National League Rules & Regulations

2026/27

National Leagues Committee (NLC)

Independent Chair
TBD

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This document details the Regulations to be followed by all club competing in the Senior National Basketball Competitions and should be read in conjunction with the Basketball Ireland Regulations.

DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations:

BI	Basketball Ireland	NGB	National Governing Body
BIHQ	Basketball Ireland Headquarters	NBRA	National Basketball Referees Association
LC	League Commissioner	CTOC	Commissioners & Table Officials Committee
NLC	National Leagues Committee	LM	League Manager
NAC	National Appeals Committee	SI	Sport Ireland
NDC	National Disciplinary Committee	WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency

Definitions:

National Competitions: to include Men's and Women's Super League, Men's and Women's Division 1 and Men's Division 2 competitions, league, cup and end of season trophy competitions, this excludes all underage competitions.

Pat Duffy National Cup: This is the Men's National Cup Competition involving Men's Super League Teams.

Presidents' National Cup: This competition is a Senior Men's National Cup involving Men's Division One and Two teams.

Paudie O'Connor National Cup: This is the Women's National Cup Competition involving Women's Super League Teams.

Women's Div.1 National Cup: This competition is the Women's National Cup involving Women's Division One teams.

Category 1 – A player who is a FIBA Europe Developed Player (FE) – definition below.

FIBA Europe Developed Player (FED-Player) - A player who played underage basketball [between the ages 12 & 18] for at least two consecutive years with an official school/club registered with a National Governing Body, which is affiliated to FIBA Europe. The onus of proof of eligibility shall be on the club seeking to register the player.
On application to the NLC, an exception to this regulation may be granted upon approval that a player who was born in a FIBA Europe affiliated country and has completed primary education in a FIBA Europe affiliated country before the age of 12 may be granted a Cat 1 license. Also, they must hold a current EU or common area passport which was obtained prior to the age of 16. The onus of proof of eligibility shall be on the club seeking to register the player.

Category 1 Irish – A player who is a FIBA Europe Developed Player (FE) and is an Irish or a Northern Irish citizen.

- **A player who is not an Irish or a Northern Irish citizen but has spent at least 5 years in the Irish or Northern Irish Secondary School system is eligible to be a Category 1 Irish player.**
- **A Category 1 EU player who has resided in Ireland for 5+ years and obtains an Irish passport is eligible to become a Category 1 Irish player. If the player obtains the passport after the season starts, their eligibility does not start until the following season.**
- **A Category 1 EU player who has resided in Northern Ireland for 5+ years and obtains an UK passport is eligible to become a Category 1 Irish player. If the player obtains the passport after the season starts, their eligibility does not start until the following season.**

Category 1 EU - A player who is a FIBA Europe Developed Player (FE) and is NOT an Irish or a Northern Irish citizen. Each team is permitted to nominate one Category 1 EU player before the season begins and this player can be replaced at any time during the season. All Category 1 EU players must play at least two league games before they are eligible to play in the Cup or end of season play-offs.

Category 2 Player – Any player not qualifying for a Category 1 licence.
Note: a player cannot be granted a Category 2 licence if they fulfil the criteria to be eligible for a Category 1 licence.

Incoming Player – any player who was not registered with your club on the last day of the previous season and registered with Basketball Ireland.

Linked Player & Linked Club: An area board player permitted to play with a NLC team via an official agreement between a Local Area Board Team and a NLC Team to provide opportunities for development and progression of such players.

Club: The entity that applied for membership of the National League.

Team: The personnel chosen by the club to represent it in the National League including:

- Players
- Coaches
- Medical staff
- Team managers.

Venue Officer: The person nominated by the host club for responsibility for all aspects of the staging of the game including all health and safety issues.

Consultation: Conference call or meeting

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1. GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

1.1. These regulations govern the operation of the National Leagues Competitions and all other competitions under the jurisdiction of the National Leagues Committee (NLC). The regulations will be subject to a full review at the end of the season, based on:

A. The operation of the National League and the National Cup Competitions

B. The Clubs' suggestions for amendments to the Regulations.

1.2. The NLC will be responsible for all policies and regulations concerning National League Basketball Club Competitions. The NLC is comprised of representatives of the National League Clubs plus a secretary (the National League Manager) and an independent chair, as laid out in the NLC terms of reference.

1.3. The NLC League Manager may take routine day-to-day interpretations of regulations where required and where the regulations and precedents provide a clear set of guidelines for such decision making.

1.4. Where time constraints exist the League Manager, and at least two members of the NLC, should confer where possible and reach agreement concerning appropriate regulation issues. All decisions made using this special provision will be subject to ratification by a full meeting by the NLC.

1.5. The official channel of communication between the League Manager/NLC and a participating club is the Club Secretary/National League Secretary, as nominated on the League Entry form when the club registers for National Competition each season. All correspondence must be by e-mail. Only correspondence received through this channel will be considered by the NLC.

1.6. These regulations form part of the Regulations of Basketball Ireland and should be read in conjunction with them. All Clubs must make themselves aware of the Basketball Ireland Regulations.

1.7. For the purpose of National Competitions, a club must be a registered member of Basketball Ireland and a member of their geographical area board. Clubs should have competed in their geographical Area Board for a minimum of two seasons before applying for entry into the national league competitions.

1.8. To participate in the competitions mentioned above in 1.1, clubs and individuals are taken to accept these regulations in their entirety.

1.9. BI and NLC members shall be given free access to all basketball courts where games under the control of the NLC are played.

1.10. The NLC may impose fines in accordance with the schedule of automatic fines. The Committee may impose penalties (such as disciplinary action and/or fines) for breaches of the regulations that have no specified penalty. In circumstances where an increased fine is warranted, through aggravated or repeated action, the committee may impose such fines at its discretion.

1.11. The National Leagues Competitions season officially begins on dates agreed and designated by the NLC.

1.12. Where interpretation of the regulations is required, the NLC will have the right to exercise its judgement and discretion considering the best interests of Basketball in Ireland and of its clubs and/or potential clubs and the interest of the Board of Basketball Ireland and the NLC.

1.13. Tournaments/Incoming Tours: Tournaments and/or games involving incoming teams organised by NLC teams must by sanctioned by Basketball Ireland and must comply with Basketball Ireland Regulations.

1.14. All pre-season games and tournaments involving NLC teams are subject to these Rules & Regulations. Any disciplinary issues which arise during such games will be subject to the NLC disciplinary procedures.

1.15. During the season and on the occasion of matches in the European Championships, selection for the Ireland National Team takes priority over all club commitments, in accordance with Basketball Ireland Regulations. National Team Training has been restricted to specific days to ensure players selected for National Teams can fulfil club fixtures and National Team Training. Fixtures accepted on these designated “national practice” dates are subject to both clubs involved NOT having any player(s) involved with National Team Training Squads, or teams being willing to play without these selected players. If this is not the case, HOME teams may be asked to change the club fixture from Sunday to Saturday (or vice versa), at their own expense. Further guidelines in relation to National Teams are outlined in Basketball Ireland Regulations.

TROPHIES

All National League Competition trophies will remain the property of the NLC/BI. When the winning clubs have been ascertained, the NLC, or a person nominated by the NLC will present the appropriate trophy to that club, who will then be responsible for its return to BIHQ by the following deadlines:

i. National Cup Trophies – 30th November of the following season

ii. National League Conference Trophies - 31st December of the following season

iii. All other Trophies – 31st January of the following season

Failure to return the trophies by this date will result in a fine determined by the NLC.

Should a trophy be damaged or lost whilst under the care or custody of a club, any costs incurred in returning the trophy to its original condition or if it must be replaced will be charged to the club by BI.

2. NATIONAL COMPETITIONS STRUCTURES

2.1 National Leagues Competition Structure:

2.1.1 The NLC, not later than 31st May each year (or any other date the NLC may agree to) will determine the format of its competitions. An entry fee will apply to all teams. A participation bond of €500 shall be lodged with the NLC by any club intending to compete in National League Competitions on or before 31st May.

2.1.2 The NLC will decide what awards may be given to teams who achieve certain levels of success in competitions.

2.1.3 The Basketball Ireland National League competitions provide competition for all 32 counties. The competition culminates with Regular Season Final's, Playoffs and National League Finals.

2.1.4 The League standings will be determined by awarding (3) points for a win. Teams will not be awarded any points for a defeat (0). No points (0) will be awarded for forfeiture at the discretion of the NLC.

2.1.5 Should a team fail to fulfil a national fixture the NLC may deduct additional points, penalise the club (Amount to be decided by the NLC, but not exceeding €3000) and the club may also be open to further sanction.

2.1.6 For Season 2026-27 the following league structures will apply
MSL – Straight League of 12 teams. The top placed team will be deemed Regular Season Champions. The top 8 teams will qualify for the End of Season Play-offs. The winner of the EOS play-offs will be deemed the Overall League Champions of the 2026-27 season. The 12th placed team may be relegated to MD1.
WSL – Straight League of 10 teams. The top placed team will be deemed Regular Season Champions. The top 8 teams will qualify for the End of Season Play-offs. The winner of the EOS play-offs will be deemed the Overall League Champions of the 2026-27 season. The 10th placed team may be relegated to WD1.
MD1 – 2 Conferences comprising of 7 teams each. Top 4 teams from each conference will qualify for End of Season play-offs. The winner of the EOS play-offs will be deemed the Overall League Champions of the 2026-27 season and may be promoted to MSL. The 7th placed teams in each conference may be relegated to MD2 for the following season.
WD1 – 2 Conferences comprising of 6 teams each. The top 4 teams from each conference will qualify for End of Season play-offs. The winner of the EOS play-offs will be deemed the Overall League Champions of the 2026-27 season and may be promoted to WSL.
MD2 – Straight League of 8 teams. The top placed team will be deemed Regular Season Champions. The top 4 teams will qualify for the End of Season Play-offs. The winner of the EOS play-offs will be deemed the Overall League Champions of the 2026-27 season and will be promoted to MD1.

In the event of a tie between two teams or more on the same number of points, the final positions will be decided by the details outlined in Appendix 7.

2.1.7 Promotion/Relegation
The format will be agreed by the NLC prior to the start of the season.

2.2 National Cups Competition Structure:

2.2.1 The NLC will determine the format of the Senior Cup Competitions, prior to the commencement of each season.

2.2.2 The National Cup will be staged per the fixture schedule outlined by the NLC each season.

2.2.3 All Players participating in the National Cups are Cup Tied and may only play for one team in the National Cup competition. Players are also cup tied in the case of players playing under regulation link agreement – if both their teams are playing in the competition, then priority must be given to their original club. This does not apply to U-20 players

2.2.4 All Players participating in the National Cups are Cup Tied and may only play for one team in the senior (Super League and Div 1) cup competition. **Category 2 & Category 1 EU** players **MUST** play at least two league games in the league for the team they are registered with to be eligible to play in the National Cup and End of Season Play-offs. The NLC reserves the right to waive this rule in exceptional circumstances.

2.2.5 The winners of the National Cup will be presented with the National Cup Trophy and 15 National Cup Medals. Second place will also be presented with 15 Medals.

2.2.6 The SL Cup and D1 Senior National Cup competitions will be played in a knockout format. The NLC Committee will conduct an open draw for the competition.

2.3 National Leagues Committee Finances:

2.3.1 League & Cup Fees: Each Club is required to pay a Fee prior to the start of the season as outlined by the NLC. League entry fee will be included on the application form.

2.3.2 This season the entry fees per team are as follows:

- Men's Super League (inc. National Cup where eligible) - €550 + €500 bond
- Women's Super League (inc. National Cup where eligible) - €550 + €500 bond
- Men's Division One (incl. National Cup where eligible) - €550 + €500 bond
- Women's Division One (incl. National Cup where eligible) - €550 + €500 bond
- Men's Division Two (incl. National Cup where eligible) - €300 + €300 bond
- If the fee is not paid on time, there will be a late fee of €100 added.

2.3.3 Referees Fees
Home Clubs are responsible for paying Referee and Commissioner Fees. At the end of each game, the commissioner will give the venue officer two claim forms – one for the team of officials and one for the commissioner. The club has 6 days from date of the game to make payment. Payment should be made by EFT or Revolut. Cash payments are not permitted. The club emails a copy of both claim forms to BI within 48 hours of the game. BI Accounts will manage an equalisation scheme whereby clubs who have overpaid claim forms during the course of the season due to travel expenses will receive a refund and clubs who have underpaid claim forms during the course of the season due to travel expenses will be invoiced for an additional amount to ensure that all clubs pay an equal amount over the course of the season.

2.3.4 Monies owed to NLC: Clubs are given 30 days to pay fines. Any monies overdue to the NLC by a Club may be penalised with an additional 10% late fee charge.

2.3.5 If a National League Club folds, or the team withdraws from any competition, the NLC reserves the right to refuse entry to its competitions in the future.

2.3.6 All clubs must reapply for membership of the national league prior to each season.

2.3.7 Bank Accounts: Clubs are required to keep autonomous bank accounts to manage the affairs of their teams. The NLC may at any time request copies of a Clubs bank statement. Statements must be provided within 5 working days of the request. The accounts of the team are to be maintained in accordance with documented requirements of the NLC. Failure to maintain accounts as required may result in a fine of up to €200 and may affect their membership status in the National League Competitions.

3. LICENSING PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES FOR PLAYERS, COACHES AND OFFICIALS

3.1 Registration and Licensing:

3.1.1 National League clubs must

- be registered with Basketball Ireland through the club registration scheme.
- be registered with its designated Area Board.
- Coaches, assistant coaches, club officials (any person authorised to sit on a team bench must be registered/licenced as an individual member of Basketball Ireland) (Appendix 5)

3.1.2 Players and/or Clubs, Officials, Coaches, Referees participating in any competition not under the jurisdiction of BI will be considered ineligible to participate in any competition under the control of the NLC.

3.1.3 Except as allowed for in Basketball Ireland and NLC Regulations (section 3.7 link players), a player may only be registered with one club at any time, and the player must possess a valid National League competition licence to be eligible to compete.

3.1.4 Pre-commencement of competition, to licence players, all the necessary licensing documentation as outlined in 3.1.6, must reach BIHQ no later than 17:00h on the designated deadline as decided by the NLC. Players licenced after this deadline will be subject to a late fee per player.

3.1.5 Players competing in SL, D1, D2 AND SC must be over the age of 16 before the 1st of January of the current season.

3.1.6 During the season to licence a player a club must

- Advise the League Manager by email 72 hours before the player can play a game.
- All Correct documentation must be uploaded to the players online profile 48 hours before a game.
- It may not be feasible to licence a player during the holiday period.

3.1.7 To license a player for National League Competitions, the following items, as appropriate, MUST be forwarded to the National League Manager:

A. The National League Competition Licence Application Form/Renewal Form,
B. A copy of the player's current passport, **(Must be passport – Travel ID Cards will not be accepted)**
C. The required fees as outlined in Appendix 3
D. Copy of the player's work permit or travel permit which shows that they are legally in the country for the duration of their stay. A player's licence may be suspended if they are deemed to be not legally in the country.
E. All documentation **MUST** be uploaded onto the BI registration system by the designated deadline).
F. If the player has transferred from another club, a copy of the complete BI Transfer Form must accompany the application. This form must be signed by the acquiring club, the transferring club and finally the local area board/regional board. The latter club was registered to BEFORE it will be accepted as a legitimate transfer.
G. If the player is a link-player, the player link form must accompany the licence application. This must also be signed off by the local area board/regional board to which both clubs are affiliated. The signature of the area board cannot be unreasonably withheld.
H. If the player has previously played outside of Ireland, then International Clearance as outlined in Appendix 6 must be sought by Basketball Ireland from the Federation the player last played with.
I. Any FIBA documentation that is required including the FIBA Foreign-A Licence Form and Self-Declaration Form if the player's nationality is anything other than IRISH. (See Appendix 6)
J. A player is NOT eligible to play unless their licence has been approved by the National League Manager.

3.1.8 An incoming player is any player that was not a member of your club on the last day of the previous season and registered with Basketball Ireland. This does not apply to linked players provided they were members of that club on the last day of the previous season.

3.2 ***International Clearance of Players and FIBA Licence Fees See Appendix 6***

3.3 ***Player Categories and Quota's:***
Players may qualify under one of two player categorisation types.

3.3.1 For the purpose of the National League Competitions, two Categories of players have been identified as follows -
A. Category 1 players,
B. Category 2 players.

3.3.2 **Category 1:** A player who is a FIBA Europe Developed Players (FED) ***See definitions

3.3.3 **Category 2**: A player not qualified as a FED Player.

Player Licensing

3.4 ***Category 1 Licensing: - (See appendix 3 for costs of licensing players)***

3.4.1 A team must licence a minimum of 12 players, which must include at least **10 Category 1** players by the designated pre-season licensing date.

3.4.2 A team can licence an incoming Category 1 (including Cat 1 EU) player until the 31st of October annually after which rule 3.4.3 applies. See 3.4.4 for new Cat 1 EU regulation introduced.

3.4.3 Teams can add to this list of registered players at any time during the season from the pool of Category 1 players that were registered to their club with Basketball Ireland by the 31st of December of the current season and had not been transferred in or out. Players can only receive one licence per season.

3.4.4 Teams are permitted to nominate one Cat 1 EU player as their 'Priority Player.' This player may be replaced at any time during the season due to injury or other reasons. This player is only eligible to play in the National Cup or End of Season play-offs if they have played two league games for the club during the season.

3.4.5 CATEGORY 1 IRISH PLAYERS
MSL – Teams must always have TWO Category 1 Irish player on court.
WSL – Teams must always have TWO Category 1 Irish players on court.
MD1 - Teams must always have TWO Category 1 Irish players on court.
WD1 - Teams must always have THREE Category 1 Irish players on court.
MD2 - Teams must always have THREE Category 1 Irish players on court.

3.4.5 Incoming Players**
To licence a player for the coming season, the club must provide a full completed licence application form and all the supporting documents listed on that form. An application is only deemed to be received when the League Manager confirms in writing that a correct form has been received.

Player Clearance:
Note: Any player whose latest official registration to play Basketball was with another NGB must receive clearance from the last National Federation in which the person played (see Appendix 6)

3.4.5.1 Incoming Players (from other National League Competition teams)
a) A team may only licence 3 incoming players in any one season,
b) a team is restricted to a maximum of two players who were licenced to the same SL/D1/D2 team on the last day of the previous season.
c) Incoming Players: (not from other National League Competitions teams/New players)
Incoming players not having played from another NL team may be licenced up to a maximum of 4 players.

NOTE – A maximum of two (2) of these players may be from the same club in consecutive years*.
*Exceptions may be made in the event a club has been disbanded.

NOTE – A player is NOT considered to be an incoming player from another basketball club if they have been locally trained with your club and have played with the club for at least four years out of the previous eight. The burden of proof lie with the club. Such players are still deemed to be incoming players in the overall interpretation of the regulation.

An incoming Category 1 player is any player who was NOT registered with your club/linked club on the last

day of the previous season and registered with Basketball Ireland, taking 3.6.5 into account.

3.4.6 Exception: U-20 players who are not registered with a National League team can be signed without the requirements listed above and can be signed up to the 31st December.

3.4.7 A team must have a minimum of seven Category 1 players on the score sheet **and in attendance at** the game.

3.5 Category 2 Licensing:

3.5.1 A team may licence a category 2 player anytime during the season. (See Appendix 3 for fees)

3.5.2 In **MSL & WSL,** only **TWO** Category 2 players may appear on the score sheet for any one game and only **TWO** Category 2 players can be on court at any one time. For **MD1, WD1 & MD2** teams only **ONE** Category 2 players may appear on the scoresheet for any one game.

3.5.3 To obtain a Category 2 licence for clubs from Republic of Ireland, proof of permission to stay in Ireland must be provided. This can be through a valid work permit (general work permit or sport and cultural permit), student visa or working holiday visa. For clubs in Northern Ireland must be through a sport and cultural permit.

3.5.4 Playing licenses will be granted to players on a temporary basis with proof of application for one of the above visas for clubs in ROI. These licences will be for 90 days from date of arrival and may be suspended once this 90-day period has elapsed. Clubs must provide an arrival date for the players to avail of this process. Please note that the player cannot be remunerated during this 90-day period. If a player leaves after a 90-day visa, note that they cannot re-enter the country on another 90-day visa for a period of 180 days. If a club wishes to replace a Cat 2 player and the player being replaced has not received their work permit, then the club will only be permitted 45 days to obtain work permit for replacement player. If the player who is being replaced has been granted a work permit, then the club has a fresh 90 days to obtain the permit.

3.5.5 Playing licences will be granted for players in Northern Ireland on the leave to remain visa. Proof must be provided of the application to switch to a sports and cultural visa within a 30-day period of the arrival of the player. The licence will be valid until the decision is made by the Home Office. If the application is unsuccessful then the licence will be suspended.

3.6 Transfer/Release Rules:

Category 1 players

3.6.1 A Category 1 player wishing to change clubs must obtain written clearance from his last club and Area Board to transfer to a new club.

3.6.2 A player remains a member of a club unless FIBA international clearance outside of Ireland or domestic transfer within Ireland has been granted.

3.6.3 A Category 1 player wishing to transfer between clubs must comply with the regulations of the Area Boards to which his existing and new clubs are affiliated and must complete the BI Transfer Form. Area boards can't unreasonably refuse to sign a transfer form.

3.6.4 A linked player from the previous season wishing to transfer to a NL Club is considered an incoming player and must apply for a transfer to the NL Club.

3.6.5 Category 1 players may only transfer to a team prior to the designated start of the season date as set by the NLC. It is possible for a team to transfer in Category 1, only from another FIBA federation outside of Ireland, after the designated start date, if that player was registered with the club and Basketball Ireland on the last day of the previous season as a Category 1 player and had not transferred out. This rule does not apply to transfers within Ireland.

3.6.6 Category 2 players are automatically released at the end of the season unless the club secretary notifies the League Manager within fourteen days of reasons why the player should not be released.

3.6.7 A Category 2 player wishing to move between clubs in-season must receive permission from the club to which they are licensed and complete a new player competition licence application form and include all necessary supporting documents. Category 2 transfer form must be signed by both clubs and the NLC.

3.6.8 When a Category 2 player requests to be released or cleared in writing from a club, the club must confirm their release in writing within 5 days or provide the League Manager with a written reason why this player should not be released.

3.6.9 If a Category 2 player is registered to play for a team in either of their last two games of the regular season, they cannot re-sign for another team for the Play-Off's/Champions Trophy/League Cup.

3.7 Link-Players:

3.7.1 All National Leagues Clubs are expected to build links with clubs in their locality with the objective of promoting the game, promoting the National League team, promoting the linked club and providing opportunities for player development and progression.

3.7.2 All links must be renewed annually by the relevant Area Boards and documentation lodged with the League Manager for his approval by 30th September. Only links approved by the League Manager, on behalf of the NLC, can be activated during the subsequent playing season. Link agreements cannot be unreasonably refused by area boards.

3.7.3 These regional linkages can be formed between clubs in a locality (defined as the geographical area under the control of the Area Board/Regional Board the teams are affiliated with), as specified in 3.7.5 where no equivalent standard team exists in the lower club.

3.7.4 When a National League team signs players on a link agreement from another club in their locality, players from the linked club are not considered incoming players or transfers to the National League team, unless they are an incoming player to the linked club, (i.e., the player must have been a registered player with the club in question and Basketball Ireland on the last day of the previous season). Players from linked clubs may play in the National League Competitions and can also continue to play for their linked club in the relevant competition.

3.7.5 For the National Cup Competition, link-players are cup-tied as outlined in 2.2.3. This does not apply to U-20 players.

3.7.6 There are no restrictions on the number of link-players that a club can licence in any one season but to be eligible for licensing as a link-player, the player must have been registered with the linked club and Basketball Ireland on the last day of the previous season.

3.7.7 Whilst a person is a member of a club, no person representing any other club shall approach the person with a view to inducing them to leave that Club, unless permission has been granted in writing by a duly authorized representative of the club to which the person is currently licenced. Any infringement may result in disciplinary action being imposed on the club.

4. FIXTURES, GAME SCHEDULING & GAME RE-SCHEDULING

4.1 Fixture Scheduling:

4.1.1 Games will normally be played on a Saturday or Sunday. They may, however, be played on other days as stipulated by the NLC, or by mutual agreement and with the permission of the League Manager. All games shall tip-off on or between the following times, unless both teams and the League Manager have agreed that it is acceptable to play outside of these guidelines.

	DAY	TIME
A.	Weekdays	19:00 – 20:30
B.	Saturday	13:00 – 20:00
C.	Sunday	13:00 – 16:30

D. Bank Holidays should be treated as Sundays for fixture purposes.

4.1.2 The NLC may have to make special arrangements for TV or streamed games and games organised by them, allowing them to be played outside of these times. The NLC also retains the right to change fixtures and/or venues and/or arrange fixtures at venues other than a team's registered home venue for the overall good of basketball.

4.1.3 The NLC will prepare a fixture list prior to the start of the season and changes will not be permitted in respect of the fixture list unless approved by the NLC.

A. Prior to the deadline outlined by NLC, whenever two clubs reach agreement regarding the rearrangements of a fixture, the HOME team may make an application in writing to NLC, using the change of fixture form, for the fixture to be changed without any penalty. It is the responsibility of the HOME team to inform this change with the AWAY team in writing.
B. After the fixtures are released, the request to change any fixture from its published date and time will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
C. In such cases, where a change is approved, the club responsible for the change will automatically incur an administrative charge as outlined in Appendix 5 of €100. If the request is less than 7 days prior to the match there is an additional late fee of €50. "Play-by" games when fixed are treated like any other game.
D. The NLC has the right to reschedule fixtures to comply with any COVID-19 guidelines or any health and safety issue as notified or advised by the government, that may be issued from time-to-time.

4.1.4 When a competition fixture is to be set or rescheduled by the teams, the home team must rearrange this with the away team as soon as possible and confirm new fixture details with the National League Manager. In the event of difficulty in rearranging the fixture the NLC reserves the right to rearrange the game.

4.1.5 Home teams should confirm all their fixtures, including play-by games with NLC by email by the requested deadline. Failure to confirm fixtures will entitle the NLC to set fixtures as necessary.

4.2 Game Disruptions Postponements, Cancellations and Rescheduling:

4.2.1 In the case of a postponement clubs will have five days to reschedule the game, taking 4.1.4 into account. If clubs fail to reach agreement as to when a match shall take place, the League Manager in consultation with at least two members of the NLC shall specify the date and time of the match if applicable or the game may be awarded to the non-offending team 20 - 0 and additional League points may be deducted. The club may be fined.
NOTE: In the months of March, April & May- the 5 days quoted above reduce to 2 days.

4.2.2 If the game is being postponed for other reasons acceptable to the NLC, a new date must be confirmed prior to the original fixture being cancelled.

4.2.3 If a venue becomes unplayable for any reason within fourteen days of a scheduled game, the Home Team should provide a suitable alternative time and date and advise the League Manager and the travelling team, accordingly, taking 4.1.4 into account.

4.2.4 If a venue becomes unplayable for any reason within 48hrs of a scheduled game, the home team must provide a suitable alternative venue. If it is not possible, the NLC reserves the right to rearrange the fixture.

4.2.5 If the visiting team has commenced to travel prior to notification of the postponement/cancellation of the game, they can apply to the NLC for legitimate travel expenses incurred.

4.2.6 Any expenses paid by the NLC due to postponement must be reimbursed to the NLC by the home team.

4.2.7 If the circumstances were within the control of the home team, they would be asked to pay part or all of these expenses to the visiting team and the NLC will decide if the game should be awarded to the away team via forfeit.

4.2.8 If a venue proves unplayable on the day of a game, then the following procedures shall apply:

A. The home team will be given one hour to make the court playable or provide an alternative venue, within a reasonable distance, which has been approved as a League venue.
B. Where it is the fault of the home team that the venue is unplayable, they will pay the expenses and fees of the officials and the legitimate expenses of the visiting team. In addition, the home team may be fined if the venue proves unplayable on the day of a game, and it is the fault of the home team.
C. Failure by a team to fulfill a fixture at the appointed day/time shall result in the team being fined. Not exceeding €3000 as determined by the NLC, if the NLC does not accept the case made by the team.

4.2.9 If a game begins and is disrupted for any reason (except for dampness) the following procedures shall apply -

A. Game Commissioner, (or Referee in the absence of a Game Commissioner) will take the score sheet at the point of the disruption. The game commissioner/referee must include a detailed report of this disruption.
B. The Game Commissioner/Referee investigates to see if the disruption can be resolved and if the game can continue within a reasonable time frame.
C. If the game cannot be resumed, the League Manager will investigate the circumstances which led to the disruption.
D. The NLC will make the final determination as to whether the disruption was outside the control of the host team.
E. If the disruption was caused by one of the teams or their supporters, the game may be lost by forfeit and a fine may be levied.
F. If the disruption was beyond the control of the teams, the game would be resumed at the point of the disruption, at a time and place determined by the NLC.
G. The game will not be resumed if both teams agree to let the score stand at the point of disruption, as the final score.

Dampness (wet floor caused by condensation, humidity or other reason):

4.2.10 If a game is disrupted due to dampness on the floor the following procedures will apply:

A. On the first occurrence of dampness, the Referee will stop the game and allow the home team fifteen minutes to correct the problem.
B. On the second occurrence, the Referee should stop the game and advise the Game Commissioner that the floor is unplayable. The Referee will make the final decision to abandon the game.
C. If a game is abandoned due to dampness, the away team will be awarded the victory by a score of 20 to 0. If the score at the time of stoppage is more than 20 points in favour of the away team, that score will stand.
D. An alternative venue is not an option once the game has commenced in relation to A, B & C above.

4.2.11 If a team fails to reach a venue due to adverse weather conditions, the NLC may rule that the game should be re-scheduled provided that:

A. The League Manager is satisfied that the team made every effort to travel to the game based on the submission of the travelling team outlining the efforts made to travel to the game and specifically, there were prior indications that the roads would be impassable.

B. If these conditions are met the game will be re-scheduled as outlined above.
C. If these conditions are not met and the NLC does not accept the case made by the team, then a result of 20-0 will be awarded to the home team.

4.2.12 In exceptional circumstances, the NLC may decide to re-schedule a game when one of the teams fails to show up for reasons other than adverse weather provided the reason is compelling, clearly evidenced by the offending team and the League Manager can verify the situation.

4.2.13 National TV Games: Basketball Ireland/NLC, through the League Manager, reserves the right to change fixtures to accommodate television coverage The following conditions will apply for all TV games:

A. The designated home team will receive the gate and will be responsible for the payment of gym hire, referees' fees, game commissioner's fees and table officials' fees.
B. NLC will be responsible for any additional costs incurred because of switching venues. Specifically, if the home team is forced to pay for the hire of another gym or if a team is forced to travel a significantly longer distance due to a venue change.

4.2.14 Basketball Ireland/NLC hereby disclaims any liability whatsoever in respect of promotions, games or any events organized by club teams and/or team companies participating in National League or any other competitions. Teams participating in National League Competitions must take out a public liability insurance policy (Minimum requirement is €6.4 million public liability insurance cover). The NLC reserves the right to request proof of this insurance at any time. The policy shall indemnify Basketball Ireland in the event of any, and all subsequent claims or actions.

5. GAME PROCEDURES

Presentation Standards

5.1 Each team shall nominate a Venue Officer for each of its home games. This person will be responsible for All National Competition venues must be approved pre-season by the NLC (or a designated representative). The NLC may also inspect a facility at any stage of the season if a problem develops that might impact on the staging of games. The NLC (or a designated representative) may approve other venues during the season.

5.2 If a facility fails to meet the approval of the NLC, the team may be asked to move to another approved facility.

5.3 The following minimum standards must be provided and be functioning (from 30 minutes prior to game time until the game ends) at each facility. Failure to reach these standards will result in automatic fines as outlined in Appendix 1.

A. Use of Basketball Ireland Advanced NBN23 system. There should be a BI Official Scoresheet available as a back-up if there are any issues with NBN23.
B. An electronic clock/scoreboard, clearly visible to both teams and the majority of spectators.
C. At least two 24-second clocks with a 14 second reset facility.
D. Suitable floor surface with clear FIBA approved markings for international level basketball
E. A temperature of at least 16°.
F. Lighting of at least 400 lux.
G. Seating for all spectators is preferable.
H. Clean toilets for players, officials and spectators.
I. Car park or on street parking close to the facility.
J. Adequate separate changing facilities with hot showers for both teams and the game officials, In venues that do not have separate facilities for the game officials, the home team must make suitable arrangements locally with any additional cost also being borne by the home team themselves.
K. Stable baskets
L. Pressure release rings.
M. Padded Perspex backboards.
N. No seating or spectators within two meters of either end line.
O. Table equipment (player foul + team foul markers; directional arrows).
P. Adequate Broadband signal to allow for good uninterrupted streaming on BITV.
Q. Facilities should be accessible to people with a disability.
R. PA System – static or portable.
S. Teams are responsible for providing suitable first aid equipment for their own team at the venue.
T. Use of an official suitable Molten match ball.

5.4 The Venue Officer must be present at every game, one hour before the scheduled official starting time.

5.5 Two stewards should be present to look after game officials from the time of their arrival to their departure from the car park of the facility.

5.6 Floor cleaning equipment and cleaners (floor wipers)

5.7 Home teams must provide a manned PA system. The PA announcer should provide information on scorers, fouls etc. throughout the game and not make any comments or play music in a way that might be interpreted as one sided or of intent to influence the outcome of the game. Failure to provide a manned PA system will result in automatic fines as outlined in Appendix 5.

5.8 Music may be played during the game provided that the volume and content are controlled to ensure the game is not affected or influenced in any way. Music or other entertainment must be played / provided during time outs and half time. Vocals shall be devoid of explicit language and appropriate for a multicultural audience.

5.9 The Game Commissioner or Referee may ask the Venue Officer to modify or terminate the PA.

5.10 Home teams must ensure there is an adequate level of crowd control and stewarding at all matches. There should be a minimum of one steward per 100 spectators.

5.11 The home team is responsible for taking reasonable precautions to control the behavior of spectators. However, disciplinary action may be taken against either team for the behavior of its followers.

5.12 The HOME team is responsible for recording statistics through NBN Advanced Stats and for inputting the NBN23 data live through the game as the official data for the game.

5.13 Home teams must provide a blood "Spill Kit" containing disposable items to clean a court should a blood injury occur. The home team must appoint an officer to discharge this function, who should be suitable trained to discharge this function.

5.14 Officials

5.14.1 NLC games may only be officiated by the officials appointed by the national appointments officer of the NBRA or the League Manager in exceptional circumstances.

5.14.2 CTOC will appoint a Game Commissioner to games. For matches where a Game Commissioner has not been appointed or where one has not arrived both teams may nominate an observer to be seated at the scorer's table to oversee fair play and accuracy in the operation of the table. Alternatively, the Officials Crew Chief will take over the responsibility of the Commissioner for the game.

5.14.3 The Game Commissioner/nominated observer may not interfere with the Table Officials but may request that the officials be called to the table. Should the Referee deem that any person is causing a nuisance they may have the person removed from the vicinity of the table.

5.14.4 The referee shall be responsible for the administrative and reporting duties of the Game Commissioner, where there is none present, as they may be capable of performing.

5.14.5 Basketball Ireland Appointments Officer will appoint referees as appropriate to each game. If the officials have not arrived 30 minutes prior to the game time, and no communication has been received detailing the reason for the late arrival, the Commissioner may take the following action:

- If two suitable-qualified officials are at the venue, they will be informed their services may be required.
- If no suitable officials are available, the Game Commissioner will decide if the match is to be played.
- If there are no Game Commissioner and no officials, then the game is cancelled.
- If the referee fails to arrive, the umpire will become the referee, and a substitute official will become the umpire.
- Once a substitute official is named this will not be changed, even if the original official arrives at the venue.

5.14.6 The home club must provide current BI registered and qualified table officials (TO). For the National League Competitions all these officials must have completed the Introductory and Advanced courses. The BIPIN number of the Table Official must be recorded on the score sheet. Failure to provide suitably qualified and registered Level 3/Level 2 TO's will result in an automatic penalty as outlined in Appendix 5.

5.14.7 The Game Commissioner will check the BIPIN of each Table Official (TO) prior to each game and ensure that these BIPINs are recorded on the official score sheet. They will also inspect the licence details of each player.

5.14.8 It is the responsibility of the home club to pay the Table Officials' expenses.

5.14.9 All table officials should wear the approved uniform (when available) as designated by BI Table Officials Committee. The Game Commissioner will check and record in the report any deviations from the approved uniform.

5.14.10 All Table Officials must be over the age of 16.

5.15 Pre-Game Procedures

5.15.1 The following actions must be accomplished at least **one hour** before game time:

A. The Game Commissioner, Referee, Umpire and Venue Officer must be present at the venue.

B. The Venue Officer will make themselves known to the officials.

C. Teams and officials must have access to the dressing rooms.

D. The Game Commissioner will inspect the facility.

E. The crew chief will introduce himself/herself and his/her co-official to both coaches in advance of the game.

F. Away teams must be provided with a designated space for pre-game talks.

5.15.2 The following actions must be accomplished at least **thirty minutes** before game time:

- The visiting team shall have access to the game court.

5.15.3 The following actions must be accomplished at least **twenty minutes** before game time:

- The Game Commissioner checks the team list for accuracy (the names, numbers and licence list of all players) and, to verify that each team has the minimum required number of players. Failure of a club to provide official BI licence list will result in automatic penalties outlined in Appendix 5.
- The Game Commissioner checks that all people other than players, authorised to sit on the team bench are registered members of Basketball Ireland.

5.15.4 Each team must have a minimum of nine players in uniform and on the score sheet for each game. Failure to provide at least nine players will result in automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5.

5.15.5 If any player does not hold a valid licence number, then it will be the decision of the club as to whether he participates in the match. If a club elects to use a player who is not licenced, they will be fined as per the automatic schedule outlined in Appendix 5 and automatically lose the game by forfeit.

5.16 COVID Protocols:

Clubs must refer to and follow the guidelines provided and regularly updated on the front page of the Basketball Ireland website.

5.17 Uniforms and Dress Code

5.17.1 All teams must register home & away colours during the application process. If there is a change the League Manager must be notified at least two weeks prior to the start of the season. The home team should wear a predominantly dark colour (Home Kit) and the away team should wear a predominantly light colour (Away Kit). The NLC recommend that the home team contact the away team to find out their colours to prevent a clash. All team kit colours should conform to FIBA guidelines. All teams must have two full sets of kits before the season starts – 1 predominantly dark in colour and 1 predominantly light in colour. A fine of €300 will be incurred by the team responsible for the colour clash.

5.17.2 Uniform numbers will be in accordance with current FIBA regulations.

5.17.3 All teams shall warm up and compete in a National League competitions fixture only in an approved uniform. One of the two approved uniforms for each team shall be of predominantly light colour, (AWAY kit) while the other uniform shall be of a predominantly dark colour (HOME kit).

5.17.4 All members of the same team must wear their official club uniform (for that game) including tracksuits and warm-up tops and may vary within these parameters during warm-up. Non-compliance with this will result in automatics penalties as outlines in Appendix 5

5.17.5 Teams are required to wear matching uniforms, and referees shall not permit players whose attire does not meet the required standard to participate in the game. Undershirts are permitted to be worn under playing vests if they are of compression material and the same colour as other accessories. All players shall be required to wear their playing vests tucked into their shorts. Under shorts (compression or cycle shorts) are permitted to be worn, provided they are the same colour shade. See appendix 9 for FIBA accessories restrictions. Unless special permission is given on religious,

cultural or medical grounds.

5.17.6 In the event of a colour clash the non-conforming team will be fined (Up to €300).

5.17.7 In the event of the game not going ahead due to colour clash, a Club will not automatically be awarded the game, however the non-conforming club will pay direct expenses for causing this.

5.17.8 The National League sponsor entitled to the naming rights of a competition has the right to place its logo on the front right thigh of the shorts of all players. The NLC will provide the logos. Each team is responsible for ensuring the logos are securely affixed to all playing uniforms as outlined above. This right is exercised for the season and failure to comply with this requirement will result in automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5.

5.17.9 A club or team may wear the acceptable club title name on the back of their tracksuits and on the front of their playing shirts provided that the sponsor or advertising name which appears on the tracksuits or playing shirt is part of the accepted team name. A club may also display other advertisers' names on the playing uniform. The NLC reserves the right to disapprove of what it considers inappropriate advertising on playing gear.

5.17.10 Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers and other support staff are required to comply with appropriate code. It is imperative that all Coaches and support staff are dressed smart/casual or wearing a suit to represent the league appropriately.

5.17.11 The NLC may decide that a BI logo or sponsor logo must be affixed to players uniforms. Clubs will be informed in advance.

5.18 Game Procedures:

5.18.1 Games will be 40 minutes in duration. This will consist of four quarters of ten minutes.

5.18.2 Half time will be a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes in the event of a home club requesting.

5.18.3 The interval between quarters will be a minimum of one (1) minute. The interval(s) may vary for television.

5.18.4 In the event of the home team requiring a longer entertainment break at half time this can be arranged by notifying the League Manager and the opposition 48 hours in advance.

5.18.5 At the end of any such break, the officials will call three (3) minutes.

5.18.6 Except for where mentioned, all other playing rules and game procedures are in accordance with those currently approved by FIBA for International Competition.

5.19 Post-Game Procedures:

5.1.1 Two stewards should be present to look after game officials from the time of their arrival to their departure from the car park of the facility. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5.

5.1.2 The Game Commissioner, or in the absence of the game commissioner, the referee is responsible for their report(s) arriving by e-mail to the NL manager within two working days of the fixture via e-mail and within 24 hours of the game, should there be a serious incident to report.

5.1.3 The HOME team is responsible for the uploading of the NBN23 Scoresheet within 30 minutes of the end of the game.

5.1.4 For any in game situations with queries regarding game regulations, the National League Manager should be contacted.

5.1.5 The NL Manager will advise clubs of all automatic fines incurred within fourteen (14) days of each transgression. Clear information of fine details will appear on each notice.

5.1.6 Should a club wish to dispute an automatic fine notice, they must do so in writing within five working days of receiving the fine notice. The League Manager will decide whether the dispute is upheld and will inform the club of the decision. The League Manager may refer the matter to the NLC.

5.1.7 Clubs must pay all fines within 30 days of the invoice been issued. Failure to pay fines will result in an additional penalty and the handling of clubs with outstanding fines will be at the discretion of the NLC.

6 PENALTIES, DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS:

6.1 Penalties:

6.1.1 Outside of automatic fines, the NLC may impose penalties upon individual players, Clubs members of Clubs or game officials as it sees fit.

6.1.2 Penalties may be in the form of fines, league points deduction, suspension or disqualification from the National Leagues Competitions fixtures or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the NLC from time to time.

6.1.3 All penalties will be notified by email to all Clubs by the League Manager.

6.1.4 A penalty imposed by the NLC not including automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5 may be appealed to the National Appeals Committee (NAC). Such an appeal shall be in writing and shall be provided to the League Manager within 5 working days in the notice of the penalty.

6.1.5 No appeal under Section 6.1.4 will be considered unless it is accompanied by a bond of five hundred Euros (€500), which shall be returnable if the appeal is subsequently upheld.

6.1.6 Any appeal under Section 6.1.4 shall clearly state the grounds on which the penalty is being appealed and shall include any documentary evidence considered necessary to support the appeal.

6.2 Payment of Fines:

All fines imposed, whether they are on an individual or Clubs, must be paid by the date specified. All Clubs will be liable to pay a member's fine and seek reimbursement from that individual. Any fine not paid by the specified date will incur a penalty as outlined in 2.3.3. No fine outside of the automatic penalties in Appendix 5 may be appealed until it has been paid.

6.3
Appendix C – PROTEST PROCEDURE (FIBA GUIDELINES)

Click on link below for full details of FIBA protest procedures
https://assets.fiba.basketball/image/upload/documents-corporate-fiba-official-rules-2024-v10a.pdf

6.4 Discipline of Clubs, Club Members, Club Officials, Coaches, Players and Game Officials:

6.4.1 Disciplinary action in respect of a National League Competitions team will be notified to the NLC.

6.4.2 The NLC may request the National Disciplinary Committee (NDC), comprising of a minimum of three people, to deal with disciplinary matters relating to the NL. The membership of the NDC will be determined by the Board of BI and the NLC and may comprise more than three people. The decision of the NDC will be notified to the NLC and will be binding on all parties.

6.4.3 Players, coaches, clubs and club officials may be fined and/or suspended for any disciplinary incident occurring before, during or after a game. Disciplinary action may also be taken against a club for any unacceptable behavior by its followers and/or supporters.

6.4.4 Disciplinary action may be taken against a club for non-compliance in respect of their registration conditions, including but not limited to compliance with pre-conditions and requirements of the licensing process etc. Penalties in respect of these breaches may be imposed by the NLC.

6.4.5 If a club intentionally fields a weakened team, they may be deemed guilty of bringing the game into disrepute and may be subject to disciplinary action.

6.4.6 When a player or member of coaching staff is disqualified from a game, they automatically receive 20 penalty points, and the national disciplinary committee (NDC) will review the case and determine if more penalty points will be added to this total.

6.4.7 The exception being when the disqualification is the result of two Grade 1 Technical Fouls or two Flagrant Fouls or a combination of both for which they will receive 15 points.

6.4.8 If a player or coaching staff member is disqualified from a game, they must leave the court area immediately. They are not permitted to watch the remainder of the game. They must go to the dressing room, leave the venue or go to an area of the venue away from the court area. They are not permitted to re-enter the court area until the referees have signed the scoresheet and have left the court area. They are not permitted to take part in post-game handshakes.

6.4.9 Disciplinary matters will be referred to the NDC by the NLC or the League Manager arising from referee's reports, match commissioner's reports, written complaints, recommendations from the NBRA. All issues considered by the NBRA as potential disciplinary matters must first be sent to the NLC and the NLC will decide on referring to the NDC.

6.4.10 Disciplinary action in respect of automatic penalty points will have immediate effect.

6.4.11 A system of cumulative penalty points will be maintained, and a one-match suspension is automatic when a person reaches 20 points, 30 points is a two-match suspension and so on for each subsequent 10 points.

6.4.12 Penalty points shall be wiped at the end of a season. If a player has been banned for a specific number of games but has not fully served that ban when a season ends, the remainder of the ban must be served in the season that player resumes playing.

6.4.13 Notices of disciplinary outcomes will be circulated to national league clubs.

6.4.14 Automatic Penalty Points – may **not** be appealed

1	Straight Disqualifying Foul	20 pts
2	Disqualifying Foul due to 2 Category 1 Technical Fouls or 2 Flagrant Fouls or a combination of both	14 pts
3	Category 1 Technical Foul	7 pts
4	Flagrant Foul	3 pts

The NL Manager reserves the right to forward incidents to the National Disciplinary Committee (NDC) based on information received in the referee and/or commissioner reports.

6.5 The following procedures shall apply to all disciplinary matters -

6.5.1 The League Manager or person nominated by the league manager shall forward copies of all reports related to the incident being considered to both clubs by email. In the case of a report against an official, the League Manager or person nominated by the league manager will forward copies of the report to both officials and the NBRA.

6.5.2 Each club, player and/or official shall have three (3) working days from the distribution date by NLC to submit its own report or submission on the

6.5.3 incident.

6.5.4 Each club, player, official and/or other interested party shall have the right to make a verbal submission to the NDC on the day of the hearing.

6.5.5 All parties will be responsible for their own costs in connection with participation before the NDC.

6.5.6 All hearings shall be heard in private and may be held online.

6.5.7 The NDC in ruling on any disciplinary matters may use video evidence.

6.5.8 The decision of the independent NDC shall be a single written decision arrived at by a majority vote. The committee shall not be obliged to give reasons for its decision but, where practical is encouraged to do so

6.5.9 BIHQ will endeavor to hold all disciplinary hearings within 10 working days of the incident.

6.5.10 The NLC will communicate the decision of the NDC to all interested parties by email. It is the duty of the Club to ensure that if a player (whether he is still licenced with the Club or not) is the subject of or affected by a decision of the NDC that he is informed of the decision.

6.5.11 Clubs will be informed of their right to appeal.

6.5.12 Referees, table officials and Game Commissioners are subject to the disciplinary procedures of the NLC. Disciplinary matters relating to game officials may be drawn to the attention of the League Manager by the NBRA; players; coaches; match commissioner; or NLC members.

6.5.13 Any disciplinary notification regarding a referee/game commissioner/table official must be in writing and accompanied by a protest fee if applicable. All matters relating to refereeing will be referred to the NBRA/CTOC (depending on the official) and the NLC by the League Manager. The procedures as outlined in 6.7 will be implemented.

6.5.14 In relation to a club protest against an official, which is not a disciplinary matter – the procedures as outlined in 6.4 will be implemented.

6.5.15 Decisions from disciplinary matters have the right of appeal to the National Appeals Committee.

6.6 Effect of Suspension:

6.6.1 Any disciplinary action decided by the NDC will take effect immediately and this decision will remain in force until the written appeal and fee are received as outlined in 6.8 herein.

6.6.2 Disciplinary action will be applied to all games regardless of what competition it occurred in.

6.6.3 Notwithstanding the rules herein, in relation to disciplinary matters that occur during the months of February and March (except for final's/semi-final weekends which are dealt with in section 6.9 below), the disciplinary hearing, and if required the appeals hearing, shall be held as soon as is possible.

6.6.4 For this purpose, the Club shall have 24 hours from the time the decision of the NDC is made known to lodge the appeal. In such cases it will be possible to lodge an appeal by sending an email to the League Manager along with proof of ability to pay the appropriate fee. A copy of the appeal must also be sent by registered post to the League Manager.

6.6.5 Any suspension not served in full before the end of the season will be carried forward into the following season and will commence from the time the player receives a licence for the new season.

6.6.6 In the event of a player not being able to serve a suspension, the NLC may seek to impose relevant sanction(s) on the club at the time of the disciplinary decision.

6.6.7 It is only possible to replace suspended players with players who are at the time of the incident leading to the suspension already licenced with the Club.

6.6.8 Any player or coach who is suspended may not play or sit within the team bench area. They may be present at the venue unless otherwise decided by the NLC.

6.6.9 Game Commissioners and/or Officials will be informed by the League Manager of any player or coach suspension in force in advance of a game to which they are appointed.

6.7 National League Finals, National Cup Finals & End of season competitions:

6.7.1 In the specific case of the National Cup Final and League Finals Weekends the following procedures shall apply:

6.7.1.1 Protests must be submitted in writing within twenty-four (24) hours following completion of the game. The fee (€500) must accompany the written protest, which must be emailed to a member of the technical committee, the game commissioner, the League Manager or a member of the NLC (in that order of precedence).

6.7.1.2 A technical committee (if applicable) will also deal with disciplinary matters arising from games over the weekend. A decision will be made and communicated to the Club on such incidents within sufficient time constraints.

6.7.1.3 The technical committee's (if applicable) decision will be final. Due to time constraints, there will be no right to appeal such decisions.

6.7.1.4 The members of the technical committee will be appointed by the NLC in advance. There will be a minimum of two representatives on the Technical Committee.

7 ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

7.1 Basketball Ireland strictly prohibits the use of performance enhancing, recreational or other drugs listed in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and FIBA Guide to Doping Control. Basketball Ireland and the NLC will adhere to the guidelines and list of prohibited substances provided and subscribes to the National Anti-Doping Programme, operated by the Sport Ireland (SI).

7.2 In conjunction with the SI Anti-Doping Programme each team must inform the SI of their team whereabouts and training session times. Failure to comply with ISC requests will result in an automatic penalty as decided by the NLC and outlined in Appendix 5.

7.3 Basketball Ireland reserves the right to require a participant to submit to drug testing at any time as directed by the NLC and/or SI.

7.4 A new World Anti-Doping Code came into effect on the 1st of January 2021. From this date SI and those who have adopted the Irish Sports Council rules must comply with their responsibilities under the new code. Please see below Appendix 8 for more information with regard to the new WADA 2021 code and https://www.sportireland.ie/Anti-Doping/

7.5 The SI no longer has a Declaration of Use Form. All medications and supplements must be declared by the player at the time of a drug test on the Doping Control Form. This is especially important for players using Beta2Agonists and Glucocorticosteroids.

7.6 Any person who refuses to submit to drug testing will be treated as if they have tested positive.

7.7 Any person who has a positive drugs test will be subject to disciplinary action before an independent panel set up by the SI who will investigate the circumstances of the offence and decide the penalties to be imposed.

8 MEDIA BROADCASTING, ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP

8.1 Basketball Ireland has the right to negotiate television coverage of the National Leagues Competitions, the Champions Trophy and National Cup games in consultation and by agreement with the NLC. This right may be delegated to an Area Board or to a club at the absolute discretion of Basketball Ireland. However, no Area Board or club may in turn delegate this right to any other individual or organisation.

8.2 Basketball Ireland reserves all rights to the videotaping and filming of all League, Cup and National Competitions games.

8.3 Basketball Ireland and the NLC encourages clubs and / or teams to enter into sponsorship, advertising and endorsement agreements with commercial enterprises, companies, individuals or organisations provided that no such agreement is contrary to the interest of basketball.

8.4 Clubs must inform the NLC through the League Manager of the intended name of the team and the duration of the agreement. The authorisation of the League Manager must be received before any agreement may be entered into. The documents will be treated as confidential unless the club or team appeals the decision made by the League Manager to the NLC. The following also applies in relation to the team name -

A. The official team name must be notified to the League Manager at least 6 weeks prior to the team's opening game in the League.
B. The League Manager must approve the team name before it becomes the official title.
C. This name may not be changed at any time during the season without receipt of written permission from the NLC through the League Manager.
D. A club or team may include in its official team name, the name or brand name or slogan or derivative (or any of these) of a sponsor provided that a geographical entity or an element of the official club name is incorporated into the team title.
E. The non-sponsored element of the title must have a distinguishing characteristic and must be capable of being the full title of the team in the absence of a sponsor.
F. The sponsored element of the name should ideally be one word, with the non-sponsored element also being one word, making the team name a maximum of two words.
G. The NLC reserves the right to make the final decision on team names.

8.5 To allow clubs to maximise advertising potential and in the interests of a uniform approach to advertising and sponsorship signs, the following shall apply:

A. Basketball Ireland and NLC will have the option to use courtside signs and the free throw circle decals.
B. The home team will have the right to sell four courtside signs and the centre court decal and the visiting team will have the right to sell two courtside signs up to 14 days prior to the date of the fixture.
C. The home team may then sell unsold signs at that point. If Basketball Ireland elects not to use the courtside signs or decals, the home team will have the first option to sell the free throw decals and the additional courtside signs.
D. Signs should not exceed 2metres x 1metre.
E. The League Manager in writing must approve any different advertising arrangements.

8.6 Basketball Ireland and NLC reserve the right to decide on the appropriateness of advertising and sponsorship images that clubs may use at basketball venues. The advertising of tobacco products and hard alcohol is not permitted.

8.7 Basketball Ireland and NLC reserve the right to claim sponsorship exclusivity on brands, companies and institutions in respect of the National Leagues Competitions. If an exclusivity clause is implemented, clubs or teams will not be permitted to enter into any sponsorship or advertising agreement pertaining to team names, uniform advertising, and advertising signage at games, courtside services products and game sponsorships.

8.8 Exclusivity for advertising signage, courtside services products and game sponsorships shall only be exclusive to the particular competition for which Basketball Ireland sponsorship applies.

8.9 Basketball Ireland sponsor entitled to the naming rights of a competition has the right to place its logo on the front thigh of the shorts of all players as previous outlined in 5.17.8

8.10 A Club shall fulfil all obligations and display signage as directed by the League Manager in support of the National League Sponsor(s). The penalty for non-compliance is outlined in Appendix 5. The Club may be subject to further sanctions as deemed appropriate by the NLC.

8.11 Teams must use basketballs and equipment as approved by Basketball Ireland and the NLC.

8.12 All Basketball Ireland National Competitions matches shall be played with the official Molten approved ball of Basketball Ireland.

8.13 All clubs must livestream their home games on BITV

8.14 All clubs must use NBN Advanced Scorekeeping system for their home games and must have at least 4 competent NBN operators fully trained in advanced stats.

8.15 The Basketball Ireland Social Media policy applies to all clubs participating in the National Leagues Competitions of Ireland, as per link below http://www.basketballireland.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2489%3Abi-confirms-social-media-policy-&catid=36%3Aslideshow-fp&Itemid=196

Competition Promotion:

- Your club must make two senior players available for the National League season launch, which will be a midweek event at the National Basketball Arena in advance of the season (Note: Assets captured will be made available to National League clubs to promote their club and league)
- Should your club reach the National Cup and/or National League finals, they will provide two senior playing representatives for a media event/photocall early the week of the final if requested by Basketball Ireland, in order to promote the event.

APPENDICES

APPENDEX 2 – Transfer Time Lines /Disputes

In all transfer situations the Club Secretary or, in the case of National League clubs, the designated official and/or Area Board representative will have five (5) days from the date of receipt of the transfer form to sign it or refer the case to the League Manager/NLC for adjudication if there is a dispute on the transfer.

The player can request that the matter be forwarded for adjudication if no action has been taken after the five-day period.

If a player from a club, which is no longer registered with Basketball Ireland, is seeking a transfer, he must receive written clearance from the Area Board to which the club was last affiliated.

If there is a dispute regarding a player transfer, the club or Area Board disputing the transfer must write to the League Manager outlining why the player is not being transferred. Until such time as the League Manager is satisfied that the issue is resolved, the player will not be issued a new licence. If the club/Area Board contesting the transfer does not make a written submission, the transfer will be approved automatically. A copy of the dispute must be sent to the player in question.

APPENDIX 3 – Fees for Licensing a Player

The Men's National League Licence fees are as follows;

DIVISION	NATIONALITY	BI FEE	FIBA FEE	TOTAL FEE pre deadline	TOTAL FEE post deadline
Super	IRISH	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00
	EU	€10.00	€125.00	€135.00	€155.00
	NON-EU NATIONAL	€20.00	€125.00	€145.00	€165.00
MD1	IRISH	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00
	EU	€10.00	€125.00	€135.00	€155.00
	NON-EU NATIONAL	€20.00	€125.00	€145.00	€165.00
MD2	IRISH	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00
	EU	€10.00	€125.00	€135.00	€155.00
	NON-EU NATIONAL	€20.00	€125.00	€145.00	€165.00

Note: this table does not include the BI Senior Registration Fee as set by BI.

The Women's National League Licence current fees are as follows:

DIVISION	NATIONALITY	BI FEE	FIBA FEE	TOTAL FEE pre deadline	TOTAL FEE post deadline
Super	IRISH	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00
	EU	€10.00	€62.50	€72.50	€92.50
	NON-EU NATIONAL	€10.00	€62.50	€72.50	€92.50
WD1	IRISH	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00
	EU	€10.00	€62.50	€72.50	€92.50
	NON-EU NATIONAL	€10.00	€62.50	€72.50	€92.50

Note: this table does not include the BI Senior Registration Fee as set by BI.

APPENDIX 4 – Facilities/Venue Requirements

All new venues must be approved pre-season by the NLC (or a designated representative) for the NLC. The NLC may also inspect a facility at any stage of the season if a problem develops that might impact on the staging of games. The NLC may require teams to name a second designated venue pre or during the season. The NLC (or a designated representative) may approve other venues during the season.

If a facility fails to meet the approval of the NLC, the team may be asked to move to another approved facility.

It shall be the responsibility of the club to ensure all satisfactory equipment necessary for the correct and safe conduct of the game is supplied. Reports on venues providing less than satisfactory equipment and services may be submitted to the League Manager to be referred to the NLC for consideration. This may result in fines or re-scheduling of games depending on the circumstances.

The following minimum standards must be provided by the home team and be functioning (from 30 minutes prior to game time until the game ends) at each facility:

A. Properly surfaced floors, preferably wooden;
B. Backboards in good repair, affixed with standard, protective padding and constructed of a transparent material;
C. Properly secured pressure release rings with nets in good condition attached;
D. Adequate seating for team members, officials and spectators;
E. Time clocks, including at least two 24 second clocks with the 14-sec reset facility as per FIBA rules, and a score board visible to all persons participating in the fixture;
F. Adequate device for recording NBN Advanced Stats.
G. Foul and Directional Markers
H. A score bench to seat a minimum of five officials with time out, foul and substitution markers;
I. The official molten game ball;
J. A courtside announcer for each home game;
K. Two suitably attired and equipped floor wipers;
L. A temperature of at least 16°;
M. The playing court should be uniformly and adequately lit with court lighting of at least 400 lux;
N. Seating for all spectators;
O. Clean toilets for players, officials and spectators.
P. Adequate separate changing facilities with showers for both teams and the game officials. In venues that do not have separate facilities for the game officials, the home team must make suitable arrangements locally with any additional cost being born by the home team themselves;
Q. No seating or spectators within two meters of either end line;
R. The home club is responsible for providing suitable first aid equipment at the venue.
S. Facilities should be accessible to people with a disability;
T. Any other reasonable equipment requested in writing by NLC.

Failure to provide the above minimum standards may result in penalties as outlined in Appendix 5.

APPENDIX 5 - Schedule of Automatic Fines

REG.	DEFINITION	PENALTY
3.1.1	Failure to ensure that all persons required to sit in the team-bench area are registered members of Basketball Ireland.	€10 per person
5.3	Failure to provide any item(s) of table equipment	€15 per item
5.3	Failure to record matches on the NBN Advanced Stats system	€100 per match
5.3	Failure to use the approved match ball in League and Cup games	€50 per match
5.3	Failure to provide a functioning score board	€130 per match
5.3	Failure to provide a visible clock	€130 per match
5.3	Failure to provide two 24 second devices & 14 sec reset function	€130 per match
5.3	Failure to provide pressure release rings	€130 per match
5.3	Failure to provide Padded Backboards	€130 per match
4.1.3	Administrative charge for Change of Fixture (COF) Requested	€65 (€100 within 14 days of fixture)
5.7	Failure to provide a manned PA system	€30 per match
5.14.6	Failure to provide qualified Officials as specified	€50 per match
5.15.3	Failure to provide player licence list for bona fide players	€10 per player (€60 max per game)
5.15.4	Failure to provide a minimum of nine licensed players in uniform for a game	€50 per player to a Maximum of €200
5.15.5	Playing an unlicensed/unregistered player	€300 & forfeit
5.17.1	Failure to have the correct colour uniforms	€300
5.17.4	Failure to wear matching uniforms, tracksuits, warm up tops	€60 per player (€300 max per game)
5.17.8	Failure to display sponsors logo on front right thigh on the team playing shorts	€100 per player per game
5.5	Failure to provide minimum of 2 referee stewards	€100 per game
Section 5	Infringement of Facilities Appendix 4 and game presentation section 5 regulations may lead to a fine as decided by the NLC.	Not exceeding €300
Section 7	Failure of NLC Club to comply with SI and/or BI requests in relation to Anti-Doping Procedures	Not exceeding €2,500
8.10	Failure to display signage as directed by the League Manager	€150 per sign
	Use of an unlicensed official	€60 per official
	Use of an unlicensed coach and/or team follower	€60 per official
	Failure to attend NLC Clubs meetings	€300
	Others as instructed by the NLC Committee during the season	As instructed.

APPENDIX 6 - International Clearance of Players and FIBA Licence Fees

The exception to rule 3.2.1 is when a player who last played in Ireland is playing in High School or University in the United States. These competitions are not under the jurisdiction of USA basketball, so the players remain under the jurisdiction of Basketball Ireland and the club they were last a member of.

Individual players, who are playing basketball, under the jurisdiction of the US School/College/University systems may not play in National Leagues Competitions although they may be registered and licenced. Players may be eligible to compete on their return, subject to compliance with the regulations.

This request for a Letter of Clearance, (LoC), must be made by email to BI by the applying club and must confirm the following details:

A. Previous National Federation, e.g. French, English, Polish
B. Name of last club played for and season played in.
C. Full name of player
D. Player date of birth
E. Player Nationality
F. Copy of player's passport (Travel ID card will **NOT** be accepted)
G. Player Agent details (Name and Agent Number)

If the player is not of Irish Nationality additional FIBA forms may need to be completed including:

A. FIBA Registration Form for "A" License and/or the
B. FIBA Self Declaration for Foreign Players, if the player has never previously played for a FIBA club or after playing for a FIBA club has played for an academic institution which does not recognise FIBA Europe Regulations governing the International Transfer of Players and is returning to a FIBA club.

Licensing of players requiring International Clearance and can take up to ten working days as the LoC can take up to seven working days and the licence is issued at the discretion of the NLC/League Manager. The player cannot be licensed until clearance is received.

National League Competition players not eligible to play for Ireland and not holding an Irish passport must pay an additional fee each year as set out in FIBA Europe Regulations and included above in Appendix 3.

Once registered and licenced for a particular season, a player cannot apply to alter their licence category during that season. Thereafter a player cannot alter their licence category.

APPENDIX 7 – League Standing

In a straight league without end of season play-offs and in the event of a tie the League will be decided by a play-off at a venue to be determined by the NLC. If more than two teams finish on level points total, a knockout competition will be conducted with semi-finals being played as required to enable a final play-off game to decide the competition winner. The venue(s) for these games will be decided by the NLC.

FIBA guidelines will apply to determine the final rankings.

Classification Procedure

When teams are tied at the end of all games played in their respective pools (groups) the FIBA guidelines will apply.

D.1.3 If 2 or more teams have the same win-loss record of all games in the group, the game(s) between these 2 or more teams shall decide on the classification. If the 2 or more teams have the same win-loss record of the games between them, further criteria will be applied in the following order:

- Higher points difference of the games between them
- Higher number of points scored in the games between them
- Higher points difference of all games in the group
- Higher number of points scored in all games in the group

If these criteria still cannot decide, a draw shall decide on the classification.

D.1.4 If at any level of these criteria one or more team(s) can be classified, the procedure of D.1.3 shall be repeated from the beginning for all the remaining teams not classified yet.

If a team withdraws or is expelled from the competition, then all games in which the team participated prior to the withdrawal or expulsion will be considered null and void and will not be included in the table.

APPENDIX 8 – Anti-Doping Update

The World Anti-Doping Code came into effect on the 1st of January 2015. From this date Sport Ireland and those who have adopted the Sport Ireland rules must comply with their responsibilities under the new code. Please see below more information with regard to the Anti Doping regulations - See more at: https://www.sportireland.ie/2015-anti-doping-rules

PROHIBITED LIST:

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Prohibited List is an International Standard issued annually by WADA that identifies classes of substances and methods that are prohibited in-competition, out-of-competition, and in particular sports. The Prohibited List is updated annually and can be accessed on the Sport Ireland website https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping/athlete-zone/athlete-zone/prohibited-list https://wada-main-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/resources/files/wada-2015-prohibited-list- Clubs and athletes are responsible for updating themselves on changes to this list.

From time to time Sport Ireland will issue advisory notes and these can be found in the "Athlete Zone" on the Sport Ireland website https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping/athlete-zone/athlete-zone

For queries on the Prohibited List, please contact Sport Ireland at 01-8608829 or Athletes can easily check out what over-the-counter medications, bought in the Republic of Ireland, are prohibited or permitted in sport by checking the 'Drugs in Sport Database' on www.eirpharm.com. Medications bought in Northern Ireland or the UK should be checked on www.globaldro.com.

On checking of these websites, it is seen that a high proportion of cold and flu treatments contain pseudoephedrine e.g. Benylin four Flu, Day Nurse, Nurofen Cold and Flu. Pseudoephedrine is also found in some cough treatments e.g. Robitussin Plus, Benylin Dual Action Chesty. The cough and decongestant medication Casacol is also prohibited in competition. However, please note that Athletes who are required to take a prohibited medication for a legitimate medical reason may apply for a therapeutic use exemption (TUE). Check out https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping/athlete-zone/athlete-zone/therapeutic-use-exemptionsfor information on TUEApplications.

Remember athletes selected for doping control must declare the use of all prescribed and over-the-counter medications and supplements taken in the last 14 days pre testing, on the doping control form.

Athletes as requested to remind their GP/Consultant that they are subject to drug testing and their doctor can

check any medications they prescribe in MIMS – a booklet available to all doctors on a monthly basis. Sport Ireland ensures that each monthly edition is updated if there are any changes to the status of a medicine in sport. All prescription medications available in Ireland are listed and each medication is classed as permitted, prohibited (requires a TUE) or requiring declaration.

Once your medication has been checked as outlined above, it can be classed as;

A. Permitted – athletes do not need to complete a TUE form but should declare the medication on the Doping Control Form at the time of a drug test if taken within the last 14 days

B. Requires Declaration – athletes do not need to complete a TUE form BUT MUST DECLARE THE MEDICATION ON THE DOPING CONTROL FORM AT THE TIME OF A DRUG TEST IF IT HAS BEEN TAKEN WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS.

C. Requires a TUE – athletes need to check whether they are required to apply for a Pre-test TUE or Post-test TUE (see below for criteria).

PRE-TEST TUE POLICY:

For 2015 the following athletes must apply for a TUE prior to using a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited

Method;

A. All Athletes in the Sport Ireland Registered Testing Pool (ISC RTP)
B. Athletes who are part of an International Federation's (IF) Registered Testing Pool and those competing in International Events, as defined by the IF.(i.e. FIBA)
C. Athletes who are part of the SI RTP are informed by the SI in writing and advised of the TUE requirements.

Athletes who are not on the SI RTP but are on their IF RTP or are competing in international level events should check with their IF to see what the TUE requirements are. Some IFs publish these details on their websites.

POST-TEST TUE POLICY:

All other Athletes can apply for a TUE retroactively, i.e. if an athlete is tested and the lab reports an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF), Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Unit will contact the athlete and request the athlete to submit his/her medical file to the TUE Committee along with a TUE application. All athletes are urged to ensure that their doctor keeps their medical records up to date at all times.

If the Athlete is unable to prove that he/she was using the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method for a legitimate therapeutic purpose the AAF will stand and the National Governing Body will start proceedings for a Disciplinary Hearing. If the TUE Committee reviews the medical file and is happy that the athlete was using the Prohibited Substance or Method for a legitimate purpose, the AAF is not pursued and no action is taken against the athlete.

If an athlete is unsure about whether he/she should apply for a TUE in advance, he/she can contact Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Unit or Basketball Ireland's Anti-Doping Officer, Louise O'Loughlin. Athletes to whom the Post-Test TUE Policy applies may still apply to Sport Ireland for a TUE in advance of using the Prohibited Substance or Method.

DECLARATION OF USE POLICY:

Sport Ireland no longer has a Declaration of Use Form. **All medications and supplements must be declared by the athlete at the time of a test on the Doping Control Form**. This is especially important for athletes using Beta2Agonists and Glucocorticosteroids.

EXISTING ABBREVIATED TUE APPLICATIONS:

TO APPLY FOR A TUE:

If you use a prohibited substance and qualify for TUE you will need to obtain a form from the Basketball Ireland Head Office. This can be done by emailing the Anti-Doping Officer, Harry Doyle to request the form hdoyle@ireland.basketball

All matters in Anti-Doping are received in confidence.
Further information is available, please download the Anti Doping National League Teams Handbook at the following link, https://sportlomo-userupload.s3.amazonaws.com/uploaded/galleries/638_uploaded/755952eb1557c73882298f6bc313591e12c3ef8e.pdf

APPENDIX 9 – FIBA Europe National Team Competitions – Accessories Restrictions

Please see FIBA links below in relation to Accessories and on court clothing restrictions.

4.3.2 Each team member shall wear a shirt numbered on the front and back with plain numbers, of a colour contrasting with the colour of the shirt.
The numbers shall be clearly visible and:

- Those on the back shall be at least 16 cm high.
- Those on the front shall be at least 8 cm high.
- The numbers shall be at least 2 cm wide.
- Teams may only use numbers 0 and 00 and from 1 to 99.
- Players on the same team shall not wear the same number.
- Any advertising or logo shall be at least 4 cm away from the numbers.