



Basketball Ireland

Post Primary Schools

PPSC Handbook

2025/2026 SEASON

This also includes:

- Rules & Regulations 2025/26
- Calendar for 2025/26
- PPSC Regional Organisers – contact information
- PPSC Appeal Form
- PPSC Game Scoresheet



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SPORT FEDERATION

Organising the biggest worldwide competitions for 13-18 years old students

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Overview & Summary of General Competition Rules</i>	2
<i>Schools Basketball Calendar</i>	3
1. Management of School Competition	5
2. Registration	8
3. Game Procedures	11
4. League Fixtures	14
5. Schools Cup	16
6. Appeals	18
7. Penalties	20
8. Grading	20
9. League and Cup Playing Rules	22
10. PPSC Classification Procedure	25
11. Court Markings	26
12. PPSC Inter-Regional Rules and Regulations	26
13. Hosting Playoff Tournaments	28
14. ISF International Schools Federation World Schools Championships	30
15. ESSF European Open Schools Championships	31
16. Covid 19 Guidelines	31
17. PPSC Executive Committee & Schools Contacts	32
18 PPSC Appeals Form	33
19 PPSC Official Game Scoresheet & Player Registration Form	34
20 PPSC Official Player Registration Form for all Regions	35

OVERVIEW & SUMMARY OF GENERAL COMPETITIONS RULES

Competition 2025/26	<u>U-19</u>	<u>U-16</u>	<u>U-15 CUP</u>	<u>U-14 CUP</u>	<u>JUNIOR 2nd Year/YR10</u>	<u>MINOR 1st Year/YR9</u>
Age Limits	2007 or later (PLCs are ineligible)	2010 or later	2011 or later	2012 or later	2 nd Year or Year 10 student and born in 2011 or later	1 st Year or Year 9 student and born in 2012 or later
Player eligibility for League Competitions <i>N.B. Teams must implement Rule 3.8 (i) and its various requirements to indicate player(s) details on each scoresheet.</i>	All players Under-19. Maximum of three Under-16 players can play up No Minor or Junior Players can play in the U19 League	All players Under-16. Maximum of three Junior Players can play up No Minor Players can play in the U16 League			All eligible players in 2 nd Year or YR 10. Maximum of two age appropriate YR 11's (NI) can play down. No 3 rd Years (ROI) can play in this competition. Maximum of three Minor Players can play up. All eligible players can only play in this competition for a maximum of two seasons.	All eligible players in 1 st Year (ROI) or YR 9 (NI) can play. No YR 8 (NI) can play in this competition. All eligible Players can only play in this competition for one season.
Player eligibility for Cup Competitions	All players U19. Any number of Under-16 players can play up. No Minor or Junior Players can play in the U19 cup	All players U16. Any number of Junior Players can play up. No Minor Players can play in the U16 Cup	All players Under-15 can play.	All players Under-14 can play		
Player Rotation <i>N.B. Infringement of player rotation rules by a team will result in an automatic award of the points for that game to the other team playing by the rotation rules.</i>	Any five players can play at any time. No restrictions.	Any five players can play at any time. No restrictions	Five players play the first quarter A different five players must play in the second quarter. Any five players may play in the third and fourth quarters. Substitutes may only play first quarter and second half or second quarter and second half.	Five players play the first quarter A different five players must play in the second quarter. Any five players may play in the third and fourth quarters. Substitutes may only play first quarter and second half or second quarter and second half.	Five players play the first quarter A different five players must play in the second quarter. Any five players may play in the third and fourth quarters. Substitutes may only play first quarter and second half or second quarter and second half.	Five players play the first quarter. A different five players must play in the second quarter. Any five players may play in the third and fourth quarters. Substitutes may only play first quarter and second half or second quarter and second half.
Timing: League	4 X 8 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min.	4 X 8 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min.	4 X 7 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min.	4 X 7 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min.	4 X 7 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min.	4 X 7 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min. NB All Ireland 'A' Finals in UL (4 X 6 Min. quarters)
Timing: Cup	4 X 8 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min.	4 X 8 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min.	4 X 7 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min.	4 X 7 Min. quarters Overtime period(s): 3 Min.		
Time Outs <i>N.B. Time Outs can be reduced by PPSC to 2 in the 2nd half for tournaments and regional finals.</i>	2 timeouts in the 1 st half. 3 in the second half with max 2 used in the last 2 minutes of 4 th quarter.	2 timeouts in the 1 st half. 3 in the second half with max 2 used in the last 2 minutes of 4 th quarter.	2 timeouts in the 1 st half. 3 in the second half with max 2 used in the last 2 minutes of 4 th quarter.	2 timeouts in the 1 st half. 3 in the second half with max 2 used in the last 2 minutes of 4 th quarter.	2 timeouts in the 1 st half. 3 in the second half with max 2 used in the last 2 minutes of 4 th quarter.	2 timeouts in the 1 st half. 3 in the second half with max 2 used in the last 2 minutes of 4 th quarter.
Min. Court Size	24m X 13m	24m X 13m	24m X 13m	24m X 13m	24m X 13m	24m X 13m
Defence & Full Court Press	Any defence allowed & team may press at any time.	Any defence allowed & team may press at any time.	Any defence allowed & team may press at any time.	Any defence allowed & team may press at any time.	Any defence allowed & team may press at any time.	Any defence allowed & team may press at any time.
Ball Size	Girls: 6 Boys: 7	Girls: 6 Boys: 7	Girls: 6 Boys: 7	Girls: 6 Boys: 6	Girls: 6 Boys: 7	Girls: 6 Boys: 6

SCHOOLS BASKETBALL CALENDAR 2025/26

August 2025	
Thurs 28th	Closing date for School Cup at 12:00pm (noon)
September 2025	
Mon 1st	Closing date for PPSC Early Bird Registration at 12:00pm (noon). <i>(Note: Registration includes online forms and receipt of full early bird payment which must be received by the PPSC by 12th Sept.)</i>
Wed 3rd	Closing Date for late School Cup Entry at 12:00pm (noon) - <i>Late fees apply</i>
Thursday 4th	Schools Cup Draw (U16 & U19)
Friday 5th	Closing date for PPSC Late Online Registration (noon) - <i>Late fees apply</i> <i>(Note: Registration includes online forms and receipt of full payment which must be received by the PPSC by 3rd October.)</i>
Saturday 6th	PPSC Meeting
Mon 22nd	Schools Cup U16A/B/C Boys Round 1 Pools of 3 (Max of 12 x 3 Winner advancing) Host venues
Tues 23rd	Schools Cup U16A/B/C Girls Round 1 Pools of 3 (Max of 12 x 3 Winner advancing) Host venues
Wed 24th	Schools Cup U19A/B/C Boys Round 1 Pools of 3 (Max of 12 x 3 Winner advancing) Host venues
Thurs 25th	Schools Cup U19A/B/C Girls Round 1 Pools of 3 (Max of 12 x 3 Winner advancing) Host venues
October 2025	
Monday 13th	U14 & U15 Schools Cup Registration opens.
Monday 13th	Schools Cup U16B/C Boys Round 2 Pools of 3 all competitions (Max of 4 x 3 Winner advancing)
Tues 14th	Schools Cup U16B/C Girls Round 2 Pools of 3 all competitions (Max of 4 x 3 Winner advancing)
Wed 15th	Schools Cup U19B/C Boys Round 2 Pools of 3 all competitions (Max of 4 x 3 Winner advancing)
Thurs 16th	Schools Cup U19B/C Girls Round 2 Pools of 3 all competitions (Max of 4 x 3 Winner advancing)
Friday 17th	U14 & U15 Schools Cup Registration closes.
Saturday 18th	BI PPS 'Tom Collins' U15 Inter-Regional Tournament (Regional Venues)
Sunday 19th	BI PPS 'Tom Collins' U15 Inter-Regional Tournament (Regional Venues)
	<i>Mid-Term Break: (ROI) Mon 27th - Fri 31st Oct & (NI) Autumn Half-Term 30th & 31st October</i>
November 2025	
Mon 3rd	Schools Cup U16A Girls Round 2 Pools of 3 all competitions (Max of 4 x 3 Winner advancing)
Tues 4th	Schools Cup U19A Boys Round 2 Pools of 3 all competitions (Max of 4 x 3 Winner advancing)
Wed 5th	Schools Cup U19A Girls Round 2 Pools of 3 all competitions (Max of 4 x 3 Winner advancing)
Thurs 6th	Schools Cup U16B & U19B Semi Finals [Neutral Venues]
Friday 7th	Schools Cup U16A Boys Round 2 Pools of 3 all competitions (Max of 4 x 3 Winner advancing)
December 2025	
Friday 12th	Regional Competition Deadline for Under-16 and Under-19 A & B Leagues
Saturday 13th	PPSC Meeting
Tuesday 16th	Regional Competition Deadline for Under-16 and Under-19 Leagues C Leagues
Tuesday 16th	Schools Cup U16A and U19A Semi Finals [Neutral Venues]
Wed 17th	Schools Cup U16C and U19C Semi Finals [Neutral Venues]
Wed 17th	PPSC Meeting (PM)
Thurs 18th	U14A Girls & Boys Pools Schools Cup Finals Playoffs (Host Venues)
Friday 19th	U15A Girls & Boys Pools Schools Cup Finals Playoffs (Host Venues)
	<i>Christmas Holidays: (ROI) Monday 22nd Dec – Mon 5th Jan & (NI) Christmas Term same</i>

January 2026	
Monday 5th	Return to School
Tuesday 6th	U19A Boys Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Wednesday 7th	U19A Girls Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Thursday 8th	U16C and U19C Cup Finals [NBA Main Court]
Thursday 8th	U16B Boys Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Friday 9th	U16B Girls Playoffs (Host Venues) 6 Pools
Monday 12th	U16A Boys Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Tuesday 13th	U19B Girls Playoffs (Host Venues) 6 Pools
Wednesday 14th	U19B Boys Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Thursday 15th	U16C Girls Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Friday 16th	U16C Boys Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Monday 19th	U16A Girls Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Tuesday 20th	U16A and U19A Cup Finals [NBA Main Court]
Tuesday 20th	U19C Boys Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Wednesday 21st	U16B and U19B Cup Finals [NBA Main Court]
Thursday 22nd	U19C Girls Playoffs (Host Venues) 7 Pools
Friday 23rd	Leinster & Munster D Finals Boys & Girls
Tuesday 27th	U19A Boys League Semi Finals (SF1 - Pool of 3 and SF2 - Pool of 4)
Thursday 29th	U19A Girls League Semi Finals (SF1 - Pool of 3 and SF2 - Pool of 4)
February 2026	
Tuesday 3th	U16A Boys League Semi Finals (SF1 - Pool of 3 and SF2 - Pool of 4)
Wednesday 4th	U16A Girls League Semi Finals (SF1 - Pool of 3 and SF2 - Pool of 4)
Thursday 5th	U19 B/C Girls League Pools x 2 U19 B/C Boys League Pools x 2 (Host Venues)
Friday 6th	U16 B/C Boys League Pools x 2 U16 B/C Girls League Pools x 2 (Host Venues)
Saturday 7th	PPSC Meeting
	<i>February Mid-Term Hols: (ROI) Mon 16th Feb – Friday 20th Feb & (NI) Spring term Feb 12th & 13th</i>
Wednesday 25th	U16C and U19C League Finals [Neptune Stadium]
Thursday 26th	U16B and U19B League Finals [Neptune Stadium]
Friday 27th	U16A and U19A League Finals [Neptune Stadium]
March 2026	
	<i>Easter Hols: (ROI) Monday 30th March - 10th April & (NI) Easter Holidays Thurs 2nd -10th April</i>
Thurs 27th	Regional Competition Deadline Minor & Junior Competition (PPSC Meeting PM)
April 2026	
Monday 13th	Regrading window opens
Tue 21st	Junior A Boys League Playoff (Host Venues)
Wed 22nd	Junior A Girls League Playoffs (Host Venues)
Thurs 23th	Junior B/C Boys League Playoffs (Host Venues)
Fri 24th	Junior B/C Girls League Playoffs (Host Venues)
Tues 28th	Minor B/C Girls League Playoffs (Host Venues)
Tues 28th	Minor B/C Boys League Playoffs (Host Venues)
Wed 29th	Junior A Boys Semi Final Round (Pool winners)
Wed 29th	Junior B & C Boys Semi Final Round (Pool winners) [Host Venues]
Thurs 30th	Junior A Girls Semi Final Round (Pool winners)
Thurs 30th	Junior B & C Girls Semi Final Round (Pool winners) [Host Venues]
May 2026	
Wed 6th	Minor B & C Boys Semi Final Round (Pool winners) [Host Venues]
Saturday 9th	Minor A Boys and Girls Tournament in UL Limerick
Sunday 10th	Minor A Boys and Girls Tournament in UL Limerick
Mon 11th	Minor B & C Girls Semi Final Round (Pool winners) [Host Venues]
Tues 12th	Junior A Boys and Junior A Girls League Finals
Wed 13th	Minor & Junior B & C Boys League Final
Thurs 14th	Minor & Junior B & C Girls League Final
Friday 15th	U14A Boys & Girls Semi Finals Pools 1 & 2 (Pool winners)
Mon 18th	U15A Boys & Girls Semi Finals Pools 1 & 2 (Pool winners)
Thursday 21st	U14A & U15A Girls & Boys Finals [NBA Main Court]

1. MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS

1.1 Rules and Regulations Overview

(i) These Rules and Regulations (R&Rs) govern the operation of Basketball Ireland Post Primary Schools Competitions for the current season. The following abbreviated terms will be used throughout this document.

BIPPS = Basketball Ireland Post Primary Schools

R&R = Rules and Regulations

RO = Regional Organiser

PPSC = Post Primary Schools Committee (All Regional Organisers)

EC = Post Primary Schools Executive Committee (Officers of the PPSC)

HSO = Basketball Ireland Head of Schools Operations

NRC = National Referees Committee

ROI = Republic of Ireland

NI = Northern Ireland

(ii) The PPSC Executive Committee may impose penalties - such as disciplinary action, order and instruct that game are replayed and/or fines - for breaches of the regulations that have no specified penalty in these Rules and Regulations.

(iii) The PPSC Executive Committee may increase or decrease penalties in the PPSC Rules and Regulations where it is determined as warranted by the PPSC Executive having considered exceptional or extenuating circumstances/evidence or due to aggravated or repeated action.

(iv) The school's download section on the Basketball Ireland website should be consulted for possible updates or changes to these regulations or calendar of events on a regular basis. If any doubt exists prior to a game about to take place you should seek clarification from the PPSC or your RO.

1.2 Rules and Regulations Overview

(i) Rules will be reviewed at the end of each season based on the following:

- The operations of the Schools Competitions throughout the season.
- Proposals put forward by the Regional Organisers (ROs) and/or the PPSC.
- Any suggestions for amendments by schools to the R&Rs must arrive with the PPSC, through the relevant RO, on or before May 1st of the current season.

(ii) Where time constraints affect issues that arise the Chairperson of the PPSC, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the PPSC, have the authority to make decisions on any matter not specifically covered by the R&Rs.

(iii) The PPSC NEC has the right to amend or add to these R&Rs.

(iv) The PPSC reserves the right to exercise its judgement and discretion in the interpretation of these R&Rs taking into account the best interests of Post-Primary Schools and players. The PPSC interpretation will be final and binding on all members.

- (v) In addition to these R&Rs schools must also adhere to any regional regulation and deadline as laid down by the Regional Organiser/Regional Committee and approved by the PPSC. A Regional Committee may be set up to aid the Regional Organiser to run the region.
- (vi) These regulations form part of the regulations of Basketball Ireland and should be read in conjunction with them. It is the responsibility of all schools to make themselves aware of the Basketball Ireland Regulations which will be available on www.basketballireland.ie
- (vii) In order for a team to qualify automatically for the All-Ireland Playoffs, the team must have played in a regional competition with a minimum of four teams.
- (viii) F.I.B.A. rules will apply to any issues arising from a PPSC competition that is not governed by current PPSC R&Rs. Refer to 1.2(ii) and 1.2(iii).
- (ix) In a situation where a match official expels a team coach from the gym, another adult nominated by the school coach (not a player on that team) must take responsibility for the team. If there is no other adult available to take responsibility for the team the match is forfeited by the team whose coach was expelled. Rule 2.4 (vi) must be fully adhered to.
- (x) In a situation where a match official expels a team player from the gym during a tournament, that player cannot play in the following competition game which may involve a game in a different season.
- (xi) It is the responsibility of each registered school and their management to ensure that all teaching and coaching personnel involved in the school's basketball program are fully familiar with and adhere to the code of ethics and good sport. Copies of the Code are available from the Irish Sports Council.
- (xii) New schools entering PPSC competitions grade will be determined by the PPSC.
- (xiii) 'D' Schools cannot participate in the Schools National Cup at any grade.
- (xiv) Teams that are demoted will be Schools Cup tied at all grades for one year i.e. cannot take part in the Schools National Cups at any grade. Schools demoted from C to D (Development) grade are not eligible to participate in the Provincial 'D' Cups i.e. Munster/Leinster/Connacht/Ulster Development Cups for one year. This same rule also applies to new schools initially graded by PPSC at 'D'.

1.3 Trophies and Medals

- (i) All Schools National Trophies remain the property of Basketball Ireland. Where winning schools have received trophies the contact person provided in the registration process of the current season will then be responsible for its return and engraving to the Basketball Ireland office by the following deadlines:
 - National Under-19 and Under-16, League and Cup trophies 30th November of the following season.
 - National Minor and Junior Year League trophies plus U14 & U15 National Cups – 31st of January of the following season.
 - Regional Trophies remain the property of the PPSC and must be engraved and returned to the RO by the dates specified by the RO.

- (ii) Failure to return the trophies by this date will result in Basketball Ireland collecting the trophy, with the cost of this paid by the school. Failure to pay this fine will result in suspension from competition until the cost is met.
- (iii) Failure of schools to return trophies due to loss at either regional or national level will result in the school paying the cost of the trophy to be replaced and re-inscribed to a maximum of €1000 euro. Failure to pay this fine will result in suspension from competition until the cost is met.
- (iv) Schools who return trophies in a damaged condition will result in the school paying the cost of the trophy to be fully repaired. Failure to pay this fine will result in suspension from competition until the cost is met.
- (v) At Regional Final & National Finals there will be 17 medals for each team at U16 & U19, Minor & Junior. The RO will provide the contact details of the supplier for regional finalists wishing to order extra medals from the supplier.

1.4 Communication

- (i) The communication procedures accepted by the PPSC are as follows: Phone Call, E-Mail and Postal Service. E-Mail is the preferred option.
- (ii) The official channel of communication from Basketball Ireland is E-Mail. All school contacts must take responsibility for checking the E-Mail address provided in the registration process on a regular basis.
- (iii) It is the responsibility of the school to inform the PPSC and Basketball Ireland of any changes to the contact person before or during the season. It is also the responsibility of the school to ensure that all contact details are correct.

1.5 PPSC School Registration

- (i) For a school to register with the PPSC its first teams at each age level of competition must play in the PPSC leagues. First team in this context refers to the top standard team at each age level. Failure to comply will lead to €1000 fine and the immediate removal of the school from all PPSC competitions.
- (ii) PPSC registered schools will receive the following:
 - *A minimum of 3 full duration scheduled games at regional pool stage at each grade prior to semi-finals and/or finals. All Regional Finals must be in a neutral venue i.e. a gym not owned by a school involved in the final.*
 - *17 medals at U16 & U19 and also at Minor & Junior will be provided for both Regional winners and finalists. Schools can purchase extra medals from the medal supplier.*
 - *Presentation of a Regional Perpetual Cup or Plaque for the winning team.*

- *Referees and hall hire for Regional finals is paid by the PPSC.*
- *Regional places in All-Ireland Qualifying Tournament Playoffs (Pools or Knockout) at Minor/Junior/U16 and U19 levels.*
- *All-Ireland Playoff (Pools or Knockout) stages will take place based on the schedule posted on the BI website.*
- *All Finals at A/B/C where possible will be in the NBA if available other than the Minor A which will take place in the UL Sports Arena.*
- *All-Ireland Gold and Silver Medals will be presented to the final two teams in each National Competition. Bronze medals will only be presented in Minor and Junior League competitions and U14 and U15 Schools Cup to the team second in each of the Pool of 3 semi finals*
- *A National Cup will be presented to each winning team and the team name will be recorded on the PPSC Roll of Honour on the BI website.*
- *Referees and hall hire for national finals are paid by the PPSC.*
- *Each team that qualifies for the All-Ireland League Group Stage/Semi final stage must pay a contribution of €30 per group game (Pools or Knockout) (i.e., two matches is €60 and three matches is €90.*
- *There is no contribution for the All-Ireland League Final.*

2. REGISTRATION

2.1 School Competitions Registration

(i) There is a separate independent online league registration process for boys and girls. Any school owing outstanding fees or fines must pay these in full before their registration for the current season will be accepted. *NOTE: If you have basketball teams of the other gender in the school these teams must also register and play with BIPPS. If not any registration becomes null and void and all teams are excluded from BIPPS competitions.*

(ii) *League Registration*

Schools must comply fully with the required '3 step' registration procedure as follows:

Step 1 Register online by at latest the set calendar date via the link provided by the RO and/or PPSC Registrar.

Step 2 Receive confirmation of your registration and the fees due from the Registrar.

Step 3 Fully Completed Player Registration Forms must be received by Regional Organisers prior to any games taking place in that competition. All games played by a team prior to the RO receiving these completed forms will be forfeited. The responsibility is fully on the team coach/school to ensure that this has been received and acknowledged in writing/email by the RO.

(iii) *Cup Registration*

Schools wishing to enter a Basketball Ireland Schools Cup competition must submit their entry to the Basketball Ireland Office via the online form by the deadline outlined in that current year's calendar. All Cup entries are available only from BI. All schools must be registered with the PPSC for the Post-Primary Schools League Competition at the appropriate gender and must also play in their specific league competitions in order to be eligible to enter the Basketball Ireland Schools Cup Competition.

2.2 Team Registration

- (i) You may register as many teams as you wish within an age group, prior to the competition commencing.
- (ii) If you wish to register two teams in the league you may enter a second team in the same grade or in the immediate grade below the current school grade.

2.3 Player Registration

- (i) Only students who are currently attending a second level school in Ireland on a full time basis - *up to and including 6th Year (ROI) and Year 13 (NI)* - and registered with the Department of Education on that school's roll on the Departmental returns in October (PPOD) are eligible to participate in Post Primary Schools Competitions subject to satisfying 2.3 (iv) below. The PPSC Executive may authorise a Regional Organiser at any time to request written confirmation, which must be signed by the school principal, that a student(s) is registered on the school roll and is currently attending the school in a full time capacity as a student. In this circumstance, until such confirmation is received by the PPSC/ RO, the student(s) cannot participate in any PPSC competition.
- (ii) PLC students are ineligible for Post Primary Schools Competitions.
- (iii) **Player Registration Deadlines:**
All Players must be registered on the Player Registration Form with their RO in their respective region before they play their first game. A copy of the Registration Form is available to print out on page 35 of this Handbook. A separate form must be completed for each team.
 - *Under-16 and Under-19 team player registration forms must be completed and submitted to the RO before the school play their first game of the current season.*
 - *Minor and Junior team player registration forms must be completed and submitted to the RO before the school play their first game of the current season.*
 - *All Junior players playing Under-16 must be registered on the U16 player registration form in order to be eligible to play.*
 - *All players must be fully registered before the date of their league's first fixture. Any subsequent players may be registered, but they must be registered prior to the relevant fixture.*
 - *Coaches should retain a copy of all completed registrations.*
 - *Players can be added to a team registration list by contacting the RO in writing until Regional final stage but cannot be added after that date. Schools can register players to a team by contacting the RO until Regional Finals. There is a deadline of Regional Finals re adding players to any team.*

- (iv) Players from other Countries who partake in education for a term or part thereof will be registered as a player under Category X. In order to continue playing the PPSC may require confirmation from the school and Principal in writing at the start of the next term that these students are currently in full time education in the registered school and that they will be continuing their education in said school in that capacity for the remainder of that term/year.
- (v) It is important to note that schools are not considered as registered until all fees (including late fees) are paid in full by the designated dates as set out in the PPSC registration form and/or calendar pertinent to that particular school year. Schools will be removed automatically from competition once these registrations cut off dates are reached and they will undertake no further part in PPSC competitions.

2.4 Responsibilities

- (i) Proof of age or school registration rests with the player, the school and the coach. There is no onus on the PPSC for checking this information. All school contacts must be aware that at any point during the season the eligibility of a player can be queried by the RO and/or PPSC.
- (ii) It is the responsibility of the coaches/teachers and managers to read and adhere to the Basketball Ireland Code of Conduct. This is available for download on the Basketball Ireland website in the download section.
- (iii) It is the responsibility of each school to ensure that all teaching and coaching staff are familiar with and adhere to the Code of Ethics and good practice. This is available on the Basketball Ireland website.
- (iv) It is the responsibility of each school to ensure upon registration with the PPSC that they comply fully with their Statutory obligation under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 as amended by the Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions and Certain Disclosures Act) 2016) and the Department of Education and Skills Circular 0031/2016.
- (v) All persons involved in the PPSC U15 Inter Regional Competitions to include sports coaches/managers/physios etc must comply fully with the vetting procedure in 2.4 (iv). Basketball Ireland will process applications for vetting where the appointing Regional Organiser requests Team Management to apply.
- (vi) In order for a game to be legal a school must appoint adults only as coaches of the school team and the adult(s) must be named on the scoresheet and fulfil all the requirements of Section 2.4

3. GAME PROCEDURES

3.1 Players

(i) In all PPSC competitions a maximum of fifteen registered players of the eligible age group may be on the scoresheet.

3.2 Timing

The timing of schools games is outlined below:

• Under-19 and Under-16 League Games:	4 X 8 Min Quarters
• Under-19 Cup Games:	4 X 8 Min Quarters
• Under-16 Cup Games:	4 X 8 Min Quarters
• Under-15 Cup Games	4 X 7 Min Quarters
• Under-14 Cup Games:	4 X 7 Min Quarters
• Minor and Junior League Games:	4 X 7 Min Quarters

NB: The All Ireland Minor Girls & Boys 'A' tournament will be reduced to 4 X 6 Minute Quarters.

3.3 Time-Outs

(i) Two time-outs may be taken in the first half.

Three time-outs may be taken in the second half with the proviso that if a Coach/Team does not use one of the three time-outs in the second half before the final two minute mark in the 4th quarter, the Coach/Team loses the time-out and will have two time-outs remaining during the final two minutes in accordance with FIBA Rules and Regulations. In Playoff Tournaments or Regional Finals where there are a series of games the PPSC and/or Regional Organiser reserve the right to reduce the number of time-outs to two per half. Teams will be informed of this prior to the game starting by the PPSC or RO.

(ii) One time-out will be given per team in each period of extra time.

3.4 Jump Balls

There will be no additional jump balls after the one that starts the game. The first possession goes to the team who do not gain possession from the opening jump ball. Possession then alternates for the remainder of the game.

3.5 Scoresheet

A specially designed PPSC Scoresheet is available for use from your Regional Organiser or printed directly from this handbook (page 34) which can accommodate the names of 15 players in all competitions Cup and League competitions i.e. U19/U16/U14/Junior & Minor. The Away team coach is entitled take a photo/copy of the scoresheet at the end of the game.

3.6 ‘Fair Play Ruling’

When a team achieves a 20-point lead over their opposition, the PPSC state that the scoreboard operator holds the lead at 20 points on the visible scoreboard. The scorekeeper will keep the actual score but the visible score will remain at a 20-point lead on the scoreboard. All coaches must abide by this and make their players aware of this ‘Fair Play Ruling’. In the event of a team reducing the deficit to less than the 20-point lead, the operator will amend the scoreboard to reflect the score in the scorebook.

3.7 Uniforms

- (i) Legal uniform numbers as per FIBA Rules and Regulations allow use of all numbers between 0-99 including 00.
- (ii) Team members are required to wear uniforms of the same colour with numbers on the front and back. In the case of Regional and National Finals, players not wearing legal uniforms will not be permitted on court. In the event of a clash of colours ROs will decide who must wear bibs.

3.8 Player Eligibility (Cup and League)

- (i) The following are the requirements for each age group and this section must be read in conjunction with Sections 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 & 8.5:
 - **Under-19 Competitions** *Players must be born on or after 1st January 2007. (Minor and Junior players are ineligible to play in Under-19 competitions.)*
 - **Under-16 Competitions** *Players must be born on or after 1st January 2010 (Minor players are ineligible to play in Under-16 competitions.)*
 - **Under-15 Cup Competition** *Players must be born on or after 1st January 2011 (Any player underage can play U15 Cup)*
Note: Rule 8.2 (i) Players can only play in a maximum of two cup competitions in the same season.
 - **Under-14 Cup Competition** *Players must be born on or after 1st January 2012 (Any player underage can play U14 Cup)*
Note: Rule 8.2 (i) Players can only play in a maximum of two cup competitions in the same season.
 - **Junior League Competition** *Players must be born on or after 1st January 2011 and be in 2nd Year (ROI) / Year 10 (NI). Two Year 11 (NI) players of eligible age (i.e. born Jan-June 2011) may be selected to play, however once they play their classification remains as a Junior Player regarding all PPSC competitions. (The numeral “11” must be inscribed against these players’ names on scoresheets in all games). No 3rd Years (ROI) are allowed play Junior. A player can only play in the Junior Competition for a maximum of two seasons.*

* NI = Northern Ireland

* ROI = Republic of Ireland

- **Minor League Competition**

Players must be born on or after 1st January 2012 and be in 1st Year (ROI) / Year 9 (NI). A player can only play in the Minor Competition for one season.

3.8 Player Eligibility (Cup and League) cont.

- (ii) A team that plays or lists on the scoresheet an ineligible player in any competition will forfeit the game and may be disqualified by PPSC from that competition.
Note: Overage players are deemed as ineligible players under this rule in all Regional and National PPSC competitions.
- (iii) If the ineligible player is discovered after a final, the offending school will forfeit all titles and trophies. The PPSC shall have the authority to make any consequential adjustments to titles and awards.
- (iv) On request from the PPSC and/or RO, a school must provide evidence of dates of birth of individual players within 48 hours.
- (v) After 2 'walkovers/forfeits' in any PPSC competition all of the results of the offending team are null and void and they are removed from the current competition.

3.9 Condensation

If a game is disrupted because of condensation the following procedure will apply:

- (i) On the first occurrence of condensation interfering with play the referee shall stop the game and allow the home team fifteen minutes to solve the problem. This time should be used to dry the floor and ensure it is possible to continue the game.
- (ii) On the second occurrence of condensation the referee shall stop the game. If a suitable venue is available within 30 minutes of the second disruption, it is necessary for both teams to continue to play the game in this venue. A 5-minute warm up must be provided in this venue. If a suitable venue is not available within 30 minutes of the disruption, the home team will have to travel to the visiting team's court within 7 days to replay the game in full.
- (iii) The referee shall have the power to decide on the fitness of the court for play. Any objections to the court or equipment provided must be made to the referee prior to the start of the game.

3.10 Game Disruption

If a game begins and is disrupted for any reason (apart from condensation) the following procedures shall apply:

- (i) The Convenor, (or Referee in the absence of a Convenor) will take the scoresheet at the point of the disruption. The Convenor must include a detailed report of this disruption. The Convenor/Referee investigates to see if the disruption can be resolved and if the game can continue within a reasonable time frame. If this is not possible the RO will be contacted (at regional stage) or at All Ireland playoff stage, the PPSC will be contacted.
- (ii) If the game cannot be resumed, the RO/PPSC will continue to investigate the circumstances, which led to the disruption. Written reports will be necessary.

(iii) The PPSC will make the final determination based on the reports in 3.10 (ii) above as to whether the disruption was outside the control of the home team. 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 as deemed appropriate. If the disruption was beyond the control of the teams, the game will be resumed at the point of the disruption at a time and place determined by the RO/PPSC. The game will not be resumed if both teams agree to let the score stand at the point of the disruption as the final score.

4. LEAGUE FIXTURES

4.1 Organisation of Regional League Matches

- (i) All school regional matches must start and finish during official school hours unless agreed by both schools. In exceptional circumstances the relevant Regional Organiser may request permission from the PPSC to allow a fixture outside these parameters.
- (ii) All games must be played on or before the stated regional and national deadlines (days and times appointed).
- (iii) Where a school has two teams competing on the same day in a regional competition the youngest age group must always play first unless otherwise agreed. The PPSC reserve the right to change the order of play during playoffs and national semi-finals and finals if they deem it necessary for competition and travel purposes.

4.2 Communication for Organisation of League Matches

- (i) The first named team will have home advantage and is responsible for communicating with the away team to arrange the fixture. In the event of a dispute the RO will rule on any regional league fixture.
- (ii) Official communication, as outlined in Section 1.4 must be used to clarify the time, date and location of the fixtures between each school. When an issue arises among or between schools that is brought to the attention of the PPSC Executive and they deem it to be a serious issue then the RO and/or HSO will be authorised to use the full list of sanctions available to them to deal with the issue.
- (iii) If a team is unable to fulfil a Regional Final fixture at the pre-set date sent out by the RO in the fixtures at the start of the competition then they will be automatically be replaced by the team they defeated in the semi-final. This will also extend to the filling of semi-final spots if required.

4.3 Match Officials for League Matches

- (i) All referees operating in all PPSC events, both Regional and National, must be licensed and registered as appropriate with Basketball Ireland i.e. paying the relevant registration fees. Referees must be both registered and graded to officiate at all grades. Students/Staff or Coaches cannot referee competitive games involving their own school at any grade.
- (ii) The home team should provide table officials. The visiting team have the right to put an observer seated at the table. They must exercise this option before the game begins.
- (iii) All referees must be registered with their local Referee's association. Minors (U18) cannot referee schools games.

4.4 Failure to Fulfil a Preliminary or Playoff League Fixture

- (i) Any team failing to fulfil or comply with their full League playoff preliminary and/or tournament commitments will be fined €1000 by the PPSC. If a school does not pay the fine within 2 working days the school will be automatically suspended from all competitions with immediate effect. Any further withdrawals by the same school gender within a period of 3 years from the date of incurring the first penalty will incur a fixed penalty of €1000 plus an automatic immediate suspension of all school teams from PPSC competitions for 12 months from the date of incurring the second penalty.
- (ii) Once a team indicates in writing to the PPSC that they are withdrawing from a particular League playoff they cannot re-enter that same League playoff competition

4.5 Failure to Arrive for a League Match on Time

A team who fails to appear on the court thirty minutes after the appointed time shall forfeit the game. In exceptional circumstances, or where a team is aware they will be late arriving, a notification must be communicated to the basketball contact of the opposing school and/or the opposing school's main office, the Regional Organiser and the PPSC. Decisions on the progression of the game can then be made accordingly.

4.6 Results

Regional League Results: The winning team is responsible for sending the original score sheet to the Regional Organiser within the region's deadline for any game being played. No points will be awarded without the score sheet. The winning coach/school must also text the RO with the result before the end of the game day

4.7 All-Ireland Playoff Qualifiers and Hosting of Tournaments

- (i) Note that on completing their online registration schools would have chosen to confirm their commitment to participate fully in the National League Playoff Competition which includes all games up to All-Ireland Finals on the specific calendared dates as set down in advance by the PPSC for that specific year. Failure to comply will result in a €1000 fine by the PPSC plus the enforcement of rule 4.4 in the event of a subsequent offence. This means that schools which have not made this commitment cannot advance beyond the pool stage at regional level.

- (ii) When the Regional qualifiers are known, each qualifying team may apply to host an All-Ireland Playoff. These applications must be received no later than the day of the Regional Final. When all applications are received, the PPSC will select the most suitable venue, based on geography, facilities, seeding and availability of referees.
- (iii) There will be a refereeing fee of €30 per group game per qualifying team in the playoff tournament for the All-Ireland Playoff (Pools or Knockout) Stages. This will be paid prior to the tournament via EFT to the PPSC. The fee is increased to €60 if paid after the day. The host will submit on the day directly to the PPSC-the score sheets, report form and referees' claim forms. The National Referee appointments officer will make appointments to League playoff games in conjunction with the PPSC Referee coordinator.
- (iv) A copy of these Rules and Regulations plus a copy of the PPSC schedule for the particular tournament must be made available for referees and officials at the table of all All- Ireland Qualifying and Hosted Tournaments. The host school must provide this.

4.8 Supporters

School authorities and representatives shall be held responsible for any misconduct by players, coaches or supporters that may be reported by venue authorities or venue officials. Schools must provide adequate supervision of their supporters. Schools deemed guilty shall be subject to a fine of €1000 as assessed by the PPSC. The school is also responsible for any payments to also repair damaged property. Players, supporters and team officials are obliged to adhere to all venue regulations. In all cases the school is ultimately responsible for controlling and supervising their supporters and parents. Acceptance of this responsibility is a requirement for schools registration.

5. SCHOOLS CUP

5.1. Schools Cup

- (i) In the case of a Schools Cup fixtures, the designated host team must make contact with the away team(s) and confirm the fixture date as on the calendar. To confirm the fixture the host team must return a fixture confirmation form to the Basketball Ireland Schools Competition Officer via E-mail no later than 7 days in advance of the fixture. The Cup competitions will be divided into geographical pools by the PPSC and HSO. Entry to the competition could still involve significant travel and it is likely to be outside your region. Schools Cup will be in pools.
- (ii) In the case of a Schools Cup fixture, if the designated host team does not make contact in relation to the cup fixture, the away teams must contact the HSO to make them aware of the situation. This contact must be made at least 10 days before the date of the pool game.
- (iii) Note that on completing their online Cup registration schools would have chosen to confirm their commitment to participate fully in the National Cup Competition which includes all games up to All-Ireland Finals on the specific calendared dates as set down in advance by the PPSC for that specific year. Failure to comply will result in a €1000 fine by Basketball Ireland plus the enforcement of rule 4.4 in the event of a subsequent offence.

- (iv) In the case of a Schools Cup fixture, the dates for the Cup games are set in the Calendar and teams are agreeing to participate on those specific dates which is a condition of registering. Unlike the League - where the PPSC will decide - in the Cup competitions, the HSO and Basketball Ireland will decide on the rescheduling of fixtures in the Cup competition and extenuating circumstances surrounding the Cup fixtures and the enforcement or cancellation of fines for Cup fixtures and competition.

5.2 Failure to Fulfil a Schools Cup Fixture

Any team failing to fulfil a schools cup fixture will be fined €1000 by Basketball Ireland and in the event of being fined by Basketball Ireland will automatically be removed from participation in the Regional and National League competitions by the PPSC until the fine is paid.

5.3 Failure to Arrive for a Schools Cup Match on Time

A team who fails to appear on the court thirty minutes after the appointed time shall forfeit the game. In exceptional circumstances, or where a team is aware they will be late arriving, a notification must be communicated to the basketball contact of the opposing school and the opposing school's main office if during the day and the PPSC. A decision on how to proceed can then be made accordingly. It is in line with the ethos of schools basketball that goodwill prevails and every effort is made by all parties to proceed - if possible - with the fixture.

5.4 Cup Match Officials

- (i) All referees operating in Basketball Ireland Schools Cup events must be licensed and registered with Basketball Ireland. Referees must be both registered and graded to officiate at all grades. Students/Staff and Coaches cannot referee competitive games involving their own school at any grade. The National Referee appointments officer will make appointments to Cup games in conjunction with the PPSC Referee coordinator.
- (ii) Unregistered officials will not receive any appointments from Basketball Ireland/PPSC and schools will be subject to a fine and/or disqualification for using unregistered officials. Score sheets will be checked on a random basis by PPSC and Basketball Ireland.
- (iii) Two referees and two table officials must officiate all games.
- (iv) All referees must be registered with their local Referee's association. Minors (U18) cannot referee schools games.
- (v) In the case where a referee does not arrive, and the game does not have two referees, this must be communicated to the visiting schools by the host team immediately. Basketball Ireland recommends that the game be played with one registered official, however, If a school decides to play the game, an appeal based on this article will not be accepted by the PPSC.
- (vi) The home team must provide table officials. The visiting teams have the right to put an observer seated at the table. They should exercise this option before the game begins.

5.5 Cup Results

Schools Cup Results: The designated host team is responsible for sending the original score sheets to the HSO within 2 working days of the game being played. A fine of €100 will apply after the 2 days if no score sheet has been received. No points will be awarded without the score sheets. An immediate level of communication is required (text, phone or email) so that the next round of games can be scheduled. This communication must be made to the Basketball Ireland offices before 5pm on the evening of the scheduled fixture.

5.6 Schools Cup Fixtures Setting

Game times will automatically be set by Basketball Ireland in conjunction with the PPSC. The PPSC reserves the right to support the HSO and consult with the ROs for school teams involved to help resolve any issues that arises before they make a final decision.

5.7 Supporters

School authorities and representatives shall be held responsible for any misconduct by players, coaches or supporters that may be reported by venue authorities or venue officials. Schools deemed guilty shall be subject to a fine of €1000 and as assessed by the PPSC. The school is also responsible for any payments to repair damaged property. Players, supporters and team officials are obliged to adhere to all venue regulations. In all cases the school is ultimately responsible for controlling and supervising their supporters and parents of players.

6. APPEALS

6.1 Procedure for PPSC Appeals

- (i) The PPSC administer the League competition and Basketball Ireland administer the Cup competitions. Please use the correct appeal procedure in the event of an appeal. The Basketball Ireland Appeal procedure is available from the HSO in BIHQ. An appeal on the official PPSC appeals form (see Appendix A Pg 30) - including the appeal fee of €300 must be lodged to the PPSC Bank Account – must be with the PPSC Secretary within 2 working days of the incident arising. The PPSC will invite written submissions from the *Appellant* and the *Respondent* within a timeframe not exceeding a further 24 hours from the formal appeal being lodged with the PPSC. Once this process is concluded and the PPSC Secretary has prepared the appeal file it will be sent to that specific PPSC appointed Appeal Committee to be heard.
- (ii) The PPSC Executive Committee will appoint an Appeal Committee and inform the HSO in writing. Each PPSC Appeals Committee will consist of 3 persons not having a conflict of interest.
- (iii) Each PPSC Appeals Committee will adjudicate only on the written submissions received from both sides involved in the appeal.
- (iv) Any decision can be appealed except fixed penalties included in the Rules and Regulations for that year. The PPSC will adjudicate on the Schools League competitions appeals. Basketball Ireland will adjudicate on all Schools Cup competitions appeals and issues. This procedure is available from the HSO in BIHQ.

- (v) Any appeal under Section 6.1 shall clearly state the grounds on which the decision is being appealed and shall include any documentary evidence considered necessary to support the appeal. The PPSC may not always hold an appeal hearing for such appeals. In this case the appellant has the right to appeal directly to the NAC.
- (vi) If you are appealing the result of a game, the scoresheet must be signed in protest by the Captain or Coach before the referees sign it.
- (vii) The PPSC Appeal Committee will review only the written submissions and may seek further written clarification from the *Appellant* or *Respondent* or both if they deem it necessary. This clarification will be sought on behalf of the Appeals Committee through the PPSC Secretary. The Basketball Ireland appeals for Cup competition may involve an oral hearing as well as a written submission.
- (viii) The decision of the PPSC Appeals Committee will also be issued in writing to the *Appellant* and the *Respondent*. The decision will include the rationale and reasoning behind the decision-making process. Those taking part in the appeal decision will be named in the written judgment.
- (ix) Any decision of the PPSC NEC Appeals Committee can be appealed to the National Appeals Committee (NAC), which is an independent body. All appeals to the NAC are processed by and through Basketball Ireland HQ. In order for an appeal of a *PPSC appeal decision* to be valid it must be received in writing at the office of Basketball Ireland. After receiving notification of the *PPSC appeal decision* the appellant must lodge their appeal to the NAC in strict accordance with the *Regulations & Bye Laws of Basketball Ireland* which govern such appeals. It is the duty of an Appellant to ensure that they fully comply with all NAC conditions in making their appeal through Basketball Ireland.

6.2 Appeal under time constraints.

- (i) In the case of an appeal where time constraints apply, i.e., a tournament, the appeal should be made should be made to the BIO and / or PPSC representative(s) that is/are present immediately following the game or issue. An emergency PPSC Appeals Committee will be appointed by the PPSC Executive Committee as outlined in 6.1 on receipt of appeal payment and this Appeal Committee will make a ruling on the appeal. In such circumstances the tournament must proceed as scheduled even if a decision is not forthcoming. The Appellant has the right to appeal any decision made in such circumstances to the NAC following the tournament. Where no decision was forthcoming the Appellant can appeal to the NAC immediately following the tournament.

7. PENALTIES

7.1 Penalties.

- (i) Outside of automatic fines and penalties, the PPSC may impose penalties upon individual players, schools, members of schools or game officials that it considers have brought the game into disrepute as it sees and deems fit. These penalties may be in the form of fines, league points deduction, suspension, ordering game replays or disqualification from the Regional and National Competitions fixtures or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the PPSC from time to time. All penalties will be notified in writing to relevant schools by the PPSC representative on the PPSC Executive. The right of appeal exists to the NAC.
- (ii) Players, coaches, officials and schools and their representatives 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 school for any unacceptable behaviour by its followers and /or supporters.
- (iii) Disciplinary action may be taken against a school for non-compliance in respect of their registration and participation conditions.
- (iv) 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 PPSC 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). Severe penalties will be imposed for any infringement of these guidelines.
- (v) The PPSC reserve the right to reduce or cancel penalties due to extenuating circumstances as it sees and deems fit commensurate with the offense.

8. GRADING

8.1 Schools Grades

- (i) Schools are graded by gender, and the school grade applies to all teams of that gender within the school, i.e. Under-19/Under-16/Under-15/Under-14/Junior/Minor.
- (ii) Grades may vary between genders in a particular school.
- (iii) Schools will be graded A, B, C and in some regions D categories. Schools competing in 2 or more grades must always have their best panel of players on their first team. Sanctions including expulsion from competition(s) will be applied where the PPSC are satisfied that this rule has been breached.
- (iv) Where a school reapply for entry into competitions after being out for two seasons, they may, at the discretion of the PPSC, re-enter at the same level or a level immediately below that grade.

- (v) A team wishing to compete below their registered school grade for the current season may only play in that grade as a non-competitive team and their results will not be taken into account in league placings or qualifications. Results can be used in an application to regrade for the following year if eligible.
- (vi) The HSO will provide the PPSC with a full list of All-Ireland finalists in All-Ireland Competitions and of all schools who withdrew from Playoff tournaments.

8.2 Promotion

- (i) Any school competing in competitions is eligible for promotion to a higher grade at the discretion of both the PPSC and Regional Organiser. This can happen during the season if merited.
- (ii) The winner of a D league at any age group may be promoted to the C division. The school will remain there for at least one year. Winners and finalists of the Provincial Development (D) Leagues will be promoted to the C division and remain there for at least one year.
- (iii) Any school having won or been a runner-up in an All-Ireland League or Cup Final at B or C level in Minor/Junior/U14/U15/U16/U19 will be automatically promoted to the next level. This level will apply for a minimum of 2 years in league and a minimum of 1 year in the cup except in the case of the U19 league where schools will have the right to appeal for regrading after one year to the PPSC.
- (iv) Any school having reached an All-Ireland League semi-final or finished second in an All-Ireland League semi-final pool of 3 round at B or C level in Minor or Junior will be automatically promoted to the next level. This level will apply for a minimum of 1 year after which time the school will have the right to apply to the PPSC to be considered for regrading.
- (v) As a result of playing in an All-Ireland Cup semi-final or coming first or second in an All-Ireland League semi-final pool of 3 round each of the schools will be notified of their automatic promotion. Schools with Under 19 finalists in League or Cup may appeal this automatic promotion during the regrading window (see calendar) using the regrading procedure in 8.3. Deadline dates will be strictly adhered to.
- (vi) If a school is promoted by their Regional Organiser for any reason other than the automatic promotions listed above they have the right to appeal as per the Regrading regulation 8.3 which follows. This will also have to take place within the regrading window (see calendar).

8.3 Regrading

A school seeking a demotion for a new season must use the official PPSC regrading form available on the Basketball Ireland website and comply with the requirements therein. Making the appeal is an online procedure. Please contact your RO to request a form.

9. LEAGUE AND CUP PLAYING RULES

9.1 Movement of Players for League Competition (Boys and Girls)

- (i) Players can only play in their own age group and the age group immediately above.
- (ii) If a 1st Year player is overage for the Minor Competition or if a 2nd Year player is overage for the Junior Competition they become automatically reclassified as a player at the next appropriate age level, taking on board the full status of that regrading and reclassification.
- (iii) Players cannot move within or between grades at any of the defined age levels in the League. If a school has a second or third team playing in competition, players must only play at the grade they are first registered at and if there are two teams at the same grade - as can occur in the Cup competition – players can only play with the team they are registered with and the team they play their first game with. i.e. if a player registers and/or plays their first game at A grade then they cannot play competitively with their school team at B grade at any time that school season and if a player registered and plays their first game at A, they cannot play with another A team at that age group.
- (iv) Players moving to a new school mid-season cannot play in any League and Cup Competitions in which they have played in their previous schools.
- (v) Three Under-16 players can play Under-19. These players may be rotated from game to game but only three can be named on the scoresheet in any one game. The number “16” must be inscribed against these players’ names on under-19 scoresheets.
- (vi) Three Junior players can play Under-16. These players may be rotated from game to game. Any Junior players going to play at U16 must be registered on the official Team/Player Registration Form in September as per section 2.3. The numeral “2” must be inscribed against these players’ names on U16 scoresheets.
- (vii) Two younger Year 11 players (NI only) can play on the Junior team if they are of the eligible age (i.e. born between January-June 2011) and in so doing automatically become classified as a Junior. The numeral “11” must be inscribed against these players’ names on Junior scoresheets. Eligible players can only play for a maximum of two seasons at Junior league level. In order to monitor the ‘two seasons at Junior’, all Junior League scoresheets and registrations in the North Region must be sent to the relevant RO and PPSC Executive who will retain them on record for the purpose of checking same. No 3rd Years (ROI) can play in the Junior Competition at any time.
- (viii) Three Minor players can play Junior. These players may be rotated from game to game. The numeral “1” (ROI) and “9” (NI) must be inscribed against these players’ names on all Junior scoresheets.

Minor and Junior players are ineligible to play in Under-19 competition.

Minor players are ineligible to play in Under-16 competition.

- (ix) A school may play any registered player from their Under-19 panel and 3 qualifying Under-16 players from their league panel in the Under 19 league competition. These players can change from game to game and must be inscribed with the numeral “16” on all U19 scoresheets. An exception to this rule is if any of those players have already played on a lower division Cup team. They are then Cup tied and cannot play.
- (x) Regional pool games must be played and completed within regular school hours.

9.2 Movement of Players for Cup Competition (Boys and Girls)

- (i) Players can only play in a maximum of two cup competitions in the same season.
- (ii) A player who plays on a cup team may not play on another cup team in the same grade or age group for the duration of the competition.
- (iii) A player may not play for two different schools in the same competition.
- (iv) Any number of Under-16 players can play in the Under-19 Cup competition.
- (v) Any number of Junior players can play in the Under-16 Cup competition.
- (vi) Junior players are ineligible to play in the Under-19 Cup Competition.
- (vii) Minor players are ineligible to play in the Under-16 Schools Cup Competition.
- (i) Any players that are underage can play in both the U14 & U15 competition provided they are eligible to play under rule 8.2 (i)
- (ix) If a 1st Year player is overage for the Minor Competition or if a 2nd Year player is overage for the Junior Competition they become automatically reclassified as a player at the next appropriate age level, taking on board the full status of that regrading and reclassification.

9.3 Rules of U14, U15, U16 and U19 Cup Competitions (Boys & Girls)

- (i) Basketball Ireland is responsible for running the U14, U15, U16 and U19 Schools Cup Competitions.
- (ii) The R&Rs outlined in the Game Procedures Section and the Fixtures Section applies to all Cup fixtures.
- (iii) Schools Cup progression rules state that a team that plays home in the first round will play away in the second round. The exception to this is where both teams have played away or home in the previous round. If this happens, the team who is higher up in the draw will play at home unless the opposing team have played more away fixtures at that stage of the competition. In such case(s) the lower placed team in the draw will have home advantage. Where a team receives a bye in any round this is recorded as a home game.

- (iv) If a team does not enter by the deadline as set out in Rule 2.1 they will not be included in the cup draw.
- (v) Any team entering a second team in the Cup competition must enter it in the same grade as their first team. This applies for the Schools Cup only.
- (vi) In the U14 & U15 Cup a team must have 10 players to legally play a game. Once the game starts if the team is reduced to less than 10 players the team must play with less than 5 in that quarter if no legal substitute is available.
- (vii) The rotation of players in U14 & U15 Cup is as follows:
 - *Five players play the first quarter*
 - *A different five players must play in the second quarter.*
 - *Any five players may play in the third and fourth quarters.*
 - *Substitutes may only play first quarter and second half or second quarter and second half.*
 - *A contravention of the rotation rules above (1-4) will result in the infringing team automatically forfeiting that game.*

9.4 Rules of Minor and Junior League Competition (Boys and Girls)

- (i) The R&Rs outlined in the Game Procedures Section (Section 3) and the Fixtures Section (Section 4) apply to all Minor &Junior League fixtures.
- (ii) The rotation of players is as follows:
 - *Five players play the first quarter*
 - *A different five players must play in the second quarter.*
 - *Any five players may play in the third and fourth quarters.*
 - *Substitutes may only play first quarter and second half or second quarter and second half.*
 - *A contravention of the rotation rules above (1-4) will result in the infringing team automatically forfeiting that game.*

9.5 General Rules of Minor and Junior League Competition (Boys and Girls)

- (i) A team must have 10 players to legally play a game. If they have less than 10 before the game starts they must forfeit and the score stands as 20-0 on the score sheet in favour of the team who has 10 players. The teams should then play a friendly game.
NOTE: This does not apply to regional finals, playoff tournaments and national finals at Minor and Junior levels games where schools involved must have the required number of players for games to proceed. Teams may not agree to amend this rule/result. Once the game starts if a team is reduced to less than 10 players the team must play with 4 or less in that quarter if no legal substitute is available.
- (ii) In the case of National Playoffs where time constraints exist, schools will be given reasonable notice of their fixture. It is expected that once a school qualifies from their region, they are ready to travel at short notice. Withdrawal from National Playoffs is considered a serious breach of the Basketball Ireland Post Primary School R&Rs and is subject to a fine of €1000. Rule 4.4 will apply.

(iii) If a region has not produced qualifiers by the cut-off date on the Calendar the region will automatically lose their qualification places. A report will be commissioned by the PPSC NEC and any schools found to be responsible for preventing the completion of the Regional Competition by the deadline will be subject to a €1000 fine by the PPSC.

10. PPSC CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE

10.1 Classification Procedure for all games

(i) In all competitions including a round-robin system, teams will be classified according to their win-loss record, namely 3 classification points for each game won, 1 classification point for each game lost and 0 classification point for a game lost by forfeit (Note: There are no draws in basketball). A forfeit is classified as:

- *A team whose actions are adjudged by the PPSC or its representative such that prevented the game from being played.*
- *It is the coach and school's responsibility to ensure that all players are eligible. A team who plays an ineligible player in any game will forfeit the game and receive 0 classification points with the winner receiving 3 classification points.*
- *A team that does not turn up to play or refuses to play after being instructed to do so by the PPSC or its representative will forfeit the game(s) and receive 0 classification points with 3 classification points for the winning team.*
- *If a team arrives at a venue and due to extenuating circumstances – accepted prior to the game by the PPSC – they do not have the required number of eligible players to play a competitive game the following will apply: They may proceed to play a non-competitive game. School Teams or their representatives, or tournament convenors do not have the authority to award games between each other in any circumstance without authorisation from the PPSC.*

(ii) If in the regional leagues/playoff tournaments a team forfeits for the second time, that team shall be disqualified from the regional leagues/playoff tournament and the results of all games played by this team shall be nullified.

(iii) Classification Procedure as follows:

- **In a scenario where two teams are tied:** If there are two teams tied in this classification the result of the match between the teams involved will be used to determine the placing.
- **In a scenario where three or more teams are tied:** If three or more teams are tied on classification points the following criteria will be used to determine classification in this order.

1. The win-loss results of the game(s) between these three or more teams.
If this does not separate the teams then:
2. Higher game points difference of the games between them (i.e. points scored less points conceded in the games involving the teams' level on classification points).
If this does not separate the teams then:
3. Higher number of games points scored in the games between them (i.e. the number of points scored in the games involving the teams' level on classification points).

If teams get fully classified at any level the classification ends at that point however if at any level of these criteria above one or more team(s) is already classified while some others are not yet classified, then the procedure will be repeated from the beginning for all the remaining teams not yet classified.

If the teams cannot still be classified using the above criteria, then a draw will be used to determine classification. The scores in the games against a team or teams that are not level on classification points will never be used in PPSC Competitions. This is to ensure that weaker teams in competitions are protected.

11. COURT MARKINGS

10.1 Court Markings

- (i) For all Schools' Competitions the markings introduced in the FIBA Rules in 2010 are to be used.
- (ii) In cases where the old court markings are the only markings on the court, a competitive game shall not take place.

12. PPSC INTER-REGIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

12.1 Ball Size

Girls will play with a Size 6 Basketball
Boys will play with a Size 7 Basketball

12.2 Timing

The matches shall be four quarters of seven minutes each per quarter.

12.3 Timeouts

Two timeouts may be taken in the first half. Three timeouts may be taken in the second half with the proviso that if a Coach/Team does not use one of the three timeouts in the second half before the final two minute mark in the 4th quarter, the Coach/Team loses that time-out will have two timeouts remaining during the final two minutes in accordance with FIBA Rules and Regulations. (basically you cannot carry three timeouts into the final two minutes of the fourth quarter, you lose one). One time out will be given per team in each period of extra time. Extra time is 3 minutes at all age groups. Timeouts in the second half can be reduced for Regional Final and/or playoffs by PPSC or RO, if this is to happen it will be indicated to both teams prior to the game starting.

12.4 Jump Balls

There will be no additional jump balls after the one that starts the game. The first possession goes to the team who do not gain possession from the opening jump ball. Possession then alternates for the remainder of the game.

12.5 Fair Play Ruling

When a team achieves a 20-point lead over their opposition, the PPSC state that the scoreboard operator holds the lead at 20 points on the visible scoreboard. The scorekeeper will keep the actual score but the visible score will remain at a 20-point lead on the scoreboard if maintained. All coaches must abide by this and make their players aware of this 'Fair Play Ruling'. In the event of a team reducing the deficit to less than the 20-point lead, the scoreboard operator will amend the scoreboard to reflect the score in the scorebook.

12.6 Uniforms

Legal uniform numbers are 0-99 inclusive including 00. Players on the same team shall not wear the same number. Team members are required to wear uniforms of the same colour with numbers on the front and back. In the case of National Finals, players not wearing legal uniforms will not be permitted on court.

12.7 Player Eligibility

U15 Players must be born on or after the 1stJanuary 2011. 15 players can be placed on the score sheet and can play in each game. Only players in fully registered PPSC schools playing in our leagues are eligible to attend trials and participate in the PPSC Inter Regionals. Players can only train and play with the region their school is assigned to by the PPSC Executive Committee and registered in. This will be documented on their PPSC registration form receipt.

12.8 Defence & Full Court Press

As with all PPSC competitions there is no restriction on defence or exerting full court pressure at any time and any team can play whatever defence and press they wish at any time.

12.9 Player Rotation

- (i) The rotation of players is as follows in U15 Inter Regional teams:
 - *Five players play the first quarter*
 - *A different five players must play in the second quarter.*
 - *Any five players may play in the third and fourth quarters.*
 - *Substitutes may only play first quarter and second half or second quarter and second half.*
 - *A contravention of the rotation rules above (1-4) will result in the infringing team automatically forfeiting that game.*
- (ii) Only players in PPSC registered schools and playing in a minimum of one grade in our Leagues can play in the PPSC Inter Regionals.
- (iii) PPSC Guidelines for the appointment, selection and participation of players/coaches on Inter Regional teams are available from each Regional Organiser or the PPSC Secretary on request.

12.10 Procedures for Training Regional Teams

All Regions are required to issue a notice of open trials to all registered PPSC school and allow players to attend for trial. Before a trial or training can take place each Regional Organiser must do the following:

- (i) Forward Garda Vetting Certificates for all proposed Team Management to the PPSC Executive for approval.
- (ii) List on the PPSC online inter-regional database the players who will be present at each session including their school and maintain an attendance sheet for each and every session.
- (iii) Forward a schedule of training dates, venues and times for approval to the PPSC before training can commence.
- (iv) Ensure that Child Protection Guidelines are followed in full and a minimum of two coaches are present at all training sessions.

13. HOSTING PLAYOFF TOURNAMENTS

13.1 Calendar Dates

The calendared dates for all Preliminary and Playoff (Pools or Knockout) Tournaments – Cup or League - cannot be changed without the agreement, via email, of all the schools involved in any particular Preliminary or Playoff Tournament and that of the PPSC Executive. All email correspondence must be copied to the PPSC Executive at ppscec@gmail.com. This date must be prior to the calendared date.

13.2 Host responsibilities

- (i) The host is responsible for providing a proper regulation size indoor hall for the duration of the tournament. The hall must be approved by the PPSC NEC or its representative.
- (ii) The host will provide an electronic scoreboard and suitable competent table officials for each game of the tournament, this must include both a scorekeeper and a timekeeper. Teams have the right to have one observer at the table during the games.
- (iii) The host should provide a Convenor for the duration of the tournament that takes responsibility for the running of the tournament and will work closely with the HSO. The Convenor will be known in advance to the travelling teams and greet them on arrival at the venue. The PPSC Executive or its representative must be consulted on all issues that arise prior to a decision being taken. School Teams or their representatives, or tournament convenors do not have the authority to award games between each other - in any circumstance - without prior consultation and permission granted by the PPSC Executive or its Representative (HSO).

13.3 School individual responsibilities with regard to Tournaments

- (i) It is the responsibility of each school/region to book and pay for their own accommodation (if required), transportation to and from the venue, food, first aid, and their own basketballs to warm up for these Tournaments.
- (ii) It is the responsibility of each school to pay whatever the appropriate fee as laid down by PPSC for the Tournament to the Convenor on arrival at the venue.
- (iii) It is obligatory for teams to fulfil all their fixtures at both the Preliminary and Playoff Tournaments. Failure to comply will result in a €1000 fine for the school or a suspension if they are repeat offending see Rule 4.4. Once a team indicates in writing to the HSO/PPSC that they are withdrawing from a particular playoff they cannot re-enter that same playoff competition.

13.4 Details on the PPSC Tournaments

- (i) If a player/coach is disqualified in any PPSC run competition, he/she cannot participate in the team's next PPSC competitive game. If there is no following game such as in a tournament the host must immediately report the incident to the PPSC NEC who ensure the sanction is correctly applied to the next competitive game following the tournament. The PPSC will be requesting from the NRC a report from the specific Referees, further sanctions may also be applied by the PPSC.
- (ii) Teams should in normal circumstances report to the Table 30 mins prior to their tournament game beginning so as to allow the organisers adequate time to prepare the score sheet. A fifteen minutes break will take place for teams playing back to back fixtures in playoffs.
- (iii) Schools involved in playoffs (pools or knockout) can apply to host a playoff tournament. Hosting are decided by the PPSC Executive directly at their scheduled meeting as per Calendar. Schools must inform both their Regional Organiser and the Basketball Ireland Schools officer of their request to host the playoff in writing.

- (iv) Hosts are decided, taking into account a school's placing within their regional competition in conjunction with the geographical placings of the other schools in your pool. A record of previous attendance at playoffs and of previous satisfaction as host of events are also factors in the PPSC Executive's decision to award hosts.
- (v) Competent table officials along with a Convenor for the event is also a requirement. The cost of the table officials and convenor will be met by the host school. The payment of referees in the pool stages will be overseen by the PPSC Referee coordinator in the League and HSO in the Cup competitions.
- (vi) The Referee appointments will be made by the PPSC Referee coordinator in conjunction with the NRC Appointments Officer to all PPSC Playoffs/National Competitions.
- (vii) It is usually the Home team that changes in the event of a uniform clash of colours. However, the HSO and PPSC will make the final decision on what colour gear that teams wear in all Regional finals, National finals and any Playoffs games. If a school has only one set of gear this may necessitate wearing a set of singlets/bibs provided by the HSO and PPSC to one of the teams, to be decided by the PPSC and HSO.

13.5 Issues during a tournament.

- (i) If any issue(s) arise during the tournament the convenor should immediately contact the Head of Schools Operation on the contact number supplied to each tournament organiser.
- (ii) The HSO will liaise with the PPSC Executive members who are assigned to be available on that day and will revert with a decision in real time.

14. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SPORTS FEDERATION – WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

14.1 ISF Schools World Championships

- (i) THE PPSC may invite previous U16 League and Cup winners of the appropriate age grouping - in that order - to represent them in both the 3v3 and 5v5 competitions. If these schools are unable to represent then the team may be selected through an organised invitation tournament consisting of Quarter finalists from both the U16A Boys and Girls Cup and League competition of the appropriate age group who wish to attend. The overall winner of this tournament may represent Ireland in the ISF WSC. All costs of the tournament and flights as laid down by the ISF will be the responsibility of the qualifying school and met by the qualifying school.
- (ii) These competitions to select ISF-WSC representatives will be overseen fully by the PPSC on behalf of Basketball Ireland and the International School Sports Federation. The administration of the registration will be undertaken by BIHQ on behalf of the Governing Body. Entering a team or not in any year to represent Irish schools in ISF-WSC competition is a PPSC NEC decision. Further information is available on www.isfsports.org

15. ESSF EUROPEAN OPEN SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

15.1 ESSF European Open Championships

An annual competition may be organised for the U18 'A' teams from PPSC registered schools to participate in a competition organised by the PPSC for selection to the ESSF European Open Schools Basketball Championships. This competition is organised by the European Schools Sports Federation. It is a competition at European Level for schools. Further information is available on www.europeanschoolsport.com

16. GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR 'COVID 19'

16.1 PPSC Procedures on 'Covid 19'

- (i) A school unable to fulfil a fixture due to 'Covid 19' or an issue arising from it, will automatically forfeit the fixture in order to allow the competition to proceed. Acceptance of this condition is a requirement of registering for this season.
- (ii) Government and Basketball Ireland guidelines on 'Covid 19' must be strictly adhered to at all times.

17 PPSC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - CONTACT DETAILS

RO = Regional Organiser

EC = Executive Committee

Name	Position	E-Mail Contact
Christine Connolly	Basketball Ireland Head of Schools Operations (HSO)	BI HQ Tallaght Tel: (01) 4590211 Email: cconnolly@ireland.basketball Mobile: (086) 1772153
Marie O'Toole	East Boys RO PPSC Chair (EC)	ppscchair@gmail.com
Joe Shields	North-West Boys & Girls RO	northwestregiongirls@gmail.com northwestregionboys@gmail.com
PJ Reidy	Midlands Boys & Girls RO PPSC Referee Coordinator & BI Liaison (EC)	schoolsbasketball1@gmail.com
Lorna Finnegan	South Girls RO PPSC Registrar (EC)	bippsouthgirls@gmail.com ppscregistrar@gmail.com
Niamh Ni Chearra	North-East Boys & Girls RO PPSC Treasurer (EC)	neschoolsbasketball@gmail.com treasurerppsc@gmail.com
Mary Shields	West Girls RO	westregiongirlsbasketball@gmail.com
Paul Ryan	East Girls RO PPSC Secretary – (EC)	eastregionro@gmail.com ppscexecutive@gmail.com
Tommy O Mahony	South-East Boys & Girls RO – PPSC Minutes Secretary (EC)	tommyomahony@gmail.com
Rosanne O Callaghan	South Boys RO	southboysbipps@gmail.com
Tony Hehir	South-West Boys RO	southwestbasketball@gmail.com
Gary Connolly	North Boys & Girls RO	gconnolly505@c2kni.net
Ger Tarrant	South-West Girls RO	swgball@gmail.com
Tom O Malley	West Boys RO PPSC Advisor & BI Liaison (EC)	westregionboysbasketball@gmail.com

18 PPSC APPEAL



PPSC OFFICIAL APPEAL FORM

An appeal on the official PPSC appeals form below including the appeal fee of €300 must be lodged electronically into the Basketball Ireland Post Primary School (PPSC) account within 2 working days of the incident arising. Bank details here:

EFT Payment Details:

Bank Account Name: Post Primary Schools Basketball
Branch: AIB, Lyster Square, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
Account Number: 34294070
NSC: 93-32-79
IBAN: IE87 AIBK 9332 7934 2940 70
BIC: AIBKIE2D

School Name:

School Roll Number:

Appellant Name:

Tick which is relevant:

Regional Game

National Game

PPSC Committee Decision

If you selected National Game please specify if it was: League Playoff

Date of Game:

Venue of Game:

Did you sign the scoresheet in protest: YES NO

COMPLETE - Details of your Appeal: *(attach scoresheets or additional information where relevant)*

Which regulation has been breached: (use extra pages as required)

Signed:

Date:

For Office Use only:

Date Appeal Received:

Accompanying Fee Received:

Sent to PPSC Exec:



Team A:	Team B:						
Competition:	Date:						
Place:	Referee 1:						
Team A:	Colour						
Time-outs	Team Fouls						
1st half	Period 1	Period 3					
2nd half	Period 2	Period 4					
Extra periods							
Player in	Name of Players	Kit no	Fouls				
			1	2	3	4	5
Coach							
Team B:	Colour						
Time-outs	Team Fouls						
1st half	Period 1	Period 3					
2nd half	Period 2	Period 4					
Extra periods							
Player in	Name of Players	Kit no	Fouls				
			1	2	3	4	5
Coach							
Officials	Licence no.	Name (print please)		Initial		Team A	Team B
Referee 1:						Final Score	
Referee 2:						v	
Score Keeper:						Name of winning Team	
Time Keeper:							
Captains signature incase of protest							

Post Primary Player League Registration Form 2025-26 Please fill in all the details requested below:

Name of School & Roll Number:			
Team:			
Coaches:			
Gender & Region:			
Grade & Team Colours. Kit 1 & 2:			
Age Group:	U19	U16	Junior
	Minor		

No.	First Name	Surname	Date of Birth	Year in School	Was this player on your school roll last year. Y/N
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					
16.					
17.					
18.					
19.					
20.					

Notes:

1. One Team per form. All fields must be completed and returned. Use extra sheet(s) if necessary.
2. You must return registration forms to your RO before you play your first game. All players playing at that particular age group **must** be included on that Team's respective registration form. This year U19 is 2007 or later; U16 is 2010 or later; Junior is 2011 or later and Minor is 2012 or later.
3. With regard to age clarification for example a player born in 2009 is overage for a competition which indicates it is for players born in 2010 or later.

) Other specific criteria for ages at Junior and Minor are in the Rules and Regulations. Your RO will clarify any further questions should you have any.)