Saturday, the Sunday Match cannot be rescheduled).
- 24.3 Where a Team is required by Basketball England, the British Basketball Championship Men or the British Basketball Championship Women to play a Final Match (Cup or Playoff Final), 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.
- 24.4 No changes are permitted in respect of any fixture list, save that:
- 24.4.1 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 (via the Game Day Management System or Online Form) for the matter to be considered; and
 - 24.4.2 after 31 August, the request to change any Match from its published date will not be considered by Basketball England for Senior Competitions unless the reason to change the date is due to venue unavailability and in line with regulation 24.8 Documentation from the facility operator must be submitted to Basketball England with proof that the original game was booked in and the booking has subsequently been cancelled.
 - 24.4.3 Senior Tip-off time changes requested 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 charged even if it is a venue request. There are no exemptions to this fee.
 - 24.4.4 For all Jnr. NBL 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. 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.

- 24.4.5 All fixture change requests must go via the Game Day management System (Via Online Club portal) from 1 September, where a team can make a request (on an available date for its respective league) after confirming with its opponents via email of the change in question. Both teams would need to agree to the change taking place. Where an opponent doesn't agree and a request is made via the Game Day management System (Via Online Club portal), Basketball England will then arbitrate and discuss with both teams. At this point the team may be requested to show all communication trails between opponents over the fixture in question.
- 24.5 Where a Match is re-arranged in accordance with Regulation 24.4.2 or 24.4.4 above, the Home Club shall be responsible for notifying the Match Officials of such change. In the event that the Home Club 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 Official(s).
- 24.6 In the event that, within fourteen days of the date of the original Match postponement, two Clubs fail to reach an agreement as to when a Match shall take place, Basketball England should be notified and Basketball England will specify the date of the Match and the Team responsible for the postponement shall be liable to pay the relevant administrative charge set out in Regulation 24.4.4 above.
- 24.6.1 All requests to postpone fixtures made at least seven days in advance between clubs must be in writing, stating why the postponement is being requested. The request can either be agreed or rejected by clubs in writing.
- 24.6.2 Games will be deemed to be 'as scheduled' unless confirmation of the postponement has been received. Clubs not responding to requests will forego the right to claim compensation for costs incurred should a game not go ahead.
- 24.6.3 If a request to postpone a junior game is agreed by either team, then the HOME team is responsible for offering two alternative dates to the opposition within five days of the postponement being agreed. The away team must respond within a further five days and either accept the new date or offer an alternative two dates.
- 24.6.4 Should the Home team not be able to accommodate these two dates, they must contact Basketball England within four days to ask for a date to be set in line with regulation 24.6.
- 24.7 All Crew Chiefs have the power to stop and, where necessary, abandon a game if they feel there is a safety concern or 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.

All abandoned games must be reported by the Crew Chief to Basketball England no later than 23:59 on the day of the game, detailing the reason for abandonment.

Where a match is abandoned the Competitions Review panel or the Competitions 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 24.7 shall apply equally to any rescheduled replay.

- 24.8 Where a Club is responsible for the postponement of a scheduled Match (up to 48 hours prior to the scheduled tip off time) due to the venue owners cancelling the court booking, the Match must be rescheduled within fourteen days of the postponement (in line with regulation 24.4.5) Confirmation from the venue that the original booking was cancelled by the venue owner must be provided (within seven days of the postponement). Failure to provide confirmation from the venue owner will result in consideration of the matter by the Competitions Review Panel, who shall be entitled to award or forfeit the Match in favour of the opposition.
- 24.9 In the event that a Match is postponed due to force majeure severe weather conditions, unforeseen road delays or breakdowns:
- 24.9.1 the travelling expenses (if applicable) of all the Match Officials will be paid by the Home Team. If the Match Officials had arrived at the venue before the game was postponed, the Home Team shall also be responsible for paying half of the match fee.
 - 24.9.2 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 providing an invoice is submitted within seven days of the rearrangement being confirmed.
 - 24.9.3 the responsibility for notifying Match Officials of a postponement rests with the Home Club.
 - 24.9.4 any dispute over the Team responsible for the postponement and/or the amount of any costs will be resolved by Basketball England within seven business days.
 - 24.9.5 Basketball England may ask for confirmation or proof of the travel that was intended, type of vehicle used and details of the delays/breakdown, including any roadside assistance.

- 24.9.6 If a Global 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.
- 24.10 Where a Red Weather Warning is issued by the Met Office, Basketball England may postpone all games in the impacted areas. This includes where a team's departure location would be from a red weather warning area.

25. FAILURE TO FULFILL FIXTURE OBLIGATIONS

- 25.1 A Team shall forfeit a Match if:
- 25.1.1 fifteen minutes after the scheduled tip off time, the Team is not present on the court or is unable to field five Players ready to play save where, by agreement of all parties, a Match tips off late (e.g. because of travel delays); and/or
 - 25.1.2 fifteen minutes after the scheduled tip off time, a Team does not have a coach who is licenced to the team present. All Senior and Junior NBL games must have a licenced coach present for both teams to start the game; and/or
 - 25.1.3 its actions prevent the Match from being played; and/or
 - 25.1.4 it refuses to play after being instructed to do so by the Crew Chief.
- 25.2 When a scheduled Match is forfeited in accordance with Regulation 25.1 above, an automatic penalty will be imposed as detailed below. In addition, the Competitions Review Panel shall be entitled to increase the fine.

COMPETITION	FIRST OFFENCE FINE (£)	SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES FINE (£)	MAXIMUM FINE (£)
Division 1 Men	500 plus 2-point deduction	Removal from league	
Division 1 and 2 Women			
Division 2 and 3 Men	150	300 plus 2-point deduction	500 or removal from league
NBL Conference League			
Senior National Cup and Playoffs	200		
Junior NBL, Sureshot National Cup, Junior Playoffs	100	200	500 or removal from league

- 25.3 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 forfeit or 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, whereby the game is to be re-scheduled at a later date. The maximum amount that can be claimed is up to £100.00 for a Senior Fixture and £75.00 for a Junior Fixture, only facility hire, travel expenses and officials' costs incurred in line with regulation 24.5 and 40.5 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 by the offending team. Any compensation claim must include evidence of costs and must be submitted within seven days of the date of the scheduled Match.
- 25.3.1 The offending Club may also be liable to pay additional compensation whereby the costs incurred exceed regulation 25.3 to the other Club for facility hire and travel expenses only should the game be rescheduled to be played at a later date, no claims can be made if a team wishes to make a claim of 20-0 for a game that was due to be played but then not fulfilled by the opposition . The amount of compensation will be determined by the Competitions Review Panel following the receipt of written submissions and evidence of costs from both Clubs within seven days of the date of the scheduled Match. The maximum compensation claim shall not exceed £250.00.
- 25.4 Any Club which, without just cause, fails to fulfil a League or Cup Match on the appointed date shall be liable to forfeit League points and or to expulsion from the competition. It may also be liable to pay a fine and/or compensation to Basketball England and/or other Clubs which may have been affected in accordance with Regulation 25.2.
- 25.5 Where any League Match is not fulfilled within the Regular Season, the Club responsible for the original postponement will be liable to a fine for non-fulfilment of the said fixture in accordance with Regulation 25.2 In addition, the Match in question may be awarded to the non-offending Team 20 – 0 providing a claim is received for the Match in line with Regulation 25.6 and providing that the process outlined in Regulation 24.6.1 and 24.6.2 has been adhered to.
- 25.6 Any claim for an outstanding/postponed Match must be received by Basketball England not less than 14 days prior to the league deadline, in order that full consideration of the claim can be made before confirming the final League positions and Playoff places.

25.7 If a Team fails to fulfil 90% of its scheduled league fixtures in a Season, its league record may be expunged in its entirety after consideration by the Competitions Review Panel. In addition, Basketball England may (in its sole discretion):

25.7.1 forfeit the relevant Team's licence (in accordance with Regulation 17.13); and/or

25.7.2 impose a financial penalty; and/or

25.7.3 refuse to re-admit that Team into the relevant league for the following season.

25.8 Where a team withdraws from the league it's entire record will be expunged. The exception to this is where a team has completed 75% of their fixtures, in this case, the remaining games will be awarded 20-0 to the opposing teams.

26. CLASHES WITH NATIONAL TEAM EVENTS

26.1 From the conclusion of the competition until 31 August and for the duration of the European Championships, selection for the any National Team takes priority over all Club commitments.

26.2 No Junior NBL games can take place on the reserved Aspire Days. These dates will be set in advance and marked on the competition calendar. No games are to be scheduled on these reserved dates.

26.3 Any National League Team with three 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 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.

27. GAME DAY DELEGATE AND TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

27.1 The Home and Away Club shall nominate a Game Day Delegate for all Matches. The Game Day Delegate shall be responsible for all aspects of the Match except the playing of the Match and must not be involved in the Match in any other official capacity, save for the away Game Day Delegate, where a Team Manager may be appointed if no one else is available. The home team Game Day Delegate is responsible for hosting the Match Officials and both Game Day Delegates are responsible for managing spectator issues. Match Officials may advise on court layout, but responsibility and accountability remain with the Game Day Delegate. See Appendix 12 for a role description.

27.2 Each Team shall nominate a Team Representative from their accompanying delegation members to represent their interests at any time during the Match to the Game Day Delegate.

- 27.3 The Match Officials, the Game Day Delegates and the Team Representatives, and at least five playing members of each Team, are required to be present at the venue at least one hour prior to the scheduled Tip off time. Failure to adhere to this must be accompanied by a phone call to the opposition's Game Day Delegate/Team Secretary to advise on expected time of arrival.
- 27.4 The Game Day Delegate will conduct a pre-match meeting with the Match Officials and Team Representatives, one hour prior to the scheduled Tip off time. The participants at this meeting should assemble at or near the Scorer's table.
- 27.5 If the Match Officials are at two consecutive Matches on the same day, the pre- Match meeting for the second Match should take place immediately after the first Match. Teams and Match Officials must provide the Table Officials with the relevant licences and team lists at this time. Licences are required for all participants, and a full team list is required at this time.
- 27.6 Failure to attend the pre-Match meeting and/or not having the requisite number of Players and/or licences at the venue in accordance with Regulation 27.4 or 27.5 above will result in an automatic fine being imposed in accordance with Regulation 49.16.

28. WARM-UPS AND PRACTICE

- 28.1 20 minutes prior to the actual tip-off time of the Match, the court must be available for warm-up.
- 28.2 Any action during the warm-up period of a Match (pre-Match, half-time, or during any interval of play), which is likely to damage equipment, is strictly prohibited. Any Player who damages any equipment after a warning from any of the Match Officials shall be liable to pay the damages, which will be sent to the club the player is part of.
- 28.3 Before the first and third quarters, a Team shall have the exclusive right to practice in that half of the court into which it will be attacking in the forthcoming quarter.
- 28.4 15 minutes should be allocated to half time for Senior Fixtures and 10 Minutes half time should be allocated to half time for Junior Fixtures, unless agreed by both teams to reduce this time and confirmed with the officials. If both teams disagree the half time duration will be the highest amount of time asked for up to the maximum time allowed. The timescale available can also be confirmed ahead of the game when confirming the fixture in question.

29. USE OF OFFICIAL MATCH BALLS

- 29.1 Each Team shall be responsible for providing its own practice balls, but they must be the relevant Wilson Official game ball.
- 29.2 The Crew Chief shall approve the match ball at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled tip off time.

29.3 The official approved ball of Basketball England shall be played with for all matches in the National Basketball League, National Cup and Playoffs. The following ball type and sizes must be used for all matches in the National Basketball League:

- Senior Men Size 7 (Wilson NXT)
- Senior Women Size 6 (Wilson NXT)
- Under 18 Boys Size 7 (Wilson Evolution)
- Under 18 Girls Size 6 (Wilson Evolution)
- Under 16 Boys Size 7 (Wilson Evolution)
- Under 16 Girls Size 6 (Wilson Evolution)
- Under 14 Girls Size 5 (Wilson Reaction Pro)
- Under 14 Boys Size 6 (Wilson Reaction Pro)
- Under 12 Girls Size 5 (Wilson Reaction Pro)
- Under 12 Mixed Size 5 (Wilson Reaction Pro)

29.4 It is not permitted to use the Official Match Ball of a different competition.



30. SCORESHEETS, MATCH RESULTS AND LIVE STATS

30.1 The scoresheet permitted in all fixtures (league, cup and playoffs) is the Official running scoresheet only (FIBA/Non-FIBA Copies permitted).

30.2 Following the signing of the Scoresheet by the Crew Chief, the Umpires and the table officials, the scorer shall pass all three copies of the Scoresheets to the Game Day Delegate. The Game Day Delegate is responsible for ensuring that the Scorer can obtain the Crew Chiefs' signatures immediately following the end of the Match.

30.3 The Home team shall be responsible for notifying Basketball England of the result of the Match (including any statistical information requested by Basketball England). In all cases this should be done by inputting the required data onto the online Game Day portal no later than 23:59 on the day of the match. When listing scorers, list first initial, surname and points scored i.e. A. BLOGGS 27. Basketball England shall impose a fixed penalty in accordance with Regulation 49.16 for a breach of this regulation.

- 30.4 Legible electronic copies of the Scoresheet, shall be uploaded by the Home Club to the Game Day management system to complete their result input or if required sent to Basketball England via the official scoresheet submission link, supplied by Basketball England no later than 23:59 on the day of the game following the completion of the Match. Basketball England shall be entitled to impose a fixed penalty in accordance with Regulation 49.16 for a breach of this regulation.
- 30.5 One match cannot be used to produce the result for two league fixtures or a league and national cup fixture. For example, where two teams are scheduled to play each other home and away in a league, they cannot agree to only play once, with the result of this match being recognised for both scheduled matches. A breach of this regulation will result in potential disciplinary action for both teams and results becoming void.
- 30.6 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.
- 30.7 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, National Cup and Playoff games, where the home team is from one of these leagues. 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. This must be completed within 72 hours of the game.
- 30.8 To complete LiveStats retrospectively a licenced statistician must be provided with the game video and scoresheet to complete the game using the Match Key. Once the statistician has completed and finalised the game, they should send the Home Team an expense form to the value of £55.00 which must be paid in accordance with Regulation 40.5.
- 30.9 The home team for each Division One Men and Division One Women league teams are responsible for videoing and uploading a copy of the game film to Synergy within 48 hours of the game taking place and submitting a game breakdown for every league game. The sanctions listed in regulation 49.16 will be imposed for teams that do not meet this league requirement.
- 30.10 The home team for each Division One Men and Division One Women league teams are responsible for Live streaming their fixtures and staging the fixture on the BE YouTube Channel, this channel may change from time to time pending other hosting sites that Basketball England wish to utilise. The sanctions listed in regulation 49.16 will be imposed for teams that do not meet this league requirement.

- 30.11 All Live streaming must meet Basketball England's Live Streaming Policy listed in Appendix 11.

31. FULL STRENGTH TEAMS

- 31.1 In all Matches a Team must have a minimum of eight players ready to play at the scheduled tip off time. Any breach of this Regulation 31.1 shall result in the imposition of a fixed penalty in accordance with Regulation 49.16.
- 31.2 Participants are prohibited from leaving part way through a Match in order to attend and/or participate in another Match.
- 31.3 A Club is required to participate in any Competition it is entered into to the best of its ability.
- 31.4 All Clubs competing in National Competitions agree to give priority to these competitions (National Cup, League and Playoffs) above all other. In the event of a clash, the National Competition Match shall take priority unless otherwise agreed with Basketball England. A fixture being cancelled due to a team's participation outside of the NBL will result in the fixture being forfeit and a 20-0 win recorded to the non-offending team.

FACILITIES

32. VENUES

- 32.1 Applications for entry to the National Basketball League shall include a request for the right to play home games at an approved playing venue for the upcoming Season. In the case of two or more Clubs applying for the same venue, the Competitions Review Panel shall consider the applications and determine which Club shall be awarded the rights to that venue or, in special circumstances, order that the venue be shared by two or more Clubs.
- 32.2 Each Club shall register its home venue with Basketball England by submitting this form - <https://basketballengland.wufoo.com/forms/zckup1109kigh5/>.
- 32.2.1 No Club shall play a home Match at any other venue, without the prior approval of Basketball England. If a Club wishes to change its permanent home venue, it must apply to Basketball England for permission.
- 32.3 An existing National Basketball League Club may lodge an objection with Basketball England where it considers that another Club proposes to play home matches in National Competitions, at the same level of competition, at a venue unreasonably close to its established home venue. The Competitions Review Panel shall consider any such objection and determine each case on its merits.

- 32.4 Basketball England does not undertake or guarantee access to any venues used in the National Competitions, and it is recognised that the control of playing venues is exercised solely by the venue owners.
- 32.5 The playing facilities for Clubs in the National Basketball League must be of a quality deemed by Basketball England to be suitable for the level of the competition. This must be in line with the Basketball England Facilities Standards Document (Appendix 6).
- 32.6 Clubs shall ensure that their home venues comply with current government health and safety legislation and are able to provide documentation in support of that fact. In particular, clubs are expected to provide:
- The venues risk assessment
 - The venues up to date health and safety certification
 - The venues proof of public liability insurance
- 32.7 Venues are subject to approval by Basketball England and must have suitable accommodation for spectators in line with the Basketball England Facilities Standards (Appendix 6).
- 32.8 Each Home Club is responsible for providing a level of stewarding suitable for both spectator control and for Match Officials. A minimum of one steward per 100 people should be provided. A breach of this Regulation will result in the imposition of a fixed penalty in accordance with Regulation 49.16.

33. GAME PROMOTION AND TEAM LISTS

- 33.1 A senior Home Team shall provide Game Promotion in line with the Basketball England Standards (Appendix 5).
- 33.2 Senior Teams are required to provide their opponents with a Team list at least seven days prior to the Match.
- 33.3 When using Game Day Announcers, they must ensure they adhere to the guidance in Appendix 14. A breach of this regulation may result in disciplinary action for the Club.

34. EQUIPMENT

- 34.1 The Home Club shall ensure that its home venue provides an electronic scoreboard and game clock which can be read by the Players, Match Officials and spectators throughout the course of the Match. The clock must show the remaining time of the game in minutes and seconds. In the event of a game clock being of such construction that it is not possible for both Teams to have an equally good view of it the Home Team must notify all parties at the pre-Match meeting.

- 34.2 For all Matches in the Senior National Basketball League, including NBL Conference League, and Under 18 and 16 Premier Leagues a Shot Clock device, visible to all participants, must be provided for the administration of the Shot Clock rule. A visible shot clock shall be located at each end of the playing court, ideally above the backboard, or in a position on the floor diagonally opposite each other and must be visible to the table officials. The device must have a digital display and countdown and must reset to 24 seconds and 14 seconds where required.

35. DISPLAY OF TEAM NAMES AND SPONSORSHIP

- 35.1 The Home Club shall be responsible for the display of Team names any relevant material relating to the competition (e.g. sponsors' names) at the venue, as Basketball England may from time to time notify the Home Club. Any breach of this Regulation may result in the imposition of a fixed penalty in accordance with Regulation 49.16.

36. TICKETS

- 36.1 Each Home Club shall make available 19 seats for:
- officers of Basketball England (including Regional Management Committees) and their guests – 5
 - directors of Away Teams and their guests – 4
 - a guest of the Referees, Table Officials and Statisticians - 8
 - Basketball England Officiating Coaches – 2
- 36.2 The seats made available in accordance with Regulation 36.1 above may be reallocated if they have not been taken up 30 minutes prior to the scheduled Tip off time, except where the Home Club has been given prior notification.
- 36.3 The Home Club shall also provide complimentary tickets to all Matches played under the jurisdiction of Basketball England:
- Honorary Officers – 1 and Guest
 - Members of Executive Board - 1 and Guest
 - Regional Representatives – 1
 - Staff of Basketball England - 1 and Guest
 - National Team Coaches and Managers – 1
 - All Match Officials appointed to the fixture - Guest

37. TEAM BENCH

- 37.1 For all Matches, the Home Team shall have the Team Bench and on the left side of the scorer's table when facing the playing court and warm up in the half-court in front of their team bench.
- 37.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 37.1 above, if the two Teams agree, they may interchange the Team Benches and/or baskets.

PLAYING KIT

38. TEAM UNIFORMS

- 38.1 Team uniforms must comply with the official rules of basketball (as updated and defined by FIBA) <http://www.fiba.basketball/documents>.
- 38.2 Team Uniforms may carry advertising subject to any requirement from time to time specified by, and the prior approval of, Basketball England.
- 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.
- 38.5 A breach of regulations 38.1 to 38.4 may result in the imposition of a fixed penalty in accordance with Regulation 49.16.

39. KIT COLOURS

- 39.1 Each Team must register details of its home and away kit colours with Basketball England. The Home Team must always wear its complete registered colours. It is the responsibility of the Away Team to ensure that its uniforms contrast sufficiently with those worn by the Home Team.
- 39.2 Normally the home team should wear a light colour kit, and the away team should wear a dark colour kit.
- 39.3 Should the Crew Chief deem there not to be sufficient contrast, the home team shall be responsible for changing kits.
- 39.4 After 31 August, no Team may change its registered first choice of colours, except with the special agreement of Basketball England.
- 39.5 For Matches played on neutral courts or promoted by Basketball England (including Cup and Playoff finals), Basketball England will decide in its sole discretion which colours are to be worn by each Team.

MATCH OFFICIALS

40. APPOINTMENT AND EXPENSES

- 40.1 All referees, table officials and statisticians operating in National Basketball League, Cup and Playoff Competitions must hold a full licence with Basketball England and must comply with the Basketball England Match Officials Handbook.
- 40.2 All officials must wear the current Basketball England Officiating uniform, for all games in National Competitions.
- 40.3 For all Division One Men and Women, Division Two Men and Women and Division Three Men league fixtures, Senior National Cups and Senior 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's team is hosting a National Cup game or promotional playoff fixture, referees will be appointed by Basketball England for each Match.

- 40.3.1 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 transport hire only to the maximum of £150 for senior teams and £100 for junior teams. Invoices must be presented to Basketball England within seven days of the postponed game to make a claim.
 - 40.3.2 Should a fixture not have a referee appointed via Who's 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.
- 40.4 For all competitions, the home team is responsible for appointing appropriately licensed and qualified table officials and statisticians in line with Regulations 42 and 43.
- 40.5 In all competitions, the Home Club shall be responsible for paying the Officials match fees and expenses as set out in Appendix 4.

HMRC expects all payments to be made by bank transfer or cheque. **All officials are responsible for paying their own taxes and National Insurance and must comply with HMRC regulations.**

- 40.5.1 Officials are required to submit their expense forms for games that have taken place in the prior week no later than Monday morning at 09:00, which includes any third-party payment sites such as YesRef. Any expense form submitted after this time, will be considered as being submitted during the following week.
 - 40.5.2 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.

- 40.5.3 Where payments are not received on the second Wednesday after the expense form has been submitted, the official will need to submit a late payment online form to Basketball England, for the payment to be chased. If payment is still not paid, Basketball England may 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 may be forfeited.
- 40.5.4 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 cash which must be made prior to the match. A fine will also be applied to the club as a breach of payment of £25.00 per nonpayment of each official.
- 40.5.5 After the third occasion of failure to make a payment will result in disciplinary action against the club in line with regulation 49.

41. REFEREES

- 41.1 For Junior NBL and Conference League Men the following shall apply:

- 41.1.1 The number and minimum level of referees, that must be appointed by the Home Club to each League, National Cup and/or Playoff Match is as follows:

LEAGUE	N.O. REFERES (LEVEL 2-5)	N.O. REFEREES (LEVEL 1)
Men's Conference League	2	0
U18 Premier & Conference U16 Premier & Conference U14 Premier	2	0
U16 Regional U14 Conference & Regional U12 Leagues	1	1

- 41.2 In the case where the Home Club appoints the referees, they must meet the following criteria:
- 41.2.1 Must be fully licenced with Basketball England as a referee.
- 41.2.2 In the case that a referee is under 18, their co-official must be at least 18 years old, qualified (Level 2 minimum), and licenced as a referee with Basketball England.
- 41.2.3 No siblings/family taking part in fixture.
- 41.2.4 Is not registered to participate in the same competition.
- 41.2.5 The Crew Chief must be independent from the home club and not hold any position in any capacity within the home club.

- 41.3 In the event of a Home Club appointing a referee that does not meet all of the criteria above (41.2) the game will be forfeited in favour of the opposing team, and the club may be subject to disciplinary procedures. No blame can be placed on a local/regional Officiating Coordinators as the home team have ultimate responsibility.
- 41.4 For those who use a third party regional/local officiating coordinators to appoint home team officials, they must ensure they meet the criteria outlined above, with ultimate responsibility still with the home team for officials to meet this regulation.
- 41.5 For all Junior NBL and Conference League Men's games the Crew Chief (and on occasions, the Umpire) may be appointed by Basketball England for each Match.
- 41.6 For Junior NBL Quarter Final Playoff matches onwards and Junior National Cup Semi Final matches onwards a neutral Crew Chief and umpire will be appointed by Basketball England
- 41.7 Basketball England reserves the right to appoint additional referees to fixtures to form three-person officiating crews where desired.
- 41.8 Basketball England reserves the right restrict any referee from officiating in any fixture if they are not deemed competent and don't meet the required standard.
- 41.9 For appointments to all National Competition Finals, Basketball England will determine the appropriate match fee and mileage rate and or the level of expenses that will apply.
- 41.10 Senior NBL Referee appointments will be published on 'Who's The Ref' website.
- 41.10.1 Should a Club alter any of their game information after 12.00pm on a Friday for the coming weekend, the Home Club shall be responsible for informing the Match Officials of the change. If 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.
- 41.11 Clubs may submit reports on the handling of the Match by Referees. Any such reports should be submitted to Basketball England within 48 hours following the Match via the online form – <https://basketballengland.wufoo.com/forms/zu7ljn90b5hode/>.

42. TABLE OFFICIALS

- 42.1 Table Officials shall be appointed by the Home Club, who should be neutral officials and not associated with the Home Club where possible.
- 42.2 It is the responsibility of the Home Club to pay the Table Officials match fees and expenses in accordance with the current rates of Basketball England set out in Appendix 4.

- 42.3 All Table Officials must wear the approved Basketball England uniform.
- 42.4 The number and minimum level of Table Officials, that must be appointed to each League and/or Playoff Match is as follows, this includes Shot Clock 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 One Women Division Two Men	2	1	0
Division Three Men Conference League Men Division Two Women	1	2	0
Under 18 Premier Under 16 Premier	1	1	1
Under 18 Conference Under 16 Conference Under 16 Regional Under 14 Premier Under 14 Conference Under 14 Regional	0	1	1
Under 12 Leagues	0	0	2

- 42.5 In any cup competition, the appointment of Table Officials must be commensurate with the Division in which the Home Team competes.
- 42.6 Failure to meet these regulations will result in an automatic fine being imposed in accordance with Regulation 49.16.
- 42.7 The Away Team may exercise its right to nominate a Team Representative to be seated at the Scorer's table with the agreement of the Crew Chief.

43. STATISTICIANS

- 43.1 Statisticians shall be appointed by the Home Club. It is the responsibility of the Home Club to pay the Statisticians expenses in accordance with the current rates of Basketball England set out in Appendix 3.
- 43.2 All Statisticians must wear the approved Basketball England uniform.
- 43.3 For Division One Men, Division One Women and Division Two Men games, or games where teams from these divisions play at home in Cup competitions, two statisticians who hold as a minimum the Introduction to Statistics qualification must be appointed to the game.
- 43.4 Failure to meet these regulations will result in an automatic fine being imposed in accordance with Regulation 49.16.

44. FAILURE TO ARRIVE / DELAY

- 44.1 All Match Officials must ensure that they are present at the venue one hour prior to the scheduled tip off time for senior NBL fixtures, and thirty minutes for junior NBL fixtures. Referees should then ensure that they are present on the playing court twenty minutes prior to the scheduled tip off time.

Referees

- 44.2 All fixtures require two suitably qualified referees in line with Regulation 41 for the game to take place. If it is not possible to appoint two referees by 24 hours prior to the game taking place, then the game will be postponed. Should the teams not agree to a postponement, the matter will be referred to the Competitions Review Panel to determine an outcome.
- 44.3 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:
- 44.3.1 A member of either team who holds a suitable referee qualification and licenced with Basketball England, can take over with agreement from both teams.
- 44.3.2 If no suitable replacement referee is available, then the game can go ahead with one referee, only if both teams agree to this, and the referee also agrees and is minimum Level 2 qualified and at least 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. Once the game has begun, neither team may go back on their decision to play/continue the game with only one referee, nor may they protest the score as a direct result of this.
- 44.3.3 In the event of a dispute the home team will be asked to provide evidence to Basketball England of the referee appointments within seven days of the original fixture date, that should have taken place. Should such evidence not be available, this may result in the game being declared Forfeit by the home team.
- 44.4 Should all referees fail to arrive, the Game Day Delegate will follow Regulations 44.3.1 to 44.3.3 (inclusive) as far as possible, in order for the Match to take place.
- 44.5 Once a referee is substituted, this shall not normally be changed, even if the designated referee(s) arrives. The same referees shall continue throughout the Match. The Crew Chief shall have discretion to disapply this Regulation in exceptional circumstances.

Table Officials

- 44.6 Table officials must be present at the scorer's table 30 minutes prior to the start of the Match. If a table official is not present at the scorer's table 30 minutes prior to the scheduled Tip off time without prior communication as to the reason for the delay (e.g. travel delay/unforeseen circumstances), the Game Day Delegate should take the necessary steps to appoint suitable replacements. The following procedure should be adopted:
- 44.6.1 If another suitably qualified table official is at the venue or in the immediate vicinity, they shall be informed that their services may be required.
 - 44.6.2 If there is no suitably qualified table official available, the Game Day Delegate, in consultation with the Crew Chief shall decide who shall be the replacement table official.
 - 44.6.3 If the table official fails to arrive by the time the Crew Chief signals three minutes, then the substitute official will be the timer; or
 - 44.6.4 Once the table official is substituted this shall not normally be changed, even if the designated table official(s) arrives.
- 44.7 In the event of injury to or illness of a Match Official during the course of a Match, the Crew Chief may appoint a substitute at their discretion in accordance with the procedure set out in Regulation 44 above.
- 44.8 Should a match official not be able to complete a fixture due to illness or injury, their payment should be paid on a pro rata basis, rounded to the nearest interval of play. As such they will be entitled to either 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% of their match fee and should a replacement official be sought, they will be entitled to the remainder of the match fee.

45. MEDIA

- 45.1 Match Officials are not permitted to make comment to representatives of the media; on any public websites and/or on social media, including any electronic format over any incidents that may have occurred during Matches in which they officiate. Match Officials who breach this Regulation will be investigated under the Disciplinary Code.

MEDICAL MATTERS

46. FIRST AID AND EQUIPMENT

- 46.1 The Home Club shall be responsible for providing suitable first aid equipment at the venue and all teams shall have a first aider present. Refer to the standards table in Appendix 5 for the league requirements on this regulation.

47. BLOOD AND HEAD INJURIES

- 47.1 During a Match, the referees must order any Player who is bleeding, or has an open wound, to leave the playing area. The Player may return to the court only after the bleeding has stopped and the area affected, or the open wound, has been completely and securely covered. Coaches should follow Basketball England Guidance document; [Preventing Infectious Diseases – Blood and Other Body Fluids](#).
- 47.2 Should any player show signs of a head injury during the game, the referees should stop the game immediately irrespective of which team has possession or the location of the ball. Where a player is showing signs and symptoms of concussion they should be removed from the game by their coach. Coaches should follow the guidance set out in the [Concussion Guidelines](#).

48. ANTI-DOPING

- 48.1 Any person for whom a positive result has been determined in respect of the use of a prohibited substance (or refusing to take a test for such substances) shall automatically be referred to UK Anti-Doping who will determine the appropriate penalty under the WADA code.
- 48.2 If a Player has been found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation during a Competition, the result of the Match shall remain valid. However, in such a case, the Player in question shall forfeit any medals and prizes.
- 48.3 In accordance with UK Anti-Doping Policy, where more than one member of a team has been notified of a possible Anti-Doping Rule Violation in connection with an Event, the team may be subjected to Target Testing during the Event Period.

Furthermore, if more than two members of a team are found to have committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation during an Event Period, this shall be treated as misconduct pursuant to the disciplinary rules for which an appropriate sanction shall be imposed on the team (e.g., loss of points, Disqualification from a Competition or Event, or other sanction) over and above any Consequences that are imposed on the individual participants committing an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

In addition, the ruling body of the Event may provide in the Event rules for further (Event-specific) sanctions to be imposed on the team in such circumstances

- 48.4 Players will receive a provisional suspension in accordance with the UK Anti-Doping Rules. UKAD in conjunction with Basketball England will issue a 'Notice of Charge' to both the Player and the Club.

DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTES

49. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 49.1 Matters considered a Serious Offence by Basketball England and those involving match officials will be considered under the Basketball England Disciplinary Code.
- 49.2 Disciplinary matters related to misconduct by Players, Coaches or Bench Personnel, occurring during or immediately prior to, or following a Match will be considered by the Disciplinary Officer and/or Basketball England as appropriate.
- 49.2.1 In special cases, as determined by the Disciplinary Officer in their sole discretion, a special Commission, comprising three persons, shall be formed to consider a particular disciplinary matter.
- 49.3 Participants, Match Officials, Club Directors and other Club Officials or members may be fined and/or suspended for any disciplinary matter as decided by the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England. A fine up to £10,000 may be imposed for any single offence. Instead of, or in addition to, fines and/or suspensions, the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England may take such action in respect of the outcome of a game, including ordering a replay; deducting points; declaring the Match void. The penalties for common offences are set out in Regulation 49.16. The suggested penalties are guidelines only and the imposition of such penalty is at the discretion of the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England dependent on the circumstances on each offence.
- 49.4 The Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England may take disciplinary action in respect of any matter that it considers to be liable to bring disrepute to the sport of Basketball and/or Basketball England. Any offence committed at a Venue before, during or after a Match by any Participants, Match Officials, Club Directors and other Club Officials or members will be referred to the Disciplinary Officer under Regulation 49.1. The Disciplinary Officer may also co-opt as an 'assistant' any special technical advisor where appropriate in order to assist in reaching a decision. The Disciplinary Officer shall at all times determine what evidence is admissible and what is not.
- 49.5 Any Club or individual may appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Officer, Officer of Basketball England or Competitions Review Panel in accordance with the Basketball England Appeals Policy by submitting an appeal with Basketball England as follows:
- 49.5.1 The grounds for the appeal must be submitted by the appellant in writing to Basketball England within two (2) days in respect of Disciplinary Officer decisions and within seven (7) days for other decisions (unless otherwise specified) of (i) the appellant being notified of the relevant decision or (ii) the date of any incident incurring automatic disciplinary points.
- 49.5.2 The appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of £250.

- 49.5.3 An independent appeals panel will review the appeal submission and will elect in its sole discretion to determine the validity of the appeal either (i) based solely on the written submission, or (ii) on the basis of the written submission and by hearing oral evidence given by the appellant together with any other party or parties who, in the appeal panel's opinion may be affected by the decision. For the avoidance of doubt, a personal hearing shall be convened solely at the discretion of the appeal panel chair and is not an automatic right of the appellant.
- 49.5.4 Any decision of the appeals panel shall be final and binding on the parties.
- 49.5.5 The appeals panel shall determine whether the deposit is returned to the appellant in full, in part, or not at all.
- 49.5.6 The Appeals Panel may award costs and expenses against the appellant as it deems appropriate.
- 49.6 In the event of a Participant committing a disqualifying foul during a Match, the case will automatically be considered by the Disciplinary Officer under the following process:
 - 49.6.1 Each referee is required to submit a written report on the matter, to Basketball England within 48 hours of the match finishing or by no later than 12noon on a Tuesday where the Match has taken place on a Sunday.
 - 49.6.2 Where a Participant has been disqualified and video of the incident is available this must be submitted to Basketball England within 72 hours.
 - 49.6.3 The Participant and/or the Club may also submit written reports if they so choose. Each of these reports shall be prepared by its author making clear as to evidence seen directly by the author.
 - 49.6.4 If a Participant is guilty of misconduct not involving disqualification, which any of the Match Officials consider to be of sufficient gravity to warrant consideration by Basketball England, a report should be submitted by them and the Club concerned notified accordingly, if appropriate.
- 49.7 A system of cumulative penalty points will apply, and a one game suspension comes into force whenever a Participant's total penalty points reach (or exceeds) each of the following totals: 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 etc. The suspension will take effect from / or after 14 days after the disciplinary incident, as determined by the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England.
 - 49.7.1 Disqualifying fouls automatically invoke the following minimum penalty points:

Player or Bench Personnel	7
Coach	10

49.7.2 In addition, the following automatic fines will apply:

2nd Disqualifying Foul in Season	£75
3rd & Any Subsequent Disqualifying Foul in Season	£150

- 49.8 The Disciplinary Officer will consider whether any additional penalty points should be added after consideration of the reports referred to in Regulation 49.6. This will normally be the case for disqualifications of a grievous nature. In the event of a report being submitted related to misconduct not involving disqualification, this will be dealt with in accordance with Regulations 49.12 and 49.13, and, if the report is accepted, an appropriate number of penalty points allocated to the Participant concerned. Where visual evidence and/or other evidence is presented, and this evidence indicates that other persons may be liable for disciplinary action, this will only be actioned after the relevant party has been notified. Disciplinary points incurred within six weeks prior to the end of a season will be carried forward until 30 November of the following season.
- 49.9 Disciplinary action in respect of automatic penalty points incurred by disqualification will come into force on the 14th day after the incident or as otherwise decided by the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England during which time the Participant will be able to appeal under Regulation 49.5. This does not preclude the Disciplinary Officer from imposing further penalty points or a fine for the incident. Whenever a fine is imposed on a Participant under Regulation 49.7, they are suspended from all basketball activity until the fine has been paid in full to Basketball England.
- 49.10 At the end of each season, all cumulative totals will revert to zero, except as set out in Regulation 49.8.
- 49.11 Match Officials shall not make any recommendation or comment, either in their report or otherwise, as to the disciplinary action that they consider to be appropriate.
- 49.12 Disciplinary action as a result of a decision of the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England will normally come into effect on the 14th day after the incident or as otherwise decided by the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England. In all cases should an appeal be lodged against a decision of the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England or automatic points; any disciplinary action will be suspended until such time as the appeal is heard.
- 49.13 Any club, player or official offering or receiving any reward or other inducement to or from another club or person to win or lose a match, or being found guilty of placing a wager on any basketball match in which they are involved, shall be deemed guilty of misconduct, and shall be dealt with in accordance with Regulation 49.4.

49.14 Any club which deliberately fields a weakened team without what Basketball England considers to be good reason, or is deemed to have deliberately lost a match, shall be deemed to be guilty of misconduct and may be dealt with in accordance with item 49.4. Basketball England may require teams to provide medical certificates in cases of doubt regarding illness or injury.

49.15 Participants and or club officials shall not directly or indirectly approach Match Officials before, during or after the Match to give information or make comment which may be regarded as being intended to influence a Match Official's judgment or neutrality in any way. Such action will be regarded as serious misconduct and the offender and the club they represent will be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.

49.16 The following fines will automatically be imposed:

OFFENCE	PENALTY
Failure to provide qualified and licensed Referees/Table Officials / Statisticians: (Regulation 40-44)	£50 per official and possible disciplinary action for the club
Forfeiture of fixture: (Regulation 25)	See Regulation 25 for full details.
Failure to attend the pre-match meeting and/or late arrival of team for pre-Match meeting (Regulation 27.6)	£50
Team arriving on the playing court up to 15 minutes after the scheduled tip off time (Regulations 23.7)	£50
Failure to upload the Scoresheet by 23:59 on day of the game (Regulations 30.3 and 30.4)	£40 – 1 st offence £60 – 2 nd offence and after
Failure to update the result service by 23:59 on the day of the game (Regulation 30.3)	£15 – 1 st offence £30 – subsequent
Failure to live webcast the FIBA LiveStats game as required (Regulation 30.7)	£50 – 1 st offence £100 – 2 nd offence and after
Failure to complete FIBA Live Stats retrospectively (stats required 72 hours after the completion of the fixture) as required (Regulation 30.8)	£150 – 1 st Offence £250 – 2 nd Offence £500 – 3 rd Offence and after.
Failure to video and submit/upload the game tape to Synergy for game breakdown (Regulation 30.9)	£150 – 1 st Offence £250 – 2 nd Offence £500 – 3 rd Offence and after

Failure to Live stream league fixture (Regulation 30.4)	£200 – 1 st Offence £400 – 2 nd Offence £500 – 3 rd Offence and after
Failure to field eight players (Regulations 31.1)	£50
Failure to provide appropriate scoreboard / Shot Clock device (Regulations 34.1 & 34.2)	£100
Failure to provide adequate stewarding (Regulations 32.8)	£50
Fielding an Ineligible Participant (Regulation 17.10.10)	Minimum £250 plus forfeit fee
Failure to ensure branding & visible numbering shirts/court (Regulation 35.1)	£25 per offence
Participant found to be breaching uniform regulations respective to their division (Regulation 38)	£25 per offence
Failure to submit nominations for the 'End of season' awards when requested (Regulation 15.6)	£150 per team
Failure to vote for the 'End of season' awards when requested (Regulation 15.6)	£150 per team

Clubs will also be fined at the discretion of Basketball England for their failure to meet any of the National Basketball League Recommended Standards. The level of fines will be determined by Basketball England in its sole discretion.

- 49.17 A Participant under suspension for a Match may not participate in the Match, or act as a Participant from 20 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the Match, until after the end of the Match. They may be present in the Venue as a spectator unless otherwise stated by the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England. A person under suspension from a Match is also barred from participating in any other Match(es) in the Competition(s) for which they may be eligible, that take place on the same day as the Match specified for their suspension, unless otherwise decided by the Disciplinary Officer/ Basketball England.

- 49.18 Failure to observe a suspension or breaching any condition applied as part of a suspension is classed as a breach of suspension. Any breach of suspension will result in the case being referred to the Disciplinary Officer and further disciplinary action will be taken.
- 49.19 Suspension will apply to Matches in the National Competitions. They will not apply to other events, including FIBA competitions, unless otherwise determined by the Disciplinary Officer / Basketball England.
- 49.20 The Disciplinary Officer shall have the power to amend the awarding of automatic points if they are of the opinion that a miscarriage of justice has taken place.
- 49.21 Clubs are responsible for their spectators, and they should ensure that the principles of the Disciplinary guidelines are followed at all times.

50. DISPUTES

- 50.1 Any dispute or complaint relating to a Match must be received by Basketball England within 72 hours of the completion of the Match in question and submitted by the team secretary. Such submission must be accompanied by a deposit of £100. The deposit may be returned if the complaint is considered by Basketball England to be valid. Any Club that submits a complaint under this Regulation 50.1 must also send a copy of the complaint to the opposing Team.
- 50.2 Under no circumstances can any dispute or complaint be submitted which seeks to question the validity of the result of the Match on the grounds of the quality of Match Officials appointed by Basketball England or its nominees.
- 50.3 Disputes or protests in respect of Matches during an event organised by Basketball England must be recorded in accordance with 50.1 and submitted in writing within one hour of the completion of the match, accompanied by a deposit of £100, to a member of the Technical Commission or where no such person is present, to the senior representative of Basketball England in attendance.
- 50.4 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 stated at the start of the game prior to tip off, and reported to Basketball England by the Match Officials and the team making the report. Should a match then take place or continue under the existing conditions the game started with, it then cannot be disputed. The Scoresheet and all reports forwarded to Basketball England who will determine the validity of the events.

- 50.5 If prior to or during a Match, the coach, captain or representative of a competing Team has a complaint related to these Regulations, they should notify the Crew Chief who shall record the matter. The Crew Chief should be notified immediately if the ball is dead and the clock is stopped, or at the first opportunity thereafter. The captain of the Team shall make their observations to the Crew Chief in a calm and courteous manner. The Crew Chief may explain their decision or, if necessary, may examine the Scoresheet and check the score and the playing time remaining.
- 50.6 If, at the end of a Match, a Team considers that it has suffered unreasonable harm by virtue of any occurrence connected with the Match, with the exception of decisions by the match officials, the captain of the Team may sign the Scoresheet under protest. The captain of the team wishing to sign the scoresheet under protest must notify the Crew Chief immediately after the final buzzer they wish to protest and the reasons for this. Once the final buzzer sounds the scorer is required to record the game finish time at the bottom of the scoresheet. Following the notification of a protest from the captain, the Crew Chief should ensure that the Scoresheet remains open for a 15-minute period following the conclusion of the game in which the team can decide if they wish to proceed with their protest. If there is no request to protest the game, the scoresheet can be signed by all officials to mark the closing of the game. All Match Officials should remain at the disposal of the Crew Chief until the Scoresheet has been signed by all parties.
- 50.6.1 The captain shall sign the scoresheet in the 'Captain's signature in case of protest' box. This must then be followed up by with a written submission detailing the reason for protest and sent to Basketball England by the Team Secretary within 72 hours of the completion of the Match in question. Such submission must be accompanied by a deposit of £100.
- 50.6.2 Regardless of subsequent actions, by signing the Scoresheet "under protest", a club becomes automatically liable to pay the deposit of £100.
- 50.7 All disputes and protests relating to Matches will be considered by the Competitions Review Panel or the Competitions Manager.
- 50.8 For disputes relating to Standard Contracts or transfers, the parties involved may apply to Basketball England to convene an arbitration to resolve the dispute. Any such arbitration shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 and amounts to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of that Act. The seat of the arbitration shall be England. All costs relating to the arbitration shall be determined by the arbitrator(s) in their absolute discretion.
- 50.9 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

51. GOVERNING LAW

- 51.1 These Regulations and any disputes or differences arising in relation to them shall be governed in all respects by English law.

52. JURISDICTION

- 52.1 Any dispute arising out of or in connection with these Regulations (including any dispute or question about the existence or validity of these Regulations) shall be resolved in accordance with these Regulations and/ or the Articles of Association of Basketball England and decisions made pursuant to these Regulations shall be final and binding on all Clubs, players and other parties.

53. SEVERABILITY

- 53.1 If any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be found to be void or unenforceable, such provisions shall be deemed to be deleted from these Regulations and the remaining provisions of these Regulations shall continue in full force and effect.

54. VARIATIONS

- 54.1 These Regulations may be varied from time to time (whether by way of alteration, addition, deletion or otherwise) by the Executive Board.

Basketball England shall give not less than thirty clear days' notice to each Club of any changes to these Regulations before they are effective unless exceptional circumstances apply and in which case as much notice as is reasonably practicable shall be given.

APPENDIX 1: TEAM ENTRY AND LICENCE FEES

TEAM ENTRY FEES

DESCRIPTION	COST
NBL Division One Men (inc. National Cup)	£1050
NBL Division Two Men (inc. National Cup)	£800
NBL Division Three Men (inc. National Cup)	£650
NBL Conference League Men (inc. National Cup)	£500
WNBL Division One Women (inc. National Cup)	£500
WNBL Division Two Women (inc. National Cup)	£450
Jnr. NBL – Premier Entry	£200
Jnr. NBL – Conference Entry	£180
Jnr. NBL – Regional Entry	£140
Jnr. NBL – Under 12 Entry	£110
Jnr. National Cup Entry	£65

CLUB AFFILIATION FEE

DESCRIPTION	COST
All Clubs	£100

MEMBER REGISTRATION FEES

NBL COMPETITION LICENCE				
LICENCE TYPE	NATIONALITY	AGE	CATEGORY	FEE
Adult Player	National	18+	NBL – All Divisions	£75.00
	Non-national	21+	NBL – All Divisions – Type 1	£525.00
	Non-national	21+	NBL – All Divisions - Type 2	£160.00
	Non-national	18-21	NBL – All Divisions	£75.00
Players 18 and under	All	Under 18	Under 18 Under 16 Under 14 Under 12	£40.00
Coach	All	18+	Senior NBL games	£40.00
		18+	Junior NBL games	£40.00
Bench Personnel	All	18+	All	£40.00
		18+	Junior NBL games	£32.00
Referee	All	18+	Senior NBL games	£32.00
		18+	Junior NBL games	£32.00
		Under 18	Junior NBL games	£20.00
Table Official	All	18+	Senior NBL games	£32.00
		Under 18	Senior NBL games	£20.00
		18+	Junior NBL games	£32.00
		Under 18	Junior NBL games	£20.00
Statistician	All	18+	Senior NBL games	£32.00
		Under 18	Senior NBL games	£20.00
		18+	Junior NBL games	£32.00
		Under 18	Junior NBL games	£20.00

Note: A FIBA fee will be added to any competition licences (if applicable).

All NBL and Jnr. NBL players require a performance membership and validation of their licence to be active and insured.

Coaches and officials operating at senior NBL level require a performance membership and validation of their licence to be active and insured. Those coaching or officiating only Jnr. NBL need only become a participant member and validation of their licence to be active and insured. Those coaching and officiating with a valid performance membership and licence for senior NBL can also operate in Jnr NBL.

APPENDIX 2: AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY	BORN BETWEEN
Senior Players	31/08/2002 or earlier
Under 23	01/09/2002 – 31/08/2005
Under 21	01/09/2004 – 31/08/2007
Under 18	01/09/2007 – 31/08/2009
Under 16	01/09/2009 – 31/08/2011
Under 14	01/09/2011 – 31/08/2015
Under 12	01/09/2013 - 31/08/2016

CATEGORY	ELIGIBILITY
Senior	Eligible only to play in Senior competitions, a player must have attained their 15 th birthday.
Under 21	Eligible to play in Senior competitions.
Under 18	Eligible to play in Under 18 competitions and above. Minimum age permitted is for the player to be attaining their 15 th birthday from the 1 September 2025 this permits all players in School Year 10.
Under 16	Eligible to play in Under 16 competitions and above. minimum age permitted is for the player to be attaining their 13 th birthday from the 1 September 2025 this permits all players in School Year 8.
Under 14	Eligible to play in Under 14 competitions and above. minimum age permitted is for the player to be attaining their 11 th birthday from the 1 September 2025 this permits all players in School Year 6.
Under 12	Eligible to play in Under 12 competitions and above. minimum age permitted is for the player to be attaining their 10 th birthday from the 1 September 2025 this permits all players in School Year 5.

APPENDIX 3: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – NATIONALITY

NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE - MEN						
LICENCE TYPE	NATIONALITY	CATEGORY	NBL1		NBL2, NBL3 & CONFERENCE LEAGUE	
			PLAY	REGISTER	PLAY	REGISTER
Senior Player	National	Senior Player (18+)	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
	Non-National	Type 1 - Visa or work permit required	2	4	1	3
		Type 2 - Settled Status/Pre-settled Status/ILR	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE - WOMEN						
LICENCE TYPE	NATIONALITY	CATEGORY	WNBL1		WNBL2	
			PLAY	REGISTER	PLAY	REGISTER
Senior Player	National	Senior Player (18+)	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
	Non-National	Type 1 - Visa or work permit required	1	3	1	3
		Type 2 - Settled Status/Pre-settled Status/ILR	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

MIGRANTS IN AMATEUR LEAGUES

The definitions of a migrant playing in amateur leagues (WNBL 1 & 2, NBL 2,3 & Conference League) under the visa that enables them to be in the UK has been updated as follows:

Government innovation rules and guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-introduction>

Important definitions and considerations are as follows:

“Amateur” means a person who engages in a sport or creative activity solely for personal enjoyment and who is not seeking to derive a living from the activity.

“Professional Sportsperson” means a person who is one or more of the following:

- a) currently providing services as a sportsperson, or is playing or coaching in any capacity, at a professional or semi-professional level of sport (whether paid or unpaid); or
- b) currently receiving payment, including payment in kind, for playing or coaching, and that payment covers all, or the majority of, their costs for travelling to, and living in, the UK, or has received such payment within the previous four years; or
- c) currently registered to a professional or semi-professional sports team or has been so registered within the previous four years (this includes all academy and development team age groups); or
- d) has represented their nation or national team within the previous two years, including all youth and development age groups from under-17s upwards; or
- e) has represented their state or regional team within the previous two years, including all youth and development age groups from under-17s upwards; or
- f) has an established international reputation in their chosen field of sport; or
- g) engages an agent or representative, with the aim of finding opportunities as a sportsperson, and/or developing a current or future career as a sportsperson, or has engaged such an agent in the last 12 months; or
- h) is providing services as a sportsperson or coach, unless they are doing so as an "Amateur" in a charity event; or
- i) is providing services as a sportsperson or coach, unless they are doing so as a student who is studying a course.

Should a player meet any of the criteria above as a **"Professional Sportsperson"**, they will be unable to register for any league considered as amateur.

APPENDIX 4: MATCH OFFICIAL'S FEES AND EXPENSES

COMPETITION	REFEREES	TABLE OFFICIALS & STATISTICIANS
NBL Division One Men	£51.00	£32.00
NBL Division Two Men	£50.00	£27.00
WNBL Division One Women & NBL Division Three Men	£42.00	£22.00
WNBL Division Two Women	£30.00	£16.00
NBL Conference Men's League	£28.00	£16.00
Jnr. NBL Under 18 & Jnr. NBL Under 16	£25.00	£14.00
Jnr. NBL Under 14 & Jnr. NBL Under 12	£24.00	£13.00

For National Cup competitions or Division 3 Men/NBL Conference promotional playoffs fees will be charged at the rate of the highest team taking part in the game.

The rate does not change based on whether the game is officiated with two or three referees.

For Junior NBL regular season games, the total match fee and expenses that may be claimed each game by each official shall not exceed a combined total of £37.00.

For all Junior National Cup or Playoff matches where Basketball England appoint the referees, the £37.00 max claim will not apply to ensure suitable officials can be appointed.

- Expenses paid to officials will either be in the form of:
 - Travel by Public Transport: the actual fare paid up to a maximum of second-class ordinary return; and
 - Travel by Road: 45.0p per mile. This figure does not apply where the official is using a company car, in which case the rate shall be 18.0p per mile for all mileage.

All receipts for public transport should be supplied along with the expenses claim form.

- For officials who are officiating more than one game in a day, travel expenses should be split as follows; calculate the whole journey i.e., home to first venue to second venue to home and divide these expenses equally between the two clubs. The exception to this is when a club would be charged more because of splitting the expenses equally than what they would be charged if the claim were home to venue to home. In this scenario the closer team would be charged for home to venue to home and charge the other team the balance of your travel. The same logic should be followed if travelling to more than two venues in the same day or as a result of overnight travel.
- For all officials, a subsistence allowance of £10.00 may be claimed when an official is necessarily away from home in excess of 10 hours. (This does not apply to Basketball England National Competition Finals events).

APPENDIX 5: NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE STANDARDS

		D1*/2 Men	D3 Men/ Conference League Men	D1 Women	D2 Women	U18 & U16 Premier League	U18 & U16 Conference/ Regional League	U14 Premier League	U14 Conference/ Regional League	U12 Mixed/ Girls
STATISTICS	Mandatory use of FIBA LiveStats software for the provision of statistics	✓		✓						
	Provision of statistics desirable but not mandatory		✓		✓					
SYNERGY	Mandatory use of video recording a game and uploading to Synergy for game footage breakdown	✓ D1 Only		✓						
VIDEO RECORDING OF GAME	Game to be recorded by the HOME team, stored and shared with opposing team and officials when requested access. Club is responsible for storage of video for the season.	✓ D2 Only	✓		✓					
LIVE STREAMING	Mandatory use of filming a minimum of five games via BE YouTube Channel and having internet connect to Live Stream the fixture.	✓		✓						
GAMEDAY REPORTING	Home, away and referees to complete a game day report of feedback after a game has taken place to ensure teams are meeting league standards.	✓ D1 Only		✓						

		D1*/2 Men	D3 Men/ Conference League Men	D1 Women	D2 Women	U18 & U16 Premier League	U18 & U16 Conference/ Regional League	U14 Premier League	U14 Conference/ Regional League	U12 Mixed/ Girls
FIRST AID	A therapist (physiotherapist, sports therapist, Rehabilitation Therapist (BASRaT)) with appropriate qualifications to cover home games and post game for each team and/or First Aid person to be provided by home team (to cover both teams). within their team and present during the match	✓		✓						
	First Aid at Work Certificate / Emergency Aid Certificate holder is present at each game/venue.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Defibrillator to present at the venue preferably court side, no more than 1 minutes from the playing court.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PROMOTION - A CLUB SHOULD PROMOTE ITS MATCHES AND THE CLUB TO A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH ITS STATUS. A WEBSITE IS DESIRABLE.	PA/Music, court announcer and team introductions.	✓		✓						
	Clubs are required to supply media reports and complete the relevant media documents following the game.	✓		✓						
	Clubs are required to supply forms of digital media as requested to assist in the promotion of the game and reporting. Photos / videos	✓	✓	✓		✓				
	Clubs are required to have minimum of two social media outlets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

		D1*/2 Men	D3 Men/ Conference League Men	D1 Women	D2 Women	U18 & U16 Premier League	U18 & U16 Conference/ Regional League	U14 Premier League	U14 Conference/ Regional League	U12 Mixed/ Girls
GAME DAY PERSONNEL	That the club has the appropriate level of stewarding at all matches. Minimum one steward per 100 people.	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	Ensure that there are an adequate number of club personnel for match day tasks and stewarding.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	The club has a nominated Gameday Delegate present during each teams fixture, this must be the persons only role and named person.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
COACH QUALIFICATION AND THOSE ADMINISTRATING THE CLUB.	Level 3 Coach, assistant coach, and a Secretary with experience of club administration.	✓ D1 Only		✓						
	Level 2 Coach and a Secretary with experience of club administration.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ALL CLUBS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE SUFFICIENT COACHING AND PLAYING PERSONNEL TO ENABLE ALL LEAGUE FIXTURES TO BE COMPLETED ON THE RELEVANT DAYS.	Player coaches permitted but must have an assistant coach named on the score sheet		✓		✓					
	Team Manager required	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Identified person responsible for social media, marketing, promotion and PR	✓		✓						

*All Division One Men's teams agree to meet the standards that listed within this table as well as those listed in Appendix 16.

APPENDIX 6: FACILITIES STANDARDS

PLAYING COURT

The playing court shall be marked with 50 mm lines, as per the Official Basketball Rules. Lines should be of a contrasting colour to the floor colour.

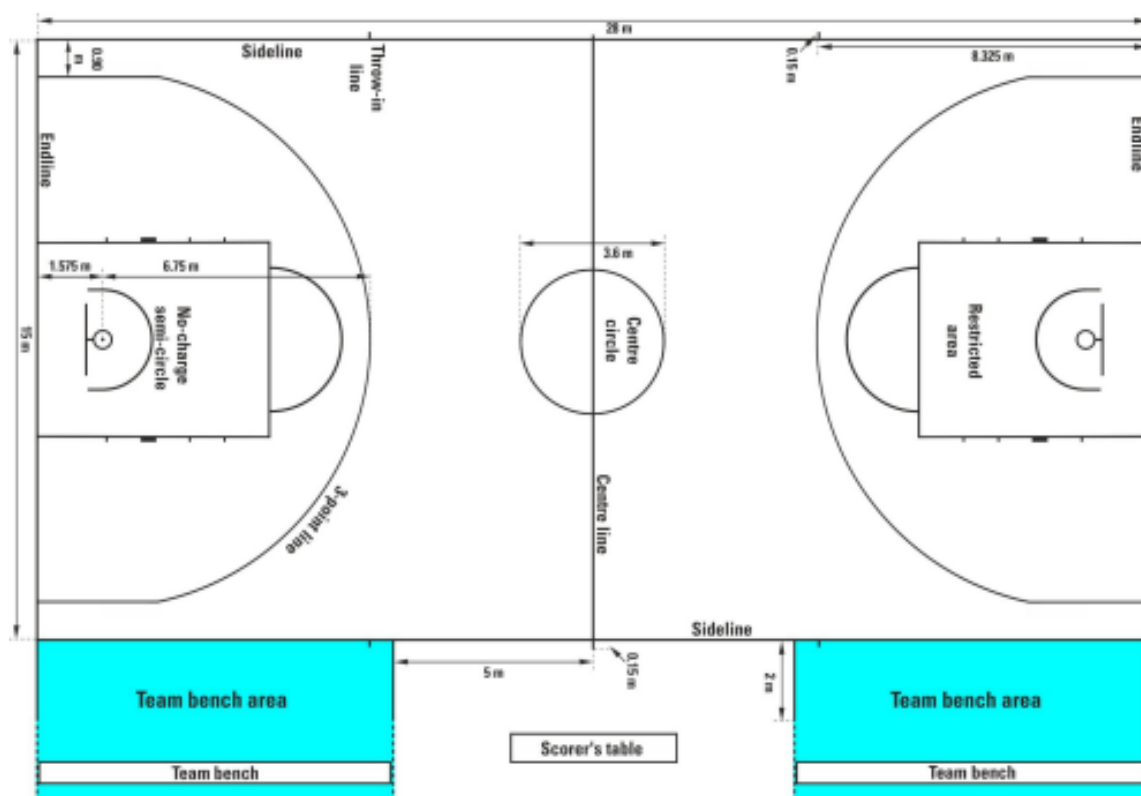
The height of the ceiling or the lowest obstruction above the playing floor shall be a minimum of 7 metres.

Lighting should be uniform across the playing area and a minimum of 500 lux. The temperature of the playing area should be between 16°C -19°C.

The official size court for Senior Division 1 Men and Women and Division 2 Men is 28m x 15m. Venues with the older court size of 26m x 14m are only permitted in Division Three, Division Two Women, and Junior NBL.

The minimum required safety run to any obstruction including table equipment and team benches is 2m for senior competitions and 1m for junior competitions.

Fig.1 Basketball Court Dimensions and Set Up



ADVERTISING BOARDS

Advertising boards can be located around the court and must be a minimum of 2 metres from the end line and sidelines. Boards should not exceed a height of 1 metre.

SEATING

The minimum seating requirements are:

Division One & Two Men	250
Division Three Men	100
Conference League Men	50
Division One Women	100
Division Two Women	50
Junior Leagues (as appropriate)	50

All Clubs must have adequate provision for disability/wheelchair users, this should be of six or one to every 100 of seated capacity.

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.

EQUIPMENT

RING AND BACKBOARDS

The home club shall ensure that in respect of each match played at its home venue, pressure-release rings meeting European Standard EN 1270 are used with 70 kilogram flex break.

The ring should be fixed to the framework in such a manner so that no force, transmitted by the ring is directly applied to the backboard.

The height of the ring will be 3,050mm from the top edge down to the playing surface. Nets shall be white in colour and suspended from the ring no less than 400mm and 450mm in length.

Fig. 2 Drop down goal support structure example

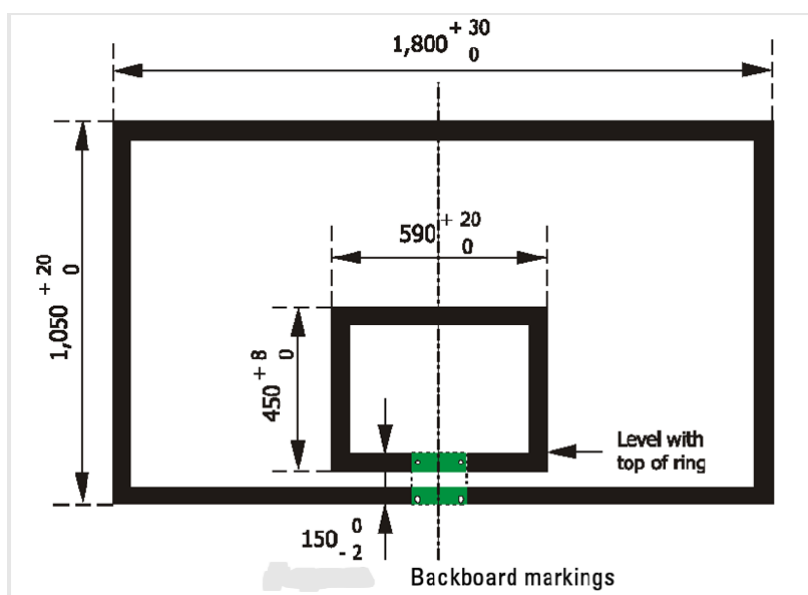


Backboards shall measure 1,800 mm horizontally and 1,050 mm vertically. Backboards can be made of timber or transparent material with a minimum thickness of 19mm.

All lines on the backboards shall be:

- In white, if the backboards are transparent.
- In black, if the white painted backboards are non-transparent.
- 50mm in width.

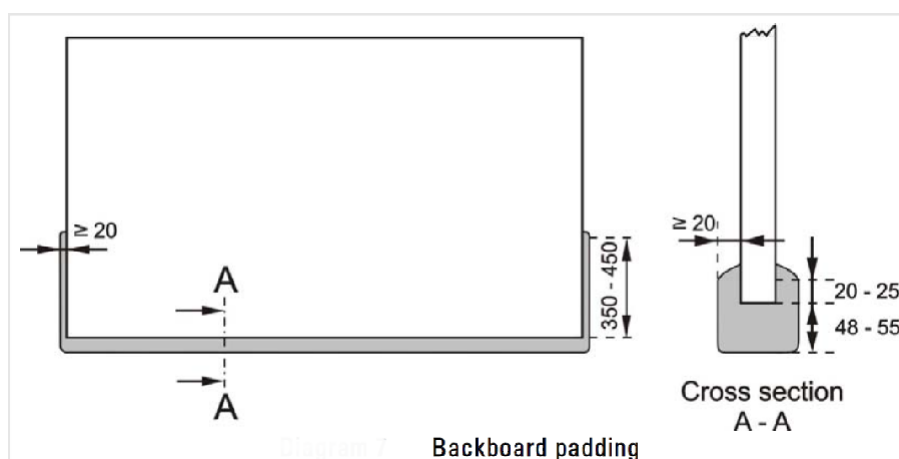
Fig. 3 Backboard markings



Suitable padding is fixed to the backboard edges in all Senior, Under 18 and Under 16 matches.

Venues with older backboards measuring 1,800 mm by 1,200 mm must ensure that fixed padding is provided for all levels of competition.

Fig. 4 Backboard Padding Example



FLOOR TYPE

The playing surface should meet the requirements of BS EN 14904:2005. Ball bounce must also achieve a minimum of 90% rebound and friction is to be between 80-110 when measured with a pendulum slip test device. The preferred floor type is an A4 timber floor with FIBA approval. Carpet, solid granwood or macadam floor surfaces are not suitable.

SCORING

The Home Club shall ensure that its home venue provides an electronic scoreboard and game clock which can be read by the Players, Match Officials and spectators throughout the course of the Match. The clock must at least show the passing of time in minutes and running score. In the event of a game clock being of such position that it is not possible for both Teams to have an equally good view of it; the Home Team must notify the Crew Chief at the pre-Match meeting.

Fig. 5 Basic Scoreboard Example



For Division 1 and 2 Men and Division 1 Women electronic scoreboard with digital countdown to show score, time, team fouls and time-outs are mandatory.

For all Matches in the Senior National Basketball League and Under 18 and 16 Premier Leagues a suitable Shot Clock device is required and must reset to 24 and 14 seconds. Shot clocks should be visible to all players and officials. Preferred location directly above the backboard.

Fig. 6 Basic Shot Clock Example



TABLE EQUIPMENT

The five player foul markers provided for the timer shall be of white colour numbered from 1 to 5 (1 to 4 in black and the number 5 in red). A Game Disqualification marker provided for the timer shall be of red colour and labelled with GD in white.

The two team foul markers provided for the timer shall be of red colour and clearly visible to everyone involved in the game, including the spectators, when positioned on either side of the scorer's table.

The alternating possession arrow must be positioned in the centre of the scorer's table and shall be clearly visible to everyone involved in the game, including the spectators.

Electrical or electronic devices may be used but they shall meet the above specifications.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE FACILITY STANDARDS		D1*/2 Men	D3 Men/ Conference League Men	D1 Women	D2 Women	U18 & U16 Premier League	U18 & U16 Conference/ Regional League	U14 Premier League	U14 Conference/ Regional League	U12 Mixed/ Girls
PLAYING COURT WITH A MINIMUM RUN-OFF OF 2M FROM THE COURT EDGE TO ANY OBSTRUCTION (INC. TEAM BENCHES, SEATING ETC) FOR SENIOR COMPETITIONS AND 1M RUN OFF FOR JUNIOR COMPETITIONS	28m x 15m	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	26m x 14m		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BASKETBALL GOALS 3.05M FROM FLOOR	Pressure release rings with 70KG flex break with adequate back support frame.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
BACKBOARDS - 1.8M X 1.05M (MINIMUM THICKNESS 19MM), AND 1.2M FROM END LINE. OLDER BACKBOARDS SIZED 1.8M X 1.2M MUST BE PADDED	2 backboards made from transparent material	✓								
	2 backboards made from transparent or wood material		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Backboard sides and lower edge must be padded.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
FLOORING	Timber or synthetic floor meeting standard European Standard EN 14904:2005. Timber Area Elastic A4 floor preferred	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SPECTATOR PROVISION	250 seated spectators.	✓								

NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE FACILITY STANDARDS		D1*/2 Men	D3 Men/ Conference League Men	D1 Women	D2 Women	U18 & U16 Premier League	U18 & U16 Conference/ Regional League	U14 Premier League	U14 Conference/ Regional League	U12 Mixed/ Girls
	100 seated spectators.		✓	✓						
	50 seated spectators.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHANGING ROOMS	Two separate 17 person changing rooms with access to shower and toilet facilities for use by home and away teams.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Two separate 3 person changing rooms with access to shower and toilet facilities for match officials (male & female).	✓	✓	✓	✓					
HEATING/LIGHTING	Recommended temperature comfort for participants and spectators: 16°C.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	A minimum of 500 Lux lights For televised games a minimum of 1400 Lux is required	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SCOREBOARD	Electronic scoreboard with digital countdown to show score, time, team fouls and time-outs mandatory. Players names and fouls desirable.	✓	✓	✓						
	Running score and electronic / digital game time to be shown				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Shot clock device that must reset to 24 and 14 seconds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

APPENDIX 7: ALL MUST PLAY RULE

The All Must Play rule is to create a more competitive playing environment and is to encourage all players to participate during a Jnr. NBL fixture across the age groups below, where a single fixture takes place.

The rule applies in the following competitions:

- Under 12
- Under 14 Conference Age Group
- Under 14 Regional Age Group
- Under 16 Regional Competitions.

The rules are:

- Games will consist of four quarters of 10 minutes, with the first and third quarters split into four periods of 5 minutes, with the clock stopping at 5:00 and not the nearest dead ball. This is not a time out, it is a substitution only. The game shall be resumed with the alternating possession arrow at the halfway line.
- For teams of 10 players, the coach can choose how they wish to rotate their players, all players must play in one five-minute period of both quarters one and three.
- For teams of 11 and 12, the coach can choose when they rotate the 11th and 12th player at their own discretion, excluding the 1st and 3rd quarters. However, the coach does not need to play these players at all.
- For teams of nine or less, a rotational schedule (appendix 8) will be in place to rotate players in quarters one and three. Coaches will need to number their players and list this along with their playing number, name, and licence number at the start of the game and given to the table officials. Please be aware that any teams playing with less than eight players can occur a fine in line with regulation 31.1.
- Normal timeouts will be administered however there will be no stoppages for switching players.
- If a player is injured or fouled out and the team has less than 10 players, the coach of said team shall decide on who fills this place, ensuring that the minutes are shared equally across the team.

In addition:

1. If a player has a pre-existing medical condition which may affect their ability to participate in accordance with the game rules, with the child and parent's permission, officials should be informed at the pre-game meeting, but officials don't need to know what the condition is. Reasonable adjustments can be made to enable the player to participate.
2. Both Coaches and Officials have a duty of care to ensure the safety of players. If a coach has any health or wellbeing concerns about a player during the game, they should inform an official. If a player is taken off the court, this does not necessarily mean that they cannot play for the duration of the game. Again, reasonable adjustments can be made.
3. When it comes to welfare and injuries, the head coach has ultimate responsibility in deciding what is best for the player at that specific moment. A player leaving the game can recover and re-enter the game later. If officials are in doubt over the decision of the coach, they should allow it to happen, but email nbl@basketballengland.co.uk to raise their concerns.

APPENDIX 8: ALL MUST PLAY – ROTATIONAL SCHEDULE

To be used when a team has nine or less players.

1. Teams of 10 or more can select which players they play in each period of the 1st and 3rd quarters, but no players can play in both periods of the 1st and 3rd quarter.
2. It is entirely up to the coach if they want to play players 11 and 12 at all in any part of the game.
3. Please note that teams who play a fixture with less than eight players will be liable to a fine in line with regulations 31.1 and 49.1.

Team 6 Players						
1st half			2nd half			
1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr			
1	x x		x			3
2	x x		x			3
3	x x		x x			4
4	x x		x x			4
5	x		x x			3
6		x	x x			3
5	5		5 5			

Team 7 Players						
1st half			2nd half			
1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr			
1	x x		x			3
2	x x		x			3
3	x x		x			3
4	x x		x x			3
5	x		x x			3
6		x	x			2
7		x	x			3
5	5		5 5			

Team 8 Players						
1st half			2nd half			
1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr			
1	x x		x			3
2	x x		x			3
3	x		x			2
4	x		x			2
5	x		x x			3
6		x	x x			3
7		x	x			2
8		x	x			2
5	5		5 5			

Team 9 Players						
1st half			2nd half			
1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr			
1	x x		x			3
2	x		x			2
3	x		x			3
4	x		x			2
5	x		x			2
6		x	x			2
7		x	x			2
8		x	x			2
9		x	x			2
5	5		5 5			

APPENDIX 9: ZONE DEFENCE & FULL COURT PRESS BREACH SANCTION

This sanction is applied for the following reasons:

For Zone defences being played illegally by a team in:

- Under 18 Conference (Quarters 2 and 4)
- Under 16 Conference (Quarters 2 and 4)
- Under 16 Regional
- Under 14
- Under 12 competitions

If a full court press is applied after a team is up by 20 points or more in:

- Under 12 (Mixed and female)
- Under 14 Conference (male and female)
- Under 14 Regional (male and female)
- Under 16 Conference
- Under 16 Regional

The crew chief will call an 'officials time out' with coaches and their co-official to the centre circle and give a verbal warning that they must cease playing a zone defence or a full court press, (which ever is applied at the time) and to remind the coach(es) of the potential sanctions that will then be applied.

The coaches will then be given an additional 30 seconds to reinforce this message with their team.

Once play has resumed following the 'officials time out' any further breaches of the rule will result in the coach being issued a warning (W) technical foul in the first instance.

Once called the warning technical (W) this will be recorded in the scorebook as a 'W' (not a coach 'C' or bench 'B' technical). The opposition will be given one free throw and then play will resume.

Any further breaches of these rules will result in the coach receiving a technical foul recorded as 'C'. The opposition will be awarded one free throw.

A coach will not be ejected until they have received two Coach technical fouls 'C's on a scoresheet. A 'W' technical will not be counted as a formal technical (C) but the opposing team will receive the same one free throw.

COACH	W	C	---	No Ejection
COACH	B	W	C	No Ejection
COACH	W	C	C	Ejection

APPENDIX 10: JNR. NBL RULE SUMMARY

This is a summary of the details outlined in the NBL Rules and Regulations. Full information including what happens if the rules are breached can be found in regulation 19, appendix 7, or 9.

 		Zone/Combination Defences Allowed				All Must Play Rule Enforced	Full Court Defence Permitted After 20+ Points
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Under 18 Men	Premier	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
	Conference	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓
Under 18 Women	Premier	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
	Conference	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓
Under 16 Boys	Premier	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
	Conference	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
	Regional	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Under 16 Girls	Premier	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
	Conference	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Under 14 Boys	Premier	X	X	X	X	X	✓
	Conference	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Under 14 Girls	Premier	X	X	X	X	X	✓
	Conference	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Under 12 Girls		X	X	X	X	✓	X
Under 12 Mixed		X	X	X	X	✓	X

APPENDIX 11: LIVE STREAMING POLICY

Last Updated April 2021

(EVENTS, CLUBS AND TEAMS)

CONTENTS

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 - Good Safeguarding Practice
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1. OVERVIEW AND PRINCIPLES

Technology is fast moving with new ideas, websites and apps being developed on a regular basis. Live streaming has become increasingly prevalent due to the ease it brings in showcasing games and events.

Live streaming is a live visual broadcast over the internet. All you need to be able to live stream is an internet enabled device, such as a smart phone or tablet, and a platform (such as website or app) to broadcast on. At the click of a button, you can broadcast anything you are doing across the world without delay or edit.

With the popularity of live streaming ever increasing and with children, young people and adults at risk taking part, it is important to remember that live streaming can be both unpredictable and hard to moderate which is understandably worrying for parents and carers. It is important to ensure that all of those involved within a live stream understand what risks children, young people and adults at risk may face, and take the practical steps to make an individual's basketball, and online, experience safer.

Basketball England has some basic principles when it comes to photography, videos, and images:

- The interests and the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk taking part in basketball are paramount;
- Parents/guardians and children/adults at risk should consent for images to be taken and used;
- Parents/guardians and children/adults at risk have a right to decide if their images are to be taken, and how those images may be used;
- Consent only lasts for one year and is not indefinite;
- Excessive personal information accompanying images could place a child or adult at risk in jeopardy.
- Images should never be taken in changing rooms;
- Images should only be taken by authorised persons;
- All images should be securely stored;
- In the case of images used on websites, care must be taken to ensure that no identifying details facilitate contact with a children/adults at risk by a potential abuser.

By adopting the points highlighted in these guidelines, you will be putting into place the best possible practice to protect children, young people, and adults at risk.

Basketball England has developed this guidance, with the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) to ensure that when live streaming is used, best practice, good guidance, and some simple steps to safeguard all of those involved are taken to keep the basketball environment as safe as it can be.

This guidance has been developed in-line with Basketball England's Photography and Video Guidance and aims to help build upon it. This guidance does not supersede the photography and video guidance or make it redundant.

2. USING LIVE STREAMING

The following information and steps must be considered before live streaming a game or event that involve children, young people and adults at risk.

Consents

Before any live streaming is undertaken, consent must be obtained from the parent/carer of the child, and the child or vulnerable adult.

Consent must be sought from all individuals that will be involved. Without consent from one individual in the group, the live stream must not go ahead. Whereas you may be able to manage photography, when it comes to one individual declining consent, a live stream cannot be edited or filtered to avoid an individual and therefore it cannot go ahead.

You must never assume someone has given consent if you cannot evidence that consent is questioned.

When the individual and parent/carer is giving consent, you must have the following answers available;

- Where the live streaming will take place (Facebook, YouTube etc).
- Will the stream be set up in any way, such as restricting 3rd party embedding
- What page/profile it will be streamed onto (if applicable).
- How the game will be advertised on the stream (teams, venue, names)
- Who the stream will be monitored by and for what purpose
- When the live stream will go live and when it will end

- Once the stream has finished, where the footage may be published and/or stored
- Where the consent forms will be stored
- How any individual can withdraw their consent if they wish to do so.

Consent must be granular and clear so that everyone is clear on how it will operate, this is extremely important when it comes to adults at risk and participants who may have additional needs. The consent must not be long winded and confusing so that an individual is consenting to something they don't understand.

Basketball England has developed a basic live streaming consent for clubs for single-use, to edit and use if required. It can be downloaded here:

DOWNLOAD LIVESTREAM FORM (SINGLE CLUB)

If you wish to seek consent from parents for a season, there is a consent form here which you can edit to cover multiple games. Before using this consent form, it is important that you conduct your own checks on the opposition teams to ensure you are satisfied that the stream will be safely managed.

DOWNLOAD LIVESTREAM FORM (MULTIPLE CLUBS)

Before The Event

Before the event, some basic steps and measures should be taken to ensure the live stream can run smoothly:

- Get consent

As highlighted above, consent must be obtained from each individual participant before live streaming can go ahead. Without any consent you must not live stream any event.

- Choose the platform that you will be streaming from

You will need pick a live streaming platform that you wish your event or game to be streamed through. You will then need to familiarise yourself with the platform to understand how it works, how it is set up and what security/privacy settings can be place on the stream. Different platforms can provide different and varying services, some for free but some come at a cost, so you should do your research across the board to ensure you find the right fit for your needs.

- Identify who will be leading on the live stream

You need to think about which individual will be leading on organising the live stream. This person should have a basic understanding of how the live stream is set up and works and be able to answer any questions that anyone may have around this. They must also be familiar with the platform being used and how it should be managed. They must be familiar with your responsibilities in terms of data protection.

- Camera & equipment

There are many different cameras and equipment available to be able to set up a live stream. As it varies widely in terms of set ups, connections and quality of the live stream, you will need to consider these points:

The type of camera – what kind of quality live stream do you want to achieve?

The connections required between the camera, laptop/computer/device, and the live streaming platform – does the camera connect with your laptop or device?

The live streaming platform requirements - does it require a certain connection or camera?

Any additional equipment, such as tripods?

Considering the above will help aid you in finding the right equipment before the event and help ensure that the running of the live stream is not hindered.

- Wi-Fi / Internet Connection

Probably the most obvious necessity, is a solid, reliable Internet connection. Any distance or surfaces between the transmitter and receiver will degrade the signal strength, and thus the connection speed.

If it's at all possible you should use a wired connection. A wired connection will be faster than a wireless connection, won't be affected by radio interference and your connection speed will remain constant.

Venues may have varying internet connections, so you will need to get access to the one that suits you. It may be worth speaking to the venue about live streaming beforehand as they may have experience and be able to advise you of the limitations in the building.

Some venues may require you to pay extra to upgrade to a better internet connection, so you may need to consider this.

- Location of the camera

Before the event, you will need to look at where the right amount of space means that it shouldn't be encroaching on the court, blocking fire exits or using up unnecessary amounts of space that could be used more effectively for other needs.

Thinking about the cables and wiring that may be used to run the stream should also assist in ensuring the spectators & participants safety isn't compromised.

The live stream needs to be considered within your event risk assessment and event welfare plan. See also Section 4 – Live Streaming Game Day Set Up.

- Making the spectators aware

Putting up some posters around the venue to make the spectators aware that live streaming is going on is extremely good practice. It doesn't have to be detailed, but the poster will need to identify the live streaming, where the camera is located and if they have any concerns, who to speak with.

You should consider an area for spectators who don't wish to be on the live stream.

You will need to look at having an area in the venue where you can place spectators who don't wish to be on the live stream. It could be something as basic as having their backs to the camera or sitting them in line with the camera, it really depends on the venue that you are in. Again, this should be referred to in your risk assessment and event welfare plan.

- Run a demonstration beforehand

It may be worth setting everything up and ensure it works before the big day. This will help avoid any hiccups during the event, help you get used to the stream and iron out any irregularities.

During The Event

- The live stream will need to be monitored throughout its whole duration

You will need to have someone monitor the live stream throughout so that any incidents or inappropriate behaviour can be logged and reported. It also means that the live stream can be stopped immediately if needs be if the welfare of any child, young person or vulnerable adult is put at risk.

You can also monitor comments, use of the stream and see if any use falls outside of the code of ethics and conduct. If it does, it enables you to take swift action to block and/or ban any individual who uses it inappropriately.

- Don't stream longer than needed

You should only stream for the event and not stream for longer than required. There is no need to stream 30/40 minutes before the event, you should look to set the stream going 5 minutes before the event.

This helps prevent individuals sharing the stream too far ahead of the event to people who may seek to do harm, or share on different areas of the internet. A lot of this should be covered by how the stream is set up on the platform as some prevent streams from being distributed or embedded.

- Be prepared to take the live stream down

Being prepared to take the stream down at any minute is vital.

If you recognise that the stream is being used inappropriately and you feel the welfare of the individuals involved is at risk, you must pull the stream immediately.

- Focus on the game itself and not the individuals

The footage should be of the overall game itself and not be singling out individuals throughout the whole game. Keeping the stream as general as possible helps in protecting children, young people, and adults at risk from over-wanted attention and can lead to them being easily identified by individuals who may wish to harm them or identify them outside of the event.

After The Event

Just because the event has finished, and the stream has ended doesn't mean there isn't anything left to do with it.

- Ensure the stream has ended

Always double check that once you have ended the stream, that it has ended. Depending on the device and streaming service used you may think it has ended and decide to walk off into an unsuitable area for photography use, so it is always best practice to double check.

- Remove / Send / Download / Post the live stream

Depending on what you indicated on your live stream consent form, you may have some steps to take in terms of handling the live stream now it's out there on your platform:

Remove – You may wish to remove the live stream totally and make the footage private after it has ended.

Send – You may want to look at sending the video out to the individuals that were involved within the live stream (such as the players and coaches – ensure you have permission to do this).

Download – You may want to download the video and keep the video footage on file for future use.

Post – You may want to post the video on more platforms than it was streamed on (e.g. a club's YouTube channel).

What you do with the stream should sit within the consent form and you should not be using the video for anything other than the stated terms on the consent form. If you use the video outside of the terms set in the consent form this will be in breach of Basketball England's Photography and Video policy and any breaches can and will be investigated by Basketball England.

- Take statistics from the live stream

Depending on your live streaming platform you may be able to take some statistics from the live stream such as:

- Overall number of viewers
- How long the viewers watched for
- Location of the viewers
- Gender and age of the viewers
- Any noticeable trends and reactions to the stream

Taking these stats can provide you with some great insight into the stream and may assist you in improving your live streaming in the future.

3. SAFEGUARDING & LIVE STREAMING

Clubs and teams benefit from using images of young participants to promote and celebrate activities, events, and competitions.

However, the use of photos and videos on websites and social media and in posters, the press, or other publications, can pose direct and indirect risks to children and young people if not managed correctly.

Therefore, when it comes to live streaming, some additional advice and guidance should be considered to safeguard and protect children, young people and adults at risk.

Good Safeguarding Practice

- Display live streaming poster

Creating a poster and displaying this around the event is a good way of making all individuals aware of what is going on inside of your event. It allows people to be able to position themselves in a place that suits them, and it makes sure people aren't being broadcast without their knowledge.

You have a duty of care to safeguard the individuals who are on the court but also, that duty of care extends to those who are in attendance in another capacity such as young officials and volunteers.

- Create behaviour guidelines for during live streaming

All those involved in the game should be reminded of the Code of Ethics and Conduct to ensure appropriate behaviour throughout. This could be addressed before the event by sending out the Code of Conduct to the teams or through a pre-match meeting. Participants should be reminded that any Code of Conduct breaches in-person or online will be reported to Basketball England.

The spectator code of conduct should also be considered and advertised throughout the venue. Basketball England's code of conduct can be found on our website below:

DOWNLOAD BASKETBALL ENGLAND'S CODE OF ETHICS & CONDUCT

- Focus on the team

With the same principles of photography and video, the stream needs to be focusing on the whole team and not just specific individuals. Focusing on specific individuals for long periods of time could lead to identification and potential unwanted contact from inappropriate individuals who may wish to harm children, young people and adults at risk.

- Always in the venue

The stream must be kept within the venue and focused on the game. By

allowing the stream to 'wander' and be used within other areas of a facility e.g. the changing rooms, may encourage inappropriate use.

It is best practice to keep the stream focused on the court solely to promote the game.

- Identify who is responsible for the stream for any concerns

Identifying an individual who is responsible for the stream and informing everyone of this provides a point of contact if any concerns, enquiries, or questions arise. This allows for quick fixes or action to be taken if there is any poor practice being observed or breach of policy when the live stream is underway.

Poor Safeguarding Practice

With any form of photography, video and use of images there is always an inherent risk when children, young people or adults at risk are involved. Being aware of poor practice when it comes to photography, images, video and live streaming will aid you in being able to spot inappropriate behaviour.

- Focusing on individuals

Focusing on specific individuals for long periods of time and in particular, including a child's personal information alongside their image can lead to them becoming vulnerable to individuals looking to locate, contact or 'groom' children for abuse.

Therefore, focussing on the team is paramount to safe live streaming.

- Never live stream in private

Live streaming should always take place in a public area. It shouldn't be confined to any private areas within a facility such as a meeting room or the changing rooms. Even with the best intentions, this can lead to allegations of a safeguarding nature and warrant investigation by Basketball England.

Keeping the stream set on the game and in the main venue allows for transparency and adherence to best practice when it comes to photography, video and images of children, young people, or adults at risk.

- Too much information on advertising the live stream

Other details identifying the sports organisation, school, or club, can be used to groom a child, young person, or adult at risk. Advertising alongside the live stream the venue name, team names, individuals' names involved in the game can potentially lead to individuals being identified which can be an issue for children at risk.

- Leaving the stream unattended or not monitored

Leaving the stream unattended or not monitored allows for standards to drop, inappropriate behaviour to creep into the live stream and potential unsuitable use of the live stream. Having it monitored, ensures that standards of practice around the live stream are kept high, the use of the stream is used for its intended purpose and if there is any inappropriate behaviour or misuse occurring it can be addressed swiftly.

Apps And Software

There are a wide range of apps and software that are available to use for live streaming, and each has its pros and cons. Below are some advantages and disadvantages around some of the more popular apps and software.

This is not an exhaustive list, or an endorsement of the apps/software detailed below. Each club, team or person who is looking at including live streaming should research each app and/or software that they wish to use and do their own due diligence when selecting their preferred choice.

Facebook

Facebook Live is the live streaming feature attached to Facebook. Users can film and upload videos in real time. If a user's Facebook profile is public, any other user can search for their live video and view it by searching for key words within the title or location tags. If their profile is private, only their friends will be able to view their live video. Live videos can last as long as four hours and remain on Facebook until the user deletes them.

As with images, users can mark their location and tag friends in their live video. When watching a live video, viewers can leave live comments whilst the video is playing. This creates a comments thread underneath the playing video and will remain there when the video has ended. Users can also choose to 'like' or react to a video using a range of symbols/emojis. These are seen by the user as they are filming.

Live streaming means that anyone streaming is not able to edit/review their video content before it is uploaded. Live streaming can be both unpredictable and hard to moderate which is understandably worrying for parents and carers. In some instances, it can lead to accidentally sharing more information than they intended. Before going live, give your Facebook account a privacy check by tapping Privacy Shortcuts, then Privacy Check-up in the help and settings menu.

Facebook enables users to report inappropriate content also.

YouTube

YouTube is a video sharing website and app that allows users to share, view and upload videos via mobile, tablet, laptop and desktop computer. YouTube has a specific area of the site that allows viewers to watch, create and upload live videos.

Live videos are created in real time and can be instantaneously streamed on YouTube without editing. Viewers can choose to watch live videos by clicking on the 'Live tab'. Various media outlets such as Sky and BBC have Live channels on YouTube.

Individual users with YouTube channels can also create live videos and share their own content. Content in Live videos is moderated in the same way as other YouTube videos. Users can flag inappropriate content using the 'flag' icon. When a video is flagged, YouTube staff review the content and decide whether the content violates YouTube Community Guidelines. YouTube may then decide to apply age-restrictions to the video or remove the video from YouTube.

YouTube has 'community guidelines' about what content should and shouldn't be uploaded and states that any video content that breaks these guidelines will be removed or become age-restricted. These can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/intl/en-GB/howyoutubeworks/policies/community-guidelines/>

If your club or team has their own YouTube channel, it is important to be aware of what you can post and who can view it. We would recommend you have a conversation as a club or team to understand what might or might not be suitable for you to share. Are you and your participants comfortable with the idea that a video could be seen by anyone all over the world? Does the video contain identifying features – school uniform, your house or local area – which might enable a viewer to trace your participants?

It can be difficult to keep ownership or control of a video once it has been posted on the internet. The video may be copied or reposted without your knowledge and it can then become difficult to remove every copy online. Similarly, to other social media platforms, YouTube has a private messaging function where users can send each other messages and videos.

When a video is uploaded to YouTube, the automatic default is set to public so anyone on the YouTube site, even if they aren't registered, could potentially view the video. This can easily be changed by adjusting the privacy settings on the account. The three different privacy settings are as follows:

- Public - A default setting that allows any user on YouTube to view the video
- Private - Allows you to restrict your video to be viewed by only yourself and other users that you select
- Unlisted - Only people who have the link to the video can view it. The video will not show up on your channel page or come up in any YouTube search filter

To adjust these privacy settings:

For a computer: sign into the account and go to creator studio > video manager > video > edit > select privacy setting > save

For Android/iPhone: sign into the account and go to my videos > next to the video you want to change tap the menu icon > edit > select privacy setting

If another YouTube user posts a video of you, your team, and/or its participants, or shares your personal information, without your consent, you can request this content to be removed.

Detailed instructions on how to do this are available on the YouTube Safety Centre at

<https://www.youtube.com/yt/policyandsafety/en/GB/safety.html>

Instagram

Instagram is a service which allows the user to take and edit photos and videos and then post them online. It can also be used to share photos and videos on other popular services such as Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Tumblr and Foursquare.

To create an Instagram account, the app must be downloaded. Once an Instagram account has been set up, it can also be accessed through the Instagram website on other devices.

Like many other popular apps, Instagram have introduced a 'live streaming' feature. This allows users to create and upload videos in real time. Live videos are then instantly uploaded to Instagram and can be seen by a user's followers (people the user has allowed to view their profile if they have a private profile) or by anybody (if they have an open profile). Followers or other unknown users can comment on the videos as they are being viewed.

These videos do not show on the user's profile. As with all content on Instagram, imagery can be screenshot or recorded and can remain on the internet despite the live video ending.

The default privacy setting within Instagram allows anybody to view and comment on a user's photos and videos. However, privacy settings allow the user to decide if they want only their 'followers' to see their photos and videos, and the comments about them.

Users can use privacy settings to share photos and videos with their followers only.

Please note:

- Profile photos, usernames and the bio screen will always be public.
- Users can block and remove followers on Instagram. The person who is blocked won't be informed about this.
- Shared private Instagram posts sent to social networks (e.g. Twitter) can be seen by the public unless you have set up your privacy settings on those social networks too.
- Remember to look out for location-sharing which users can enable with the 'Add to your Photo Map' feature. It is set 'off' by default. When it is on, this feature publishes the location in which a photo or video was taken, which is risky information to share publicly if children, young people, and adults at risk are involved.

Instagram has developed a filter that will block certain offensive comments on posts and in live video. All other comments will appear as they normally do, and you can still report comments, delete comments, or turn them off.

Snapchat

Snapchat is a mobile application that allows users to create, edit and share pictures and videos. Images sent on Snapchat are often referred to as 'snaps'. Snapchat's tag line is, "life's more fun when you live in the moment". Thus, Snapchat focuses on capturing 'moments' quickly; users take images and videos and send them instantly.

The unique feature of Snapchat is that images disappear with seconds. Snapchat users can specify how many seconds they would like their images to be seen by the recipient(s). This can range from 1 to 10 seconds. After the chosen time, the image will 'disappear' from the recipient's view. However, this does not necessarily mean that images are permanently deleted. Images can be screen shot by other users or recorded using another device.

Snapchat alerts users when a screenshot has been taken, however this is not always 100% accurate.

Snapchat users can use 'geofilters' – these are overlays that include graphics and picture effects that show where a person is in the world. This uses the phone's geo-location data.

Images and videos can be sent directly to other users via Snapchat. They can also be downloaded and shared on other platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

Previously known as 'Our Stories', 'Live Stories' allow users to take images and videos and create a story with other Snapchat users based on their geographic location. For example, if a Snapchat user is at an event such as a music festival, they can create content that will be added to a collective Snapchat 'story' relating to that event. The story is compiled by Snapchat and can only be created when a user's geo-location is enabled. Stories can be viewed by any Snapchat user even if a contributing user's profile is 'private'.

The brief nature of Snapchat is a fun feature but can mean images can be taken on impulse without thought that people might later regret. Images and videos can be screen shot or recorded with another device, meaning that they may become permanent.

It can be risky to share location using apps especially when children, young people and adults at risk are involved. You should look to keep your geo-location private, especially if children, young people and adults at risk are involved, by going into the app settings and disabling location for Snapchat. Everyone should be aware that:

- If you choose 'Everyone' for 'Who Can Contact Me,' Snapchat users you haven't added will be able to send you Snaps and Chats.
- If you post a Snap to your Story, and then change your settings so only friends can see your Story, others may still be able to see the Snaps you posted before the change.
- Even if Snapchat have not notified you that an image has been screen shot; this may still have occurred. Third party apps have been created that allow users to download software that hide when they have screen shot an image or video.

4. LIVE STREAMING GAME DAY SET UP

In an ever-changing environment of technology, many clubs are utilising Live Streaming as an option to showcase their league fixtures.

Where possible, we want to have as many live streamed fixtures available for the NBL/WNBL as possible. There is a dedicated channel via the 'BE Youtube platform' on which all Division One Men's and Women's fixtures, plus all NBL/WNBL Finals are streamed. Other clubs in the leagues may wish to live stream via their own club's platforms, and where applicable, we can add the links to our news releases and advertise on social media.

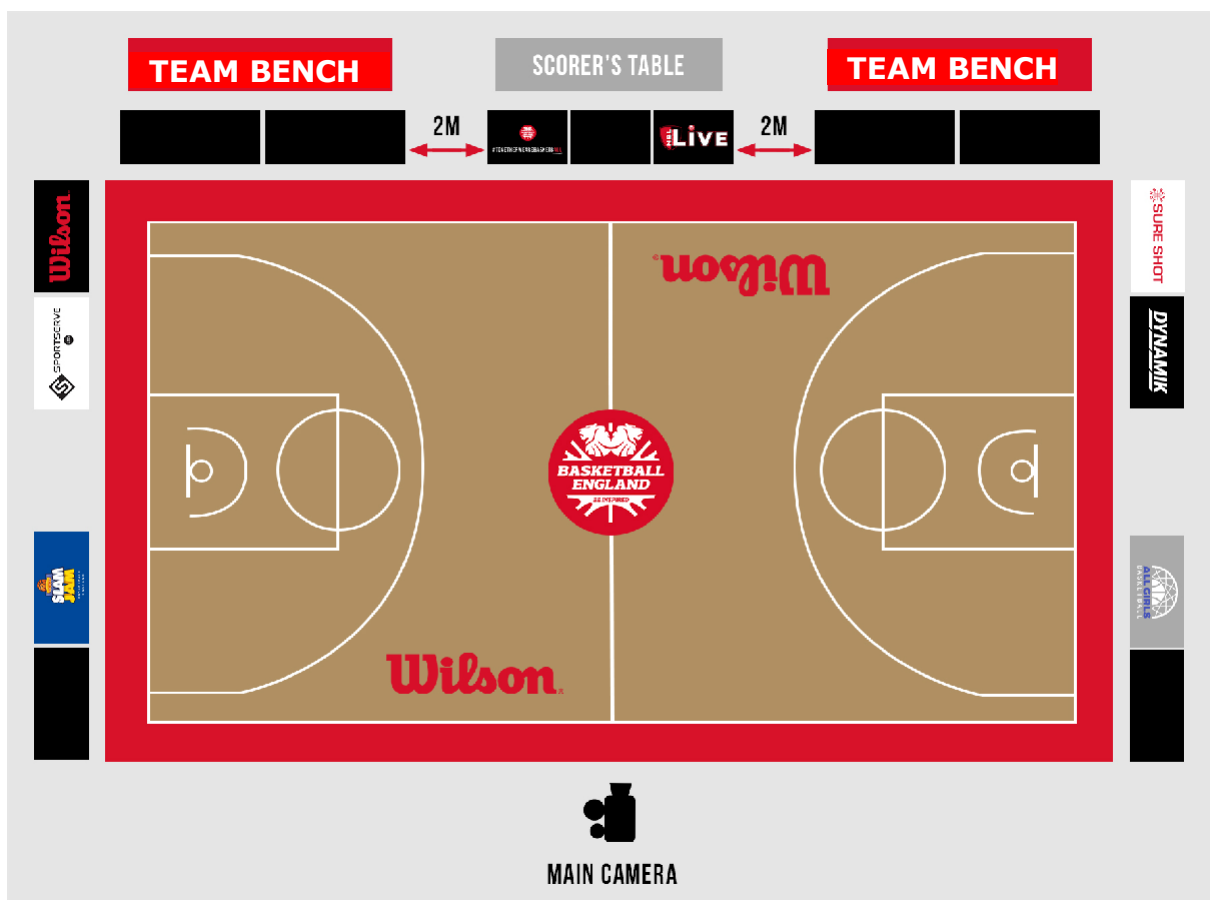
If you need any help setting the logistics of Live Streaming, please email nbl@basketballengland.co.uk.

Factors To Consider When Live Streaming

- Mandatory for all Division One Men and Women's leagues:
- Good quality footage in HD with focus.
- Good streaming angle and not a poor angle i.e. don't Live Stream in the corner of a venue or at court side view. Being at a high point, near the centre of the court is the best option.
- Ensure the full court can be seen and the scoreboard is embedded.
- If the scoreboard is not embedded within the stream, please ensure the scoreboard is visible.
- Limit obstructions of the view of the camera.

- Do not obstruct the run-off space on side-lines and end lines to ensure there is no breach in regulations from standing in the area.
- Ensure kit numbers can be seen.
- Announcers should have a good understanding of what can and can't be said and must remain impartial at all times. Please see announcer guidance below.
- The person filming the stream should remain silent.
- Where possible, the court must be clean with limited court markings. Please see diagram below for the court set up.
- The following should be promoted;
 - NBL sponsors and partners: Official ball supplier: Wilson
 - Official floor supplier: Dynamik Sports surfaces
 - Official scoring provider: Sportserve

Match Day Set Up



Game Announcer Notes

Audience

The viewers to the live stream are likely to have a reasonable understanding of the game – so whilst nuances of rules or competition structure may need explaining, the basics of the game do not.

The audience for National Basketball League matches on YouTube is likely to be primarily British, however, commentators should remember that YouTube has a global following and some viewers may have English as a second language.

Caution, therefore, should be given to use of British idioms or references that may not be understood by a wider audience. It is not to say that these should not be used, but that they are done so appropriately and/or explained.

Always consider the context of the game. Keep reminding the audience why the game is important, what it means in terms of standings, personal player stats, records, etc.

Note the shot clock on occasions to build excitement and increase the pace of the commentary.

Rapport

A good rapport with any co-commentator is essential and helps provide a different voice. During fluid passages of play, the co-commentator's input needs to be crisp, interesting and sharp. Long answers risk "crashing" important shots or baskets. But when the ball is out of play, or during time outs, or free throws, there's more time for the co-commentator to make a point, providing insight to the viewer.

Commentator and co-commentator should ensure they don't talk over one another with good choreography – you can be active and use your hands either to get a colleague to wrap up or to come in, depending on the circumstances. But the more you work with someone, the better the rhythm will become.

Enthusiasm

Basketball England expects the game to be appropriately promoted, irrespective of the outcome and therefore commentators should show the same levels of enthusiasm for both the home and away team. The audience is expecting a neutral commentary bias towards the home team is not acceptable.

If a co-commentator has links to the home team, as a former or injured player for example, it is acceptable for them to refer to the home team as 'us' or 'we', but it is not acceptable for the lead commentator to do so.

Highlights and clips from games may be used at a later point either on the site or via social media and clips of spectacular plays are enhanced by appropriate commentary to go with them, irrespective of which side completes them.

Commentators are advised not to talk down the game they are covering. 'We're at the end of the first quarter and this one is over already' is essentially telling them to stop watching your coverage.

Preparation

It is important for commentators to know the names of players of both sides and have some understanding of the abilities and backgrounds of those players. Again, remember the viewer may or may not know players on either team, so calling one team by only their first names and the other by only their surnames is not acceptable.

In general players should be referred to by surname, the exceptions to this could be siblings, players who have been in the league for a long time and/or who have unique first names. It is important to know the relevance of the game to both teams, how it impacts on standings, play-off qualifications etc, and also the results of previous meetings from this or previous

seasons. Likewise former players playing against old teams or team-mates or general information the viewer may not be aware of that will enhance the viewing experience.

Commentators must have an understanding of the competition structures and what outcomes will mean for both clubs eg “a win here sets up a quarter-final with Team X to be played in two weeks’ time” or “victory for the visitors will move them into the play-off places”.

The opening of the show should be a minimum of 10 minutes long, commentators must ensure that this time is filled appropriately. This may require both commentators to discuss the action coming up, what else is happening in the league, team news etc.

At half time and at the end of the game, commentators should conclude with an appropriate level of wrapping up of the action, including, key moments, celebrations and potential implication of victory/defeat on standings.

Prepping your voice is also a good preparation. Often, it’s not what’s said, but how it’s said. Make sure you have plenty of energy and enthusiasm, so your voice has light and shade. Eat well beforehand, stay hydrated and please refrain from shouting/screaming beforehand, anything that will keep your voice in good condition for the broadcast.

Game Promotion

The commentary is on behalf of National Basketball League and Basketball England and therefore a positive image of the league and the broadcaster should be maintained at all times.

Balance

It is important to remember that the commentary is for both teams and the viewers may be supporting either (or neither) team and therefore an appropriate level of balance should be struck.

Whilst you may be commentating on the same team every month, you should remember the audience may not be watching that team every week and will expect a balanced commentary.

In all likelihood there will be a greater proportion of neutral and/or away team supporters watching the game than supporters of the home team.

Again, if working with a co-commentator who has a link with the home team, it is important to ensure that a balanced view of the action is given to the viewers.

It is particularly important to maintain this balance in games that are not close. Whilst commentary teams should try to provide some insight into why team might be winning/losing, it is not the commentator’s role to be overly effusive or critical.

Officiating

Commentators should not overly question or undermine the decisions of the officials. It is the commentator’s role to describe what has been called. Commentators should also have a good understanding of the rules, but remember they are not trained to the same level as the officials calling the game.

If co-commentator questions decisions of referees, the commentator should provide appropriate balance.

Like players, coaches and commentators, officials will make mistakes, but it is unacceptable to question their integrity or imply that one decision has a disproportionate impact on the outcome.

Commentators should, at all times, retain respect for those playing and coaching the game on both sides. It is unacceptable to denigrate players or coaches of either team, even if they are having a poor game.

Questioning tactical decisions should be done in an appropriate manner and likewise noting poor performance should be made in a suitable way.

Further Guidance & Links

Thinkuknow have worked with young people to understand their thoughts around live streaming and they have found that young people often do not realise that live streamed videos can be recorded. Speak to any child, young person or adult at risks' that you work with to ensure they understand that anything they do online can be recorded without their knowledge or permission.

If you have any concerns about grooming, sexual abuse or exploitation on Facebook or on any online app or site, report to CEOP at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

For more advice and guidance around different apps and websites, please see links below to Thinkuknow and Net Aware:

THINKUKNOW: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/>

NET AWARE: www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/?order=title

For more advice and guidance around child protection and safeguarding in sport, the Child Protection in Sport Unit has advice for all which encompasses a range of different topics: www.thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice

We endeavour for this guide to be up to date as possible, however due to the changing nature of social media, the information and advice in this guide may date over time.

APPENDIX 12: GAME DAY DELEGATE ROLE DESCRIPTION

It is the responsibility of every team to provide a Game Day Delegate. Any team failing to do so shall be liable to disciplinary action.

Role of the Game Day Delegate

Both the HOME team and AWAY team must nominate a responsible adult/member of their club to act as Game Day Delegate on the day of the game.

For the home club, this must NOT be the team manager or coach, but another adult who is at the game.

For the away team, this should not be the team manager or coach, but if there is no other person is available, this role can be the responsibility of the team manager,

The Game Day Delegate must be confirmed in the Game Day Schedule that is communicated between the two teams at least fourteen days prior to the fixture, any changes need to be communicated with opposing team and officials.

The Game Day Delegate needs to fully understand the schedule and logistics of the day to be able to respond to any questions/queries during the pre-match meeting and event.

Game Day Delegate Responsibility:

1. Upon arrival at the venue, the Game Day Delegate from the home team will ask their opponents who their Game Day Delegate is and make introductions to each other.
2. Together, they will then report to the match officials at least 15 minutes before the start of the game and introduce themselves.
3. The primary responsibility of the home team Game Day Delegate is to look after the officials before, during and after the game until they leave the venue. It would be appropriate if the home and away team delegates did the job together.
4. This would include, showing the referees where the changing rooms and toilets are, directing them to the correct court, possibly offering a drink at half time and after the game.
5. During the game, each delegate will be responsible for the behaviour of all club members and spectators. If the referee needs to they will, during a stoppage in play, approach the Game Day Delegate to assist them in dealing with any problems that may occur. The Game Day Delegate is not exempt from being reported for misconduct.
6. The home team Game Day Delegate is responsible for ensuring the scoresheet is submitted to Basketball England or is given to the club administrator who is responsible for this task immediately after the game.
7. The Basketball England Code of Ethics and Conduct must be considered by the delegate at all times, and any serious incidents must be reported through the [Report It](#) tool on Basketball England's website.
8. Basketball England is totally committed to promoting anti-discrimination and the Basketball England Equality and Equity policy must be emphasised and observed at all times.

APPENDIX 13: GAME DAY SCHEDULE

DATE OF FIXTURE		
AGE GROUP/DIVISION		
HOME TEAM		
AWAY TEAM		
TIP TIME		
VENUE INCLUDING ADDRESS & POSTCODE		
HOME KIT COLOUR		
ACCESS TO COURT		
ACCESS TO CHANGING ROOMS		
PARKING INFORMATION		
SPECTATOR PROVISION INFORMATION		
GAME DAY DELEGATE NAME AND CONTACT		
WELFARE OFFICER		
PRE-GAME MEETING LOCATION		
REFEREE NAMES		
IS THE GAME BEING RECORDED?	YES	NO
IS THE GAME TO BE LIVE STREAMED?	YES	NO
OTHER IMPORTANT GAME INFORMATION		

Away team to confirm their attendance, kit colour and their Game Day Delegate for the game. Teams should be in attendance at the fixture one hour before the game.

APPENDIX 14: COURT ANNOUNCERS GUIDELINES

Duties:

- Welcome the spectators to the match
- Introduce the game, competition, sponsors, venue, etc.
- Introduce the players / officials (coaches + team manager) from the two teams
- Prior to tip-off – introduce the referees
- Crowd engagement

Introductions:

- As the Teams enter the floor to start the warmup they should be introduced to the crowd.
- At 7 minutes (or time specified by the Game Day Delegate in the pre-game meeting) before tipoff the teams should clear the floor and be introduced. The visiting team should be introduced first, then the home team – name & number (Referees will clear floor).
- After the teams have been announced, announce the match officials.

To Do List – During the Game (When appropriate):

- Read through the starting fives as the players enter the court prior to tip-off.
- Name the scorer of a basket when appropriate to the game (i.e. close game, impressive play).
- As a substitution occurs, the names and numbers of the players involved.
- As a time-out occurs, name the team calling the time-out, number of time-outs, etc.
- During time-out, breaks between quarters, half-time and any other intervals, the announcer can contribute statistical information on the match, make other public announcements (e.g. future events, sponsor messages, etc.) and music can be played.
- The announcer shall be prohibited from interrupting the game through the use of the microphone unless there is an emergency.
- Announcements or comments shall be made during those times when there is a stoppage of the clock and the ball is not live, such as time outs, between quarters, pre- game, half time and post game.
- During a basketball game, announcers should announce the player who scored, the player charged with a foul, the player attempting a free throw, the team granted a time out and the length of the time out, and any players entering the game.
- Announcers should only announce basic information that does not potentially affect play in general, the players, the coaches, or the officials.
- Announcers should not comment on the decisions of the match officials.
- Announcers can influence the atmosphere of the contest by what is said and how it is said. The announcer who performs professionally promotes good sportsmanship by what they say and how they act upon saying it.

It is important that the Announcer always remain neutral. These positions are key components of game management. If for any reason an announcer or game entertainment can't remain neutral, the Home Team Game Day Delegate should be notified and relevant action taken.

APPENDIX 15: PLAYER RETIREMENT AND RETURN TO COMPETITION POLICY

International-Level Athletes

1. An Athlete who has been identified by FIBA for inclusion in its Registered Testing Pool shall be subject to FIBA's retirement and return to Competition requirements, to the exclusion of Article 3.
2. Athletes wishing to retire should contact Basketball England to determine if they are in FIBA's Registered Testing Pool and therefore are required to follow FIBAs procedures.

BE shall immediately notify UKAD of the retirement or reinstatement of any Athlete in FIBA's Registered Testing Pool and provide copies of the correspondence from FIBA confirming this retirement/reinstatement.

National-Level Athletes

3. Athletes in UKAD's Registered Testing Pool or Domestic Testing Pool shall be subject to the following requirements:
 - a) An Athlete who wants to retire from Competition must do so by notifying BE by fully completing and forwarding to BE the Basketball England "RETIREMENT NOTIFICATION FORM". Retirement notifications that are not fully completed will not be accepted and will be returned to the Athlete. An Athlete's retirement date will be the date BE receives the fully completed retirement notification.
 - b) Upon receipt of a notification under UK Anti-Doping Rules Article 11.3(a), BE will, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide the Athlete and UKAD with written confirmation of the Athlete's retirement.
 - c) Retirement does not:
 - i. excuse the Athlete from giving a Sample requested on or before their retirement date, or a Sample required as part of an investigation commenced prior to their retirement date.
 - ii. excuse the Athlete from assisting, cooperating, and liaising with UKAD and other Anti-Doping Organisations in relation to the conduct of any investigation or hearing into an alleged antidoping rule violation.
 - iii. prevent the analysis of a sample given by the Athlete on or before their retirement date.
 - iv. affect the results of Testing under (i) or (iii) above.
 - v. exempt the Athlete from the UK Anti-Doping Rules in relation to an anti- doping rule violation committed on or before their retirement date; or
 - vi. affect UKAD's power to conduct results management.
4. An Athlete who has retired in accordance with Article 3(a) above, and who wishes to return to Competition, can only do so by notifying BE by fully completing and forwarding, the BE "REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT FORM". Reinstatement requests that are not fully completed will not be accepted and will be returned to the Athlete. The Athlete's reinstatement request date will be the date BE receives the fully completed reinstatement request. Reinstatement will be at the discretion of BE in consultation with UKAD.
5. Upon receipt of notification under Article 4, BE will, as soon as reasonably practicable:

- a) provide the Athlete with written confirmation of the outcome of the Athlete's reinstatement request; and
 - b) if the reinstatement request is approved, provide UKAD with written confirmation of the Athlete's reinstatement.
- 6. If reinstatement is granted, then the UK Anti-Doping Rules will apply to the Athlete from the date of their reinstatement request. An Athlete who is reinstated under Article 11.4 may not compete in Competitions and Events conducted by or under the auspices of BE or FIBA for a period of 6 months from the date of the reinstatement request (UK Anti- Doping Rules Article 1.4.3{a}).
 - 7. An Athlete must be available for unannounced Out-of-Competition Testing in accordance with the UK Anti-Doping Rules from the date of their reinstatement request. Being available for Out-of-Competition Testing means that an Athlete has provided current and accurate and up-to-date whereabouts information as required under the reinstatement request and **Article 3** and has complied with any request by any Anti-Doping Organisation to provide a sample.
 - 8. A decision regarding reinstatement of an Athlete may be appealed to Sports Resolutions by BE, the Athlete or UKAD.

PLAYER RETIREMENT NOTIFICATION FORM

Please complete all sections and email to competitions@basketballengland.co.uk.

1. ATHLETE INFORMATION

Last name	
First name/s	
BE membership number	
Date of Birth	
Nationality	
Gender	
Address	
Post Code	
Mobile	
Email	
I hereby certify that I have decided to permanently retire as Basketball England/ UKAD National-Level Athlete in national competitions and I request that my name should be removed from the UKAD Registered Testing Pool.	Yes / No
I hereby acknowledge that I am aware of the UK Anti-Doping Rules 2021 (article 1.4 below).	Yes / No

1.4 Retirement

1.4.1 Each Athlete will continue to be bound by and required to comply with these Rules unless and until they are deemed under the NGB's rules to have retired from the sport so that they are no longer subject to the NGB's authority.

1.4.2 Where an Athlete is in the National Registered Testing Pool or Domestic Testing Pool at the time of such retirement, they must also send written notice to UKAD of such retirement in order for it to be effective.

1.4.3 Subject to Article 1.4.4, an Athlete in the National Registered Testing Pool or the Domestic Testing Pool who has given notice of retirement in accordance with Article

1.4.1 may not resume competing in an International Event or National Event in any sport covered by the Code unless:

- (a) they have given the NGB, UKAD and their International Federation (if applicable) written notice of no less than six (6) months of their intent to return to competition; and
- (b) during that notice period they have submitted to the application of these Rules and to the jurisdiction of the NGB, UKAD, the NADP and CAS (as applicable) under the Rules, including by making themselves available for Testing, and (if requested by UKAD) by complying with Article 4.8 of the International Standard for Testing and Investigations, or (for Athletes not in the National Registered Testing Pool) by providing other whereabouts information as stipulated by UKAD.

1.4.4 Exemptions:

(a) WADA, in consultation with UKAD and the relevant International Federation, may exempt an Athlete in the National Registered Testing Pool from the six-month written notice rule under Article 1.4.3(a) where the strict application of that rule would be manifestly unfair to that Athlete. WADA's decision to grant or not grant such exemption may be appealed under Article 13.

(b) An Athlete in the Domestic Testing Pool may apply to UKAD for an exemption from Article 1.4.3(a) where the strict application of that rule would be manifestly unfair to that Athlete. UKAD's decision not to grant such exemption may be appealed under Article 13.

1.4.5 If an Athlete retires while subject to a period of Ineligibility, that Athlete must give written notice of such retirement to UKAD and may not resume competing in an International Event or National Event in any sport covered by the Code unless:

(a) they have given the NGB, UKAD and their International Federation (if applicable) written notice of no less than six (6) months (or notice equivalent to the period of Ineligibility remaining as of the date the Athlete retired, if that period was longer than six months) of their intent to return to competition; and

(b) during that notice period they have submitted to the application of these Rules and to the jurisdiction of the NGB, UKAD, the NADP and CAS (as applicable) under the Rules, including by making themselves available for Testing, and (if requested) complying with whereabouts requirements stipulated by UKAD.

1.4.6 Any competitive results obtained in violation of Article 1.4.3 shall be Disqualified unless the Athlete can establish that they could not have reasonably known that the Event in question was an International Event or a National Event.

1.4.7 Each Athlete Support Person and other Person described in Article 1.2.1 who is not an Athlete shall continue to be bound by and required to comply with these Rules unless and until they no longer carry out the activity or are bound by the arrangement that brought them within Article 1.2.1 in the first place.

1.4.8 The NGB, UKAD, the NADP and CAS (as applicable) shall continue to have jurisdiction under these Rules over a Person described in Article 1.2.1 after that Person has retired, in respect of matters taking place prior to their retirement.

(a) If such a Person retires while subject to a Results Management process, UKAD or the other Anti-Doping Organisation conducting that Results Management process retains jurisdiction to complete that process.

(b) If such a Person retires before any Results Management process has begun, UKAD and any other Anti-Doping Organisation that had Results Management authority over them before their retirement retains Results Management authority over them in respect of matters taking place prior to their retirement.

Signature (athlete):	
Date / Place:	

2. BASKETBALL ENGLAND CONFIRMATION OF PLAYER RETIREMENT

I confirm that the information given above by the player is true

Signature		Name	
Date		Position	
Place		Email	

PLAYER Return to competition request

Please complete all sections and email to competitions@basketballengland.co.uk

1.ATHLETE INFORMATION

Last name	
First name/s	
BE membership number	
Date of Birth	
Nationality	
Gender	
Address	
Post Code	
Mobile	
Email	
I hereby certify that I have decided to return to competitions, and I request that my name should be included in the BE/ UKAD Registered Testing Pool and I am available for Doping Control Testing.	Yes / No
For International Level Athletes: I will file my whereabouts as soon as access to the ADAMS system is granted by FIBA/UKAD.	Yes / No
I hereby acknowledge that I am aware of the UK Anti-Doping Rules 2021 (article 1.4 below)	Yes / No

1.4 Retirement

1.4.1 Each Athlete will continue to be bound by and required to comply with these Rules unless and until they are deemed under the NGB's rules to have retired from the sport so that they are no longer subject to the NGB's authority.

1.4.2 Where an Athlete is in the National Registered Testing Pool or Domestic Testing Pool at the time of such retirement, they must also send written notice to UKAD of such retirement in order for it to be effective.

1.4.3 Subject to Article 1.4.4, an Athlete in the National Registered Testing Pool or the Domestic Testing Pool who has given notice of retirement in accordance with Article

1.4.1 may not resume competing in an International Event or National Event in any sport covered by the Code unless:

(c) they have given the NGB, UKAD and their International Federation (if applicable) written notice of no less than six (6) months of their intent to return to competition; and

(d) during that notice period they have submitted to the application of these Rules and to the jurisdiction of the NGB, UKAD, the NADP and CAS (as applicable) under the

Rules, including by making themselves available for Testing, and (if requested by UKAD) by complying with Article 4.8 of the International Standard for Testing and Investigations, or (for Athletes not in the National Registered Testing Pool) by providing other whereabouts information as stipulated by UKAD.

1.4.4 Exemptions:

(c) WADA, in consultation with UKAD and the relevant International Federation, may exempt an Athlete in the National Registered Testing Pool from the six-month written notice rule under Article 1.4.3(a) where the strict application of that rule would be manifestly unfair to that Athlete. WADA's decision to grant or not grant such exemption may be appealed under Article 13.

(d) An Athlete in the Domestic Testing Pool may apply to UKAD for an exemption from Article 1.4.3(a) where the strict application of that rule would be manifestly unfair to that Athlete. UKAD's decision not to grant such exemption may be appealed under Article 13.

1.4.5 If an Athlete retires while subject to a period of Ineligibility, that Athlete must give written notice of such retirement to UKAD and may not resume competing in an International Event or National Event in any sport covered by the Code unless:

(c) they have given the NGB, UKAD and their International Federation (if applicable) written notice of no less than six (6) months (or notice equivalent to the period of Ineligibility remaining as of the date the Athlete retired, if that period was longer than six months) of their intent to return to competition; and

(d) during that notice period they have submitted to the application of these Rules and to the jurisdiction of the NGB, UKAD, the NADP and CAS (as applicable) under the Rules, including by making themselves available for Testing, and (if requested) complying with whereabouts requirements stipulated by UKAD.

1.4.6 Any competitive results obtained in violation of Article 1.4.3 shall be Disqualified unless the Athlete can establish that they could not have reasonably known that the Event in question was an International Event or a National Event.

1.4.7 Each Athlete Support Person and other Person described in Article 1.2.1 who is not an Athlete shall continue to be bound by and required to comply with these Rules unless and until they no longer carry out the activity or are bound by the arrangement that brought them within Article 1.2.1 in the first place.

1.4.8 The NGB, UKAD, the NADP and CAS (as applicable) shall continue to have jurisdiction under these Rules over a Person described in Article 1.2.1 after that Person has retired, in respect of matters taking place prior to their retirement.

(c) If such a Person retires while subject to a Results Management process, UKAD or the other Anti-Doping Organisation conducting that Results Management process retains jurisdiction to complete that process.

(d) If such a Person retires before any Results Management process has begun, UKAD and any other Anti-Doping Organisation that had Results Management authority over them before their retirement retains Results Management authority over them in respect of matters taking place prior to their retirement.

Signature (athlete):	
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Date / Place:	
---------------	--

2. BASKETBALL ENGLAND CONFIRMATION OF PLAYER RETIREMENT

I confirm that the information given above by the player is true

Signature		Name	
Date		Position	
Place		Email	

APPENDIX 16: DIVISION ONE MEN: FORMALISED STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD		REQUIREMENTS
CATEGORY & DESCRIPTION		
CATEGORY	RATIONALE DESCRIPTION	DEFINED REQUIREMENTS
ELIGIBILITY		
CLUB GOVERNANCE		
Legal Entity	Club is properly constituted and incorporated to ensure minimal risk & professional governance Optimal status to thrive and grow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal legal entity registered with Companies House
Financial Viability, Transparency & Management Club Management Structure & Roles	<p>To ensure every NBL1 club is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) financially sustainable and viable to complete the season and beyond (ii) has rigour & personnel skills to manage/maximise income & minimise/manage expenditure (iii) has good financial governance control compliant with financial law (e.g. VAT registration if required/appropriate, making tax digital etc) <p>Ensuring better consistency of functions & roles between clubs to enable collective collaboration Enable appropriate capacity & capability to deliver all club operations & standards Exemplar club to enhance game appeal & reputation in readiness for commercial investment Enable enhanced sustainability & succession planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium term financial plan (minimum 3 years) Separate Club Bank Account with more than two signatories Managing transactions & accounts through approved financial accounting software (e.g. Xero, QuickBooks, Sage) Appointed External Accountants <p>Meets Club Management specification document requirements for Year 0 by May 2024. <i>[All 11 functions covered; Max 3 functions per person/role; Minimum 5 senior club management personnel incl. Head Coach]</i></p>
FACILITY / VENUE		
Security of Tenure	Ensure club can fulfil fixtures for the next 12 months without any issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owned Venue; or Formal signed contract/lease for minimum 12-month usage at designated times; or Written assurance from venue owner where club is embedded within owned organisation (e.g. University)

Minimum Seating - 250	Ensure club has capacity to promote events/fixtures to grow the audience to enhance commercial readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 250 seats available for every home league & Cup game
PRODUCT DELIVERY		
GAME DAY EXPERIENCE		
PA/Announcer/Commentary	To ensure an element of minimal consistency and enhancement of the product from the outset with regards to fan engagement and game day experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA/Announcer at every home game Music Team Introductions In-Game Live Commentary/Fan Engagement
LIVE STATS		
FIBA Live Stats	To provide all stats for NBL D1 to enable fan engagement, player tracking and content production to promote the overall product	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory use of FIBA Live Stats software for the provision of statistics at every game 'Back Up Plan' in place should there be personnel, connection or internet issues Stats uploaded within one hour of game end should 'Back Up Plan' fail for whatever reason for there be an issue with 'Live Stats'
FAN DATA		
Collection of Fan Data	To start to build commercial readiness where 'data is king'. This will enable clubs to segment and tailor communications to fans along with enhance promotion of games to increase attendances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of fan data for each home game to be delivered through online ticketing system even for 'on the day' attendees as recommended by IVM
Minimum Spectators	Whilst minimum seating is a provision for eligibility the number of spectators is required to raise the profile, game day experience & make content & media look attractive for everyone involved. This also starts to build the product for commercial readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 100 spectators at every game
PLAYER WELFARE & SUPPORT		
In-Game Court-side provision	At this level of the game with professional, semi-professional and high-level amateur players, the professionalism of player welfare and care should be of high quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOME TEAM: to provide a Physio or Sports Therapist at every game courtside for the full duration of the game & one hour post-game AWAY TEAM: to provide Sports Therapist for every game but in event not possible the minimum is a fully qualified first-aider with the team court-side <p>Note: Minimum qualification for physio/sports therapist is either fully qualified or final year of trainee course - this is in addition to first aid provision at the venue itself</p>

Off-Court Treatment/Rehab	In order to maintain high quality playing standards, to build the attractiveness of the product for commercial readiness and for the clubs and league to be attractive to potential high-quality players, a minimum standard of post-game and rehab/treatment provision should be available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to fully qualified physio provision • Access to fully qualified sports therapist provision
MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA		
Game Content Production	Every club, alongside BE, should collectively be promoting the game to achieve the agreed objective of growing the reach and profile of the sport through 'QUALITY EXPOSURE' - creating visibility, media attention, and positive publicity for the sport more widely	<p>SOCIAL MEDIA</p> <p>Pre-Game</p> <p>i) Pre-game 'game day' social post, incl links to: tickets, preview (if available), livestats, livestream</p> <p>In-Game</p> <p>i) In-game highlights clips/pictures for home games;</p> <p>ii) in-game quarter-score updates</p> <p>iii) selected pics/clips to be collab-ed on IG with @NBLEngland;</p> <p>iv) full-time result within 30 minutes on game finishing.</p> <p>Post-Game:</p> <p>i) Post-game highlight clips/pictures within 2 hours;</p> <p>ii) @NBLEngland tagged in all posts</p> <p>CLUB WEBSITE</p> <p>POST-GAME: Match result updated with one hour</p> <p>MATCH REPORT: Match report within 24 hours - promoted on social channels</p> <p>OTHER</p> <p>Upload pics/clips to NBL within 24 hours (these images can be accessed by away teams, others etc; bank of stock images for all teams to use)</p>
Social Media Presence		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club has social media presence on at least 3 of the following channels: i) Instagram ii) X iii) TikTok iv) Facebook • Club has dedicated marketing/social media person suitably qualified/experienced in line with the new 'Club Management' specification document