



# Men's National Competitions Regulations

Approved Date: June 2016

This document details the Regulations to be followed by all clubs competing in the SuperLeague & Division 1 Men's Competition(MNC) and should be read in conjunction with the Basketball Ireland Regulations.

## DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

### **Abbreviations:**

- BI: Basketball Ireland
- BIHQ: Basketball Ireland Headquarters
- MNC-C: Men's National Competitions Committee
- MNC: Men's National Competitions
- League Commissioner:
- TO: Table Official
- NTOC: National Table Officials Committee
- NDC: National Disciplinary Committee
- NRC: National Referees Committee
- NAC: National Appeals Committee
- ONLC-Men's: Organisation of National League Clubs- Men's
- ISC: Irish Sports Council
- WADA: World Anti-Doping Agency
- NGB: National Governing Body

### **Definitions:**

**Men's National Competitions:** to include Men's Super League and Men's Division 1 competitions, league, cup and end of season trophy competitions, this excludes U20's men's competitions downwards.

**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 teams and area board teams should they apply.

**Champions Trophy:** This is an end of season competition for MNC teams.

**League Cup:** This is an end of season competition for MNC teams.

**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.

**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.

**Valid Work Permit & Visa Regulations:** See Appendix 8

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

**Consultation:** Conference call or meeting

**Smart/Casual:** For men, 'formal' smart casual requires a jacket or blazer, flannels, needlecord trousers, or chinos (not jeans), a shirt with a collar, not a t-shirt, and smart shoes, not necessarily lace-ups, but not trainers or sandals. A shirt and tie can be worn but an open collar is also acceptable.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

SECTION	REGULATION	INDEX	PAGE
<b>1</b>		<b>Governance Overview</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>		<b>MNC Competition Structures</b>	<b>5</b>
	2.1	<i>MNC League Competition Structure</i>	5
	2.2	<i>Men's National Cup Competition Structure</i>	5
	2.3	<i>MNC League Finances</i>	6
<b>3</b>		<b>Licensing Procedures and Deadlines for Players, Coaches and Officials</b>	<b>6</b>
	3.1	<i>Registration and Licensing</i>	6
	3.2	<i>International Clearance of Players and FIBA Fees</i>	7
	3.3	<i>Player Categories and Quota's</i>	7
	3.4	<i>Category 1 Licensing</i>	8
	3.5	<i>Category 2 Licensing</i>	9
	3.6	<i>Transfer/Release Rules</i>	9
	3.7	<i>Link-Players</i>	9
<b>4</b>		<b>Fixtures, Game Scheduling and Game Re-scheduling</b>	<b>10</b>
	4.1	<i>Fixture Scheduling</i>	10
	4.2	<i>Game Disruptions, Postponements and Cancellations</i>	11
<b>5</b>		<b>Game Procedures</b>	<b>13</b>
	5.1	<i>Presentation Standards</i>	13
	5.2	<i>Officials</i>	13
	5.3	<i>Pre-Game Procedure</i>	14
	5.4	<i>Uniforms and Dress Code</i>	15
	5.5	<i>Game Procedures</i>	15
	5.6	<i>Post-Game Procedures</i>	16
<b>6</b>		<b>Penalties, Discipline and Appeals</b>	<b>17</b>
	6.1	<i>Penalties</i>	17
	6.2	<i>Payment of Fines</i>	17
	6.3	<i>Written Protest</i>	17
	6.4	<i>Other Disputes</i>	17
	6.5	<i>Decision of MNC-C</i>	18
	6.6	<i>Discipline of Clubs, Club Members, Club Officials, Coaches, Players and Game Officials</i>	18
	6.7	<i>Effect of Suspension</i>	19
	6.8	<i>Appeals</i>	20
	6.9	<i>MNC League Finals, National Cup Finals &amp; End of season comp</i>	20
<b>7</b>		<b>Anti-Doping Regulations</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>8</b>		<b>Media Broadcasting, Advertising and Sponsorship</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>9</b>		<b>Notes</b>	<b>23</b>
		Appendix 1 – Residency Requirements	24
		Appendix 2 – Transfers – Time Lines/Disputes	24
		Appendix 3 – Players Licence Fees	24
		Appendix 4 - Facilities and Venue Requirements	24
		Appendix 5 – Schedule of Automatic Fines	26
		Appendix 6 – International Clearance of Players & FIBA Licence Fees	27
		Appendix 7 – League Standing	27
		Appendix 8 – Work Permits and Equivalentents	28
		Appendix 9 – Anti Doping Update	30
		Appendix 10 – Recognised Academic Institutes	32
		Appendix 11 – MNC-C Membership	32

## **1. GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW**

- 1.1. These regulations govern the operation of the Men's National Competitions (MNC) and all other competitions under the jurisdiction of the Men's National Competitions Committee (MNC-C).
- 1.2. The MNC-C will be responsible for all policy and regulations concerning the Men's National Basketball Competitions. The MNC-C is comprised of three nominees from Basketball Ireland, as designated by the BI Board, three nominees from the Organisation of National League Clubs ONLC-Men and a Chair that is jointly nominated by Basketball Ireland and the ONLC-Men. Appendix 11
- 1.3. The MNC-C League Commissioner may take routine day-to-day interpretations of regulations where required and where the regulations and precedent provide a clear set of guidelines for such decision making. The appointment of the League Commissioner and the roles and responsibilities attached to the position will be determined from time to time by the MNC-C.
- 1.4. Where time constraints exist the League Commissioner and at least two members of the MNC-C should confer and reach agreement concerning appropriate regulation issues. All decisions made using this special provision will be subject to ratification of a full meeting by the MNC-C.
- 1.5. The official channel of communication between the MNC-C and a participating club(s) is, via email, through the nominated and mandated representative to the ONLC-Men. The ONLC-Men Secretary will provide the list of mandated club representatives to the League Commissioner & MNC-C. Only correspondence received through this channel will be considered by the MNC-C.
- 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. All holders of the Basketball Ireland Access card shall be given free access to all basketball courts in Ireland on production of the Card.
- 1.8. All suggested amendments to regulations from the ONLC –Mens must be received by the League Commissioner on or before the 28<sup>th</sup> March of each season for consideration by the MNC-C.
- 1.9. To participate in the competitions mentioned above in 1.1, clubs and individuals accept these regulations in their entirety.
- 1.10. The MNC-C will 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.

### **TROPHIES**

- 1.11. All MNC League Competition trophies will remain the property of the MNC-C. When the winning clubs have been ascertained, the MNC-C, or a person nominated by the MNC-C will present the appropriate trophy to that club, who will then be responsible for its return to BIHQ by the following deadlines:  
National Cup Trophies – 30<sup>th</sup> November of the following season  
All other Trophies – 28<sup>th</sup> February of the following season
- 1.12. Failure to return the trophies by this date will result in a fine of €3 per day.
- 1.13. Should a trophy be damaged or lost whilst under the care or custody of a club, any costs incurred by in returning the trophy to its original condition will be charged to the club.
- 1.14. The MNC League season officially begins on April 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year and ends on March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.
- 1.15. Where interpretation of the regulations is required, the MNC-C will have the right to exercise its judgement and discretion taking into account 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 MNC-C.

- 1.16. Tournaments/Incoming Tours: Tournaments and/or games involving incoming teams organised by MNC teams must be sanctioned by Basketball Ireland and must comply with Basketball Ireland Regulations.
- 1.17. During the season and also 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.

## **2. MEN'S NATIONAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

### **2.1 League Competition Structure:**

- 2.1.1 The MNC-C, following consultation with the ONLC-Men and not later than 31<sup>st</sup> May each year will determine the format of the League Competition. An entry fee will apply to all teams. A participation bond of €500 shall be lodged with the MNC-C by any club intending to compete in MNC on or before 31<sup>st</sup> May.
- 2.1.2 The MNC-C will decide what awards may be made to teams who achieve certain levels of success in competitions.

### **Standings:**

- 2.1.3 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 MNC-C (see 2.1.4 & 2.1.7).
- 2.1.4 Should a team fail to fulfil a national fixture the MNC-C may deduct additional points, penalise the club (see Note 1) and the club may also be open to further sanction.
- 2.1.5 The winners of the leagues will be determined by the team finishing with the highest points total at the end of the regular season. In the event of a tie between two teams on the same number of points, the final positions will be decided by the details outlined in Appendix 7.
- 2.1.6 Other than determining the league winners, if two or more teams finish on level point totals, the method of separating teams is outlined in Appendix 7.
- 2.1.7 **CHAMPIONS TROPHY & LEAGUE CUP TROPHY**  
The format and qualification details will be confirmed at a pre-season meeting of the MNC-C.
- 2.1.8 **Promotion/Relegation**  
For the season 2015-2016 and subsequent seasons the team that wins the MNC Division 1 will have the option of being promoted to the Superleague for the following season.  
For the season 2015 – 2016 and subsequent seasons the team that finishes in the bottom position of the Superleague e, will lose their automatic status in the Superleague. However, they have the option to apply to the MNC-C to be readmitted to the Superleague for the following season. If re-admission is not granted then they are deemed relegated to Division 1.

### **2.2 Men's National Cups Competition Structure:**

- 2.2.1 The MNC-C, following consultation with BI and the ONLC-Men, will determine the format of the Senior Men's 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 MNC-C/BIHQ each season.

2.2.3 All Players participating in the Men's National Cups are Cup Tied and may only play for one team in the Pat Duffy National Cup or the President's 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 In the case of two-leg matches, the following special rules will apply:

- At the end of the first leg, no overtime period will be played even if the teams are equal on points
- At the end of the second leg overtime will be played if the teams are equal on aggregate, but not if they are equal in terms of points scored in that leg.
- The team scoring the greater number of points on aggregate over the two legs shall be the winner.

### **2.3 MNC 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 MNC-C. League entry fee will be included on application form.

2.3.2 Referees Fees: Each club is required to pay Referees Fee & expenses for their home games as determined by the MNC-C. Payment of referees will be made by the designated Venue Officer on the game night, prior to the game taking place as per the Referee Payments Protocol outlined by the MNC-C in advance of the season in accordance with Note 2.

2.3.3 Monies owed to MNC-C: Any monies overdue to the MNC-C by a Club will be penalised with a mandatory fine as set by the MNC-C.

2.3.4 If a MNC Club folds, or the team withdraws from a competition leaving outstanding monies owed to the League, the officials and players of the club which folded will be responsible for payment of one seventh of the outstanding debt until the debt has been fully paid before members of that club they would be permitted to play or be involved with any other club.

2.3.5 Bank Accounts: Clubs are required to keep autonomous bank accounts to manage the affairs of their teams. The MNC-C 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 to be maintained in accordance with documented requirements of the MNC-C. Failure to maintain accounts as required may result in a fine of up to €200 and may affect their membership status in the MNC.

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

### **3.1 Registration and Licensing:**

3.1.1 MNC teams 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 MNC-C.

3.1.3 Except as allowed for in Basketball Ireland and MNC-C 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 MNC League competition licence to be eligible to compete.

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

3.1.5 During the season to licence a player a club must

- Advise League Commissioner/Competitions Officer by email before 5pm on the Tuesday that such a request is due.
- All Correct documentation must be received by registered post stamped at latest by close of business Wednesday
- It will not be feasible to licence a player during the holiday period

3.1.6 To licence a player for MNC, the following items, as appropriate **MUST** be forwarded to the BIHQ:

- A. The MNC League Competition Licence Application Form/Renewal Form,
- B. A copy of the player's current passport,
- C. Two passport photos
- D. The required fees as outlined in Appendix 3
- E. All documentation **MUST** be received in the office by the designated deadline). If this is received electronically, the original forms must also be received at the office within **3 working days**.
- F. All documentation including the player declaration must be completed in full and signed by the player and the secretary of the club.
- G. If the player has transferred from another club, a copy of the completed 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.
- H. 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.
- I. 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.
- J. 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)

3.1.7 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. (To be read in conjunction with 3.4.2 and 3.4.5). 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 MNC Competition, 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 qualifying as a FED Player.

### **3.3.4 Residency**

A Cat 1 player is required to be resident on the island of Ireland for a period of 60 consecutive days.  
Note: 3.3.4 to be reviewed at the end of season 2016-17.

The Player Licence application must be submitted by 12 noon on the Wednesday prior to the official designated start of season and the licence will not be issued until the player has fulfilled their 60 consecutive day's residency.

**Proof of Residency (see appendix 1 also)**

60 day residency is deemed to commence from the day the player presents himself to the League Commissioner or a designated official.

During the 60 day period the player will be requested to present himself again as proof of residence. 24 hours' notice will be provided to the player prior to each presentation request.

Failure of a player to present himself will result in a fine of €250 payable by the club to the MNC. This will also result in player having to recommence the 60 day period.

This last provision is to facilitate full time students (min 30 days) and who also satisfy the following: Students from the area governed by FIBA Europe, who are accepted by one of the third level institution or colleges, affiliated to Basketball Ireland, on a recognised academic course, for a minimum of at least one academic year. A final decision on the awarding of a Category 1 licence shall be decided by the MNC-C.

**Player Licencing**

**3.4 Category 1 Licencing: - (See appendix 3 for costs of licencing players)**

3.4.1 A team must licence a minimum of **12 Category 1** players by the designated pre-season licencing date.

3.4.2 Teams can add to this list of registered players at any time during the season from the pool of Category 1 players that were members of the club/ the previous season, registered with Basketball Ireland and had not transferred out.

**3.4.3 Renewing a players licence**

The club are required to submit a renewal confirmation list where each player has signed confirmation of their request to be licenced for the coming season.

**3.4.4 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 received when the CO 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)

**3.4.4.1 Incoming Players (from other MNC teams)**

a) A team may only licence 3 incoming players in any one season, a team is restricted to a maximum of two players who were licenced to the same MPL/MD1 team on the last day of the previous season.

b) Incoming Players: (not from other MNC teams/New players)

Incoming players not having played from another MNC team may be licenced up to a maximum of 4 players.

NOTE – A player is NOT considered to be an incoming player from another Basketball League of Ireland 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 shall lie with the club. Such players are still deemed to be incoming players in the overall interpretation of the regulation.

NOTE – A maximum of two (2) of these players may be from the same club in consecutive years.

NOTE Each incoming Category 1 player must be registered and licenced with the League prior to designated start date of the current season. (To be read in conjunction with 3.4.2).



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.

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

3.4.6 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 Teams may licence any number of Category 2 players but only two may appear on the score sheet for any one game and only one Category 2 player can be on court at any one time.

3.5.3 In order to obtain a licence for a Non-EU Category 2 player, the player is obliged to hold a valid work permit or equivalent and must comply with the visa regulations as specified. For detail on equivalents, please see Appendix 8. The MNC-C will be responsible for a final decision on work permit equivalents.

### **3.6 Transfer/Release Rules:**

Category 1 players

3.6.2 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.

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

3.6.4 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.

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

3.6.6 Category 2 players are automatically released at the end of the season unless the club secretary notifies in writing the League Commissioner 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 of the club to which he licenced and complete a new player competition licence application form and include all necessary supporting documents.

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 Commissioner 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 he cannot re-sign for another team for the Play-Off's/Champions Trophy.

### **3.7 Link-Players:**

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

3.7.3 Where these links have been agreed between a MNC club and other clubs, the signing of the standard Heads of Agreement (HOA) documentation is required and must be approved by the local Area Board of both clubs party to the agreement and lodged with the League Commissioner by the 30<sup>th</sup> September. All links must be renewed annually by the relevant

Area Boards and documentation lodged with the League Commissioner for his approval by 30<sup>th</sup> September. Only links approved by the League Commissioner, on behalf of the MNC-C can be activated during the subsequent playing season.

- 3.7.4 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 to), as specified in 3.7.5 where no equivalent standard team exists in the lower club.
- 3.7.5 Heads of Agreements exist for MNC, as outlined below.
  - A. An official agreement between a Local Area Board team and a Superleague team
- 3.7.6 When a MNC team has a signed and approved HOA agreement with another club in their locality, players from the linked club are not considered incoming players or transfers to the MNC 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 MNC and can also continue to play for their linked club in the relevant competition.
- 3.7.7 For the National Cup Competition, HOA players are cup-tied as outlined in 2.2.3. This does not apply to U-20 players.
- 3.7.8 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, i.e. March 31st. Continued licensing as a link-player for more than one season will take players statistics into account.
- 3.7.9 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 authorised 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-SHEDULING**

**4.1 Fixture Scheduling:**

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

DAY	TIME
A. Weekdays	19:00 – 20:30
B. Saturday	14:00 – 20:00
C. Sunday	13:00 – 15:30
D. Bank Holidays	should be treated as Sundays for fixture purpose.

4.1.2 The MNC-C may have to make special arrangements for TV games and games organised by them, allowing them to be played outside of these times. The MNC-C 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 the Basketball.

4.1.3 BIHQ 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 MNC-C.

- A. Prior to the deadline outlined by MNC-C, whenever two clubs reach agreement regarding the rearrangements of a fixture, the HOME team may make an application in writing to MNC-C,

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. Both clubs must agree to the change of fixture and the request must be received at least 14 days prior to the match.
- 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. If the request is less than 14 days prior to the match an additional late fee, (€30) may be payable. "Play-by" games when fixed are treated like any other game.

4.1.4 When a League fixture is to be set or rescheduled by the teams, the Home team must offer their opponents three dates, over at least two different weekends, or by alternative arrangement with league commissioner.

4.1.5 Home teams should confirm all their fixtures, including play-by games with BIHQ in writing by the requested deadline. Failure to confirm fixtures, will entitle the MNC-C 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 ten 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 Commissioner in consultation with at least two members of the MNC-C 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.

4.2.2 If the game is being postponed for other reasons, acceptable to the MNC-C, 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 suitable alternative and advise the League Commissioner 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 game may be postponed provided that the MNC-C is satisfied the efforts made by the home team to provide another venue were sufficient.

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 MNC-C for legitimate travel expenses incurred.

4.2.6 Any expenses paid by the MNC-C due to postponement must be reimbursed to the MNC-C by the home team.

4.2.7 In the case of the postponement/cancellation being outside the control of the home team, the teams will reschedule the game at a date and a time agreeable to both teams, taking 4.1.4 into account. The MNC-C will decide on any charges that apply.

4.2.8 If the circumstances were not outside the control of the home team, they may be asked to pay part or all of these expenses to the visiting team and the MNC-C will decide if the game should be awarded to the away team via forfeit.

- 4.2.9 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, which has been approved as a League venue. In the event of unforeseen circumstances and a game commencing an hour later than scheduled, resulting in the start time going beyond latest allowed time, then the game still proceeds with the agreement of the visiting team.
  - 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 (see Note 4).

- C. If the court is unplayable through no fault of the home team, the legitimate expenses may be paid from the central emergency fund.

4.2.10 If a game begins and is disrupted for any reason (with the exception of condensation) 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 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 Commissioner will investigate the circumstances, which led to the disruption.
- D. The MNC-C will make the final determination as to whether the disruption was outside the control of the home 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 (see Note 4).
- F. 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 MNC-C.
- G. 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.

**Condensation:**

4.2.11 If a game is disrupted due to condensation the following procedures will apply:

- A. On the first occurrence of condensation, 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. In the event that a game is abandoned due to condensation, 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.

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

- A. The League Commissioner 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, that the team travelled by train if a direct train route exists and 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 MNC-C does not accept the case made by the team then 4.2.8 is applied.

4.2.13 In exceptional circumstances, the MNC-C 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 Commissioner can verify the situation.

4.2.14 If a team does not turn up for a game and the MNC-C does not accept the case made by the team then 4.2.8 is applied and the team will be fined an amount determined by the MNC-C (see Note 1).

4.2.15 If conditions warrant the postponement of a game by the MNC-C less than 48 hours prior to tip-off, legitimate expenses incurred by the teams may be reimbursed from the emergency fund. The MNC-C will make the final determination in these cases.

4.2.16 TV Games: Basketball Ireland/MNC-C, through the League Commissioner, 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, commissioner's fees and table officials' fees.

- B. MNC-C will be responsible for any additional costs incurred as a result 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.

4.2.17 Basketball Ireland/MNC-C hereby disclaims any liability whatsoever in respect of promotions, games or any events organised by club teams and/or team companies participating in MNC or any other competitions. Teams participating in MNC must take out a public liability insurance policy (see Note 5). The MNC-C 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.

## **GAME PROCEDURES**

### **5.1 Presentation Standards**

- 5.1.1 Each team shall nominate a Venue Officer for each of its home games. This person will be responsible for the logistical issues involved with the staging of the game and the facility. The Venue Officer must be present at every game, one hour before the scheduled official starting time.
- 5.1.2 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 an 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.
- 5.1.3 Music may be played during the game provided that the volume and content is 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.
- 5.1.4 The Game Commissioner or Referee may ask the Venue Officer to modify or terminate the PA.
- 5.1.5 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 to 100 spectators
- 5.1.6 The home team is responsible for taking reasonable precautions to control the behaviour of spectators. However, disciplinary action may be taken against either team for the behaviour of its followers.
- 5.1.7 Each team is responsible for recording its own statistics at every game and for updating Basketball Ireland website as outlined in these regulations.
- 5.1.8 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.

### **5.2 Officials**

- 5.2.1 MNC games may only be officiated by the officials appointed by the NRC.
- 5.2.2 The MNC-C may 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.
- 5.2.3 This 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 persons removed from the vicinity of the table.
- 5.2.4 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. Where no

Game Commissioner is present, the Referee must check the licence cards of both teams and record this in the referee report.

- 5.2.5 The 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:
- A. If two suitably qualified officials are at the venue, they will be informed their services may be required.
  - B. If no suitable officials are available, the Game Commissioner will decide if the match is to be played.
- 5.2.6 If there is no Game Commissioner and no officials, then the game is cancelled.
- 5.2.7 If the referee fails to arrive, the umpire will become the referee and the substitute official will become the umpire.
- 5.2.8 Once a substitute official is named this will not be changed, even if the original official arrives at the venue.
- 5.2.9 The home club must provide current BI registered and qualified table officials (TO). For the MNC all of these officials must hold the TO Level 3/Level 2. The licence 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.
- 5.2.10 The Game Commissioner will inspect the licence of each Table Official (TO) prior to each game and ensure that these licence details are recorded on the official score sheet. They will also inspect the licence details of each player.
- 5.2.11 It is the responsibility of the home club to pay these officials expenses in accordance with the current rates of the BI Table Officials Committee.
- 5.2.12 All table officials should wear the approved uniform as designated by BI Table Officials Committee. The Game Commissioner will check and record in the report any deviations from the approved uniform.

### **5.3 Pre-Game Procedures**

- 5.3.1 The following actions must be accomplished **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. The officials will present their payment claim forms to the Venue Officer and receive payment.
  - D. Teams and officials must have access to the dressing rooms.
  - E. The Game Commissioner will inspect the facility.
  - F. The lead referee will introduce himself/herself and his/her co-official to both coaches in advance of the game.
  - G. Away teams must be provided with a designated space for pre-game talks.
- 5.3.2 The following actions must be accomplished **thirty minutes** before game time:
- A. The visiting team shall have access to the game court.
  - B. The Venue Officer will ensure that the Game Commissioner receives the match fee.
- 5.3.3 The following actions must be accomplished **twenty minutes** before game time:
- A. The Game Commissioner checks the team list for accuracy (the names, numbers and licence card/ 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 cards/BI licence list will result in automatic penalties outlined in Appendix 5.
  - B. The Game Commissioner checks that all people other than players, authorised to sit on the team bench are registered members of Basketball Ireland.

5.3.4 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.

5.3.5 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.

#### **5.4 Uniforms and Dress Code:**

5.4.1 Each Club must register its colours and two uniforms based upon those colours for approval by the MNC-C. If there is a change to these colours the BIHQ must be given adequate notice.

5.4.2 All teams shall warm up and compete in a MNC 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). Failure to comply with the registered uniform colour will result in automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5.

5.4.3 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 automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5.

5.4.4 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 not permitted to be worn under playing vests. 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 as the uniform shorts.

5.4.5 The home team must be prepared to change their uniforms. In the event of a colour clash the away Licensee will be fined (see Note 6).

5.4.6 In the event of the game not going ahead due to colour clash, the away Club will not automatically be awarded the game and will pay direct expenses for causing this.

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

5.4.8 The Superleague 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 MNC-C 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.

5.4.9 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 advertiser's names on the playing uniform. The MNC-C reserve the right to disapprove what it considers inappropriate advertising on playing gear.

5.4.10 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.

5.4.11 The BI Logo must be securely affixed to all playing uniforms, logos and guidelines in relation positioning will be provided by BIHQ.

#### **5.5 Game Procedures:**

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

**5.5.2** Half time will be a minimum of 10 minutes.

- 5.5.3** The interval between quarters will be a minimum of one (1) minute. The interval(s) may vary for television.
- 5.5.4** In the event of the Home team requiring a longer entertainment break at half time this can be arranged by notifying the League Commissioner and the opposition 48 hours in advance.
- 5.5.5** At the end of any such break, the officials will call three (3) minutes.
- 5.5.6** Except where mentioned, all other playing rules and game procedures are in accordance with those currently approved by FIBA for International Competition.
- 5.6** **Post-Game Procedures:**
- 5.6.1** The HOME team is responsible to ensure that a referee steward is appointed to escort the referees to their dressing room after the game. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5.
- 5.6.2** The Game Commissioner or in the absence of the game commissioner, the referee is responsible for their report(s) arriving by post/fax/e-mail to BIHQ within five working days of the fixture or via e-mail within 24h of the game, should there be a serious incident to report.
- 5.6.3** The home / host team is responsible for notifying the Basketball Ireland results service **by reply text** to the number as confirmed by the fixture, halftime score, and top three individual scorers for each team within 30 minutes of the game finishing. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5.
- 5.6.4** The HOME team is responsible for the original score sheet, and copy of referee claim form arriving by post to the office within **five working days** of the fixture. This implies that for all games that are played over a weekend (i.e. Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday); the above items must be in the office no later than Friday the following week. Failure to provide these in accordance with deadlines will result in automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5.
- 5.6.5** The visiting team is responsible for its own game statistics (as well as their responsibilities in 5.6.6).
- 5.6.6** **Results notification/service.**  
The following procedures apply to the Results Service:  
All Games
- A. Results (half time/full time + top scorers and some highlights) must be sent **by reply text** to number within 30 minutes of full time.
  - B. A 200-word match report outlining brief details on the game must be uploaded on the website and sent to the designated e-mail address (This report must contain quotes from a coach and key player involved).
  - C. Website must be updated with results (half time/full time + top 3 scorers for each team) and game report as outlined in B by 12.00noon on the following day.
  - D. Website must be updated with the individual player statistics, within 48 hours of the game finishing.
- Note:** For Sunday games, Basketball Ireland PRO will contact the designated club PRO/Coach for brief match report and quotes.
- 5.6.7** Failure to comply with the above deadlines will result in an automatic penalties outlined in Appendix 5.
- 5.6.8** If it is found that Clubs have entered inaccurate and/or incomplete statistics on the website then the Club will be subject to an automatic fine. (See Appendix 5)
- 5.6.9** BIHQ 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.
- 5.6.10** 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 Commissioner will decide whether the dispute is



upheld, and will inform the club of the decision. The League Commissioner may refer the matter to the MNC-C.

**5.6.11** Clubs must pay all fines within 30 days of the invoice been issued. Failure to pay fines will result in an additional penalty (see 2.3.3) and the handling of clubs with outstanding fines will be at the discretion of the MNC-C.

## **6 PENALTIES, DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS:**

### **6.1 Penalties:**

- 6.1.1 Outside of automatic fines, the MNC-C 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, suspension or disqualification from the MNC fixtures or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the MNC-C from time to time.
- 6.1.3 All penalties will be notified in writing to all Clubs by the League Commissioner.
- 6.1.4 A penalty imposed by the MNC-C not including automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 5 may be appealed in the first instance to the MNC-C. Such appeal shall be in writing and shall be provided to the League Commissioner within 5 working days of notice of the penalty. The MNC-C may decide to refer the appeal to the National Appeals Committee (NAC) depending on their previous ruling.
- 6.1.5 No appeal under Section 6.1.4 will be considered unless it is accompanied by a bond of three hundred Euros (€300), 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. The MNC-C committee may not always hold an appeal hearing for such appeals.
- 6.1.7 An appeal to the MNC-C committee under section 6.1.4, which is unsuccessful, may be further appealed in writing to National Appeals Committee.
- 6.1.8 Until such time as an appeal is heard the penalty will stand unless otherwise determined by the MNC-C committee.

### **6.2 Payment of Fines:**

- 6.2.1 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 Written Protest:**

- 6.3.1 If a team believes that its interests have been adversely affected and that the decisions taken have influenced the result of the game, it may protest the result by signing the score sheet 'under protest' in accordance with the procedures outlined in the FIBA Official Basketball Rules.
- 6.3.2 A written protest and the appropriate fee (see Note 7) must be sent to the League Commissioner to arrive within five (5) working days following the date of the game; e-mail is acceptable but must be followed up with a phone call to ensure the receipt of the e-mail. If either the written protest or the fee is not received within the specified time, the protest shall be considered null and void. A copy of the written protest must also be sent to the opposing team.
- 6.3.3 Video evidence may not be used to determine or change the result of a game.

**6.4 Other Disputes:**

- 6.4.1 Any other dispute, not being a written protest or a disciplinary matter, arising from a game should be submitted in writing to the League Commissioner within five (5) working days following the date of the game. The report may be sent by e-mail and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, as outlined in Note 7. If either the written dispute or the fee is not received within the specified time, the protest shall be considered null and void. A copy of the written dispute must also be sent to the opposing team.
- 6.4.2 In relation to a dispute against a referee, a copy will be sent to the NRC assessments officer and it will be the NRC assessments officer, in conjunction with the BIHQ who will decide on any action, if deemed necessary. The club will be informed of any decision arising from the dispute.
- 6.4.3 Any other dispute arising from a non-game situation shall also be subject to the guidelines above.
- 6.4.4 All MNC League teams should be entitled to bring to the attention of the Chair of the ONLC-Men. Any breach of the regulations without it being viewed as an appeal or protest. The ONLC-Men Chair will decide if this needs to be brought to the attention of the League Commissioner for investigation.

**6.5 Decision of MNC-C:**

- 6.5.1 The MNC-C will review all written protests under Regulation 6.3 and other disputes under 6.4. In reaching its decision, the MNC-C may consult with others, as it deems appropriate. The final decision of the MNC-C will be conveyed to all interested parties in writing.
- 6.5.2 If the MNC-C rules in favour of the team making the protest or dispute, the fee shall be refunded in full.
- 6.5.3 In exceptional circumstances, the MNC-C may deem late written protests or late written disputes compliant with the time limits set out.

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

- 6.6.1 Disciplinary action in respect of a MNC team will be notified to the MNC-C.
- 6.6.2 The National Disciplinary Committee (NDC), comprising of a minimum of three persons, will deal with all disciplinary matters relating to MNC. The membership of the NDC will be determined by the Board of BI and the MNC-C and may comprise of more than three persons. The decision of the NDC will be notified to the MNC-C and will be binding on all parties.
- 6.6.3 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 behaviour by its followers and /or supporters.
- 6.6.4 Disciplinary action may be taken against a club for non-compliance in respect of their registration conditions, including but not limited to; engagement with the ONLC-Men, compliance with pre-conditions and requirements of the licensing process etc. Penalties in respect of these breaches may be imposed by the MNC-C.
- 6.6.5 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.
- 6.6.6 When a player or member of coaching staff is disqualified from a game they automatically receive 14 penalty points and the national disciplinary committee (NDC) will review the case and determine if more penalty points will be added to this total.
- 6.6.7 The exception being when the disqualification is for two unsportsmanlike fouls or two technical fouls. In such a case the player or coach will receive 10 penalty points and the case will only be referred to the disciplinary committee if so decided by the League Commissioner/MNC-C.

- 6.6.8 Disciplinary matters will be referred to the NDC by the MNC-C or the League Commissioner arising from referees reports; match commissioner's reports; written complaints; recommendations from the NRC. All issues considered by the NRC as potential disciplinary matters must first be sent to the MNC-C and the MNC-C will decide on referring to the NDC.
- 6.6.9 Disciplinary action in respect of automatic penalty points will have immediate effect.
- 6.6.10 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.
- 6.6.11 The cumulative penalty points shall remain in effect for one calendar year from the date of the incident leading to the points being assigned. In the case of an incident leading to a suspension for longer than one year, cumulative penalty points shall remain in effect for duration at the discretion of the NDC.
- 6.6.12 The following procedures shall apply to all disciplinary matters;
- A. The League Commissioner or person nominated by the league commissioner shall forward copies of all reports related to the incident being considered to both clubs by post or email. In the case of a report against an official, the League Commissioner or person nominated by the league commissioner will forward copies of the report to both officials and the NRC Chairperson.
  - B. Each club, player and/or official shall have three (3) working days from the distribution date by BIHQ to submit its own report or submission on the incident.
  - C. 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.
  - D. All parties will be responsible for their own costs in connection with participation before the NDC.
  - E. All hearings shall be heard in private.
  - F. The NDC in ruling on any disciplinary matters may use video evidence.
  - G. The decision of the independent disciplinary board 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 are encouraged to do so
  - H. BIHQ will endeavour to hold all disciplinary hearings within 10 working days of the incident.
  - I. The MNC-C will communicate the decision of the NDC to all interested parties in writing (email is acceptable). 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.
- 6.6.13 Referees and or Game Commissioners are subject to the disciplinary procedures of the MNC-C. Disciplinary matters relating to game officials may be drawn to the attention of the League Commissioner by the NRC; players; coaches; match commissioner; MNC-C members.
- 6.6.14 Any such 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 NRC/NTOC (depending on the official) and the MNC-C by the League Commissioner. The procedures as outlined in 6.7 will be implemented.
- 6.6.15 In relation to a club protest against an official, that is not a disciplinary matter – the procedures as outlined in 6.4 will be implemented.
- 6.6.16 Decisions from disciplinary matters have the right of appeal to the National Appeals Committee.

**6.7 Effect of Suspension:**

- 6.7.1 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.
- 6.7.2 All disciplinary action will be applied to all games regardless of what competition it occurred in.

- 6.7.3 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 is dealt with in section 6.9 below), the disciplinary hearing, and if required the appeals hearing, shall be held within 5 working days of the incident occurring.
- 6.7.4 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 Commissioner along with a fax copy of the cheque (or the fee itself) as appropriate. A copy of the appeal must also be sent by registered post to the League Commissioner.
- 6.7.5 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.
- 6.7.6 In the event of a player not being in a position to serve a suspension, the MNC-C may seek to impose relevant sanction(s) on the club at the time of the disciplinary decision.
- 6.7.7 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.
- 6.7.8 Any player or coach who is suspended may not play or sit within the team bench area. He/she may be present at the venue unless otherwise decided by the MNC-C.
- 6.7.9 Game Commissioners and/or Officials will be informed by the League Commissioner of any player or coach suspensions in force in advance of a game to which they are appointed.

**6.8 Appeals:**

- 6.8.1 An appeal from the decision of the NDC, or an appeal from a decision of the MNC-C (under regulation 6.5) in relation to a written protest or any other dispute, and the appropriate fee (Note 8) must be sent to the League Commissioner in accordance with Appeal Section of the BI Regulations (14 days). This appeal may be e-mailed. A copy of the appeal must also be sent by registered post to the League Commissioner.
- 6.8.2 In exceptional and extraordinary circumstances, the National Appeals Committee, (NAC), may deem late appeals compliant with the time limits set out in BI Regulations.
- 6.8.3 In conjunction with the outline in the BI Regulations, the following procedures shall apply to all appeals to the National Appeals Committee:
- A. Each club and/or player and/or other interested party shall have the right to submit a written report on the incident to the NAC.
  - B. Each club and/or player and/or other interested party, or any representative of the aforesaid parties, shall have the right to attend at the appeal hearing, and make verbal submissions to the NAC.
  - C. All parties will be responsible for their own costs in connection with participation before the NAC.
  - D. All appeals shall be heard in private.
  - E. The NAC in ruling on any disciplinary matters may use video evidence.
  - F. The decision of the NAC 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 are encouraged to do so.
  - G. The League Commissioner will communicate the decision of the NAC to all interested parties in writing (email is acceptable). 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 an appeal decision that he is informed of the decision.

**6.9 MNC League Final, National Cup Finals & End of season competitions:**

- 6.9.1 In the specific case of the Men's National Cup Final and Champions Trophy/League Cup Finals Weekends the following procedures shall apply:

- A. Protests must be submitted in writing within twenty-four (24) hours following completion of the game. The fee (see Note 8) must accompany the written protest, which must be handed in person to a member of the technical committee, the game commissioner, the League Commissioner or a member of the MNC-C (in that order of precedence).
- B. 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.
- C. The technical committee's (if applicable) decision will be final. Due to time constraints there will be no right to appeal such decisions.
- D. The members of the technical committee will comprise of members of the Disciplinary Committee and/or Appeals Committee. 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 MNC-C will adhere to the guidelines and list of prohibited substances provided and subscribes to the National Anti-Doping Programme, operated by the Irish Sports Council (ISC).

7.2 In conjunction with the ISC Anti-Doping Programme each team must inform the ISC of their team whereabouts and training session times. Failure to comply with ISC requests will result in an automatic penalty as decided by the MNC-C 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 MNC-C and/or the ISC.

7.4 A new World Anti-Doping Code came into effect on the 1st of January 2015. From this date the Irish Sports Council and those who have adopted the Irish Sports Council rules must comply with their responsibilities under the new code. Please see below Appendix 9 for more information with regard to the new WADA 2015 code and <http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Anti-Doping>.

7.5 The ISC 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 Irish Sports Council 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 MNC, Champions Trophy and Men's National Cup games in consultation and by agreement with the MNC-C. 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 MNC-C 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 MNC-C through the League Commissioner of the intended name of the team and the duration of the agreement. The authorisation of the League Commissioner must be received before any agreement may be entered into. The documents will be treated as confidential unless the club or

team appeal the decision made by the League Commissioner to the MNC-C. The following also applies in relation to the team name;

- A. The official team name must be notified to the League Commissioner at least 6 weeks prior to the teams opening game in the League.
- B. The League Commissioner 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 League Commissioner/MNC-C.
- 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 MNC-C 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 MNC-C will have the option to use ten 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 Commissioner in writing must approve any different advertising arrangements.

8.6 Basketball Ireland and MNC-C 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 MNC-C reserve the right to claim sponsorship exclusivity on brands, companies and institutions in respect of the MNC. 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 5.4.8

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

8.11 Teams must use basketballs and equipment as approved by Basketball Ireland and the MNC-C.

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

8.13 The Basketball Ireland Social Media policy applies to all clubs participating in the National Leagues of Ireland, as per link below

[http://www.basketballireland.ie/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2489%3Aabi-confirms-social-media-policy-&catid=36%3Aslideshow-fp&Itemid=196](http://www.basketballireland.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2489%3Aabi-confirms-social-media-policy-&catid=36%3Aslideshow-fp&Itemid=196)

## 9. NOTES

**Note 1** 2.1.4; 4.2.15 Amount to be decided by the MNC-C, but not exceeding €2600

**Note 2** 2.3.1; 2.3.2 League Fees and Referee fees to be set by the MNC-C.

**Note 3** **A) FIBA Europe countries**

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, F.Y.R Macedonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Principality of Monaco, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Scotland, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Wales.

**B) 3.3.3 & Appendix 8** EU/EEA countries are those in the European Economic Area (the European Union plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein). Players from Switzerland have the same status as EU/EEA players. The EEA includes the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. (FIBA Europe countries)

**Note 4** 4.2.10; 4.2.11 A minimum of €200. Venue proves unplayable on the day of a game and it is the fault of the home team

**Note 5** 4.2.18 Minimum requirement is 6.4 million public liability insurance cover

**Note 6** 5.4.5 Up to €250

**Note 7** 6.3.2; 6.4.1 €150

**Note 8** 6.8.1; 6.9.1 €300

**Residency requirements**

It is the responsibility of each team to demonstrate each FED player has complied with residency requirements. Where a club has an incoming FED player from a different NGB then such players must be registered with BI and

1. The player's passport handed into BI for the period
2. The player must be available on 48 hours' notice to present himself to a person nominated by BI

Note: on request; the player may be allowed travel outside Ireland from day 31 to 60 **subject** to approval by the League Commissioner.

3. This last provision is to facilitate full time students (min 30 days) and who also satisfy the following: - Students from the area governed by FIBA Europe, who are accepted by one of the third level institution or colleges, affiliated to Basketball Ireland, on a recognised academic course, for a minimum of at least one academic year. A final decision on the awarding of a Category 1 licence shall be decided by the MNC-C.

**Appendix 2 - Transfer -Time Lines /disputes**

In all transfer situations the Club Secretary or, in the case of MNC 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 Commissioner 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 on a player transfer, the club or Area Board disputing the transfer must write to the League Commissioner outlining why the player is not being transferred. Until such time as the League Commissioner 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.

Category 1 players may only transfer to a team prior to the designated start of the season date as set by the MNC-C.

It is possible for a team to transfer in a Category 1 player, only from a FIBA competition 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(a) player and had not transferred out. This rule does not apply to transfers within Ireland.

**Appendix 3 - Fees for licensing a player**

The MNC League Licence fees for 2015/16 are as follows;

PLAYER CATEGORY	NATIONALITY	MNC FEE	FIBA FEE	TOTAL FEE On/Pre-Deadline	TOTAL Post Deadline	TOTAL FEE Post 28/02
CAT. 1*	1 IRISH	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00	€30.00
	1 FIBA Europe – Non Irish	€10.00	€125	€135.00	€155.00	€155.00
CAT. 2*	IRISH	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00	€30.00
	EU	€10.00	€125	€135.00	€155.00	€635.00
	Non FIBA Developed player with Work Permit or equivalent	€20.00	€125	€145.00	€165.00	€635.00

Note: this table does not include the BI Senior Membership Fee of €22

**Appendix 4****FACILITIES/VENUE REQUIREMENTS**

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

If a facility fails to meet the approval of the MNC-C, 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 of venues providing less than satisfactory equipment and services may be submitted to the Commissioner to be referred to the MNC-C 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 preferably 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. Official BI Score sheet
- G. A score bench to seat a minimum of four officials with time out, foul and substitution markers;
- H. The official molten game ball;
- I. A courtside announcer for each home game;
- J. Two suitably attired and equipped floor wipers;
- K. A temperature of at least 16°;
- L. The playing court should be uniformly and adequately lit with court lighting of at least 400 lux;
- M. Seating for all spectators;
- N. Clean toilets for spectators;
- O. 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;
- P. No seating or spectators within two meters of either end line;
- Q. The home club is responsible for providing suitable first aid equipment at the venue.
- R. Facilities should be accessible to persons with a disability;
- S. Any other reasonable equipment requested in writing by the SMNC-CSMMC.

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
Appendix 4	Failure to provide any item(s) of table equipment	€15
Appendix 4	Failure to record matches on the official Basketball Ireland score sheet	€25 per match
Appendix 4	Failure to use the approved match ball in League and Cup games	€25 per match
Appendix 4	Failure to provide a functioning score board	€130 per match
Appendix 4	Failure to provide a visible clock	€130 per match
Appendix 4	Failure to provide two 24 second devices & 14 sec reset function	€130 per match
Appendix 4	Failure to provide pressure release rings	€130 per match
Appendix 4	Failure to provide Padded Backboards	€130 per match
4.1.3	Administrative charge for Change of Fixture (COF) Requested	€100
5.1.2	Failure to provide a programme with specific details as required	€30 per match
5.1.2	Failure to provide a manned PA system	€30 per match
5.2.1; 5.2.9	Failure to provide qualified Officials as specified	€50 per match
5.3.3	Failure to provide player licence list for bona fide players in accordance with	€10 per player (€60 max pg)
5.3.4	Failure to provide a minimum of nine licensed players in uniform for a game	€100 per player
5.3.5	Playing an unlicensed/unregistered player	€130 & forfeit
5.4.2	Failure to have the correct colour uniforms	€130
5.4.3; 5.4.4	Failure to wear matching uniforms, tracksuits, warm up tops	€60 per player (€240 max pg)
5.4.8	Failure to display sponsors logo on front right thigh on the team playing shorts	€100 per player per game
5.6.1	Failure to provide a referee steward	€100 per game
5.6.3	Failure to advise correct result and/or scorers to the designated number within 30 minutes of the game	€30
5.6.4	Failure to provide the white copy of score sheet, copy of match programme and copy of referee claim form within five working days	€50 per item
5.6.6	Failure to update website with results or failure to provide 200-word match report including quotes within the specified time frame	€50 per item per match
5.6.6	Failure to update web page with individual player statistics by deadline	€50pp
5.6.8	Incomplete or inaccurate completion of statistics on the web site	€50
Appendix 4 & Section 5	Infringement of Facilities Appendix 4 and game presentation section 5 regulations may lead to a fine as decided by the MNC-C.	Not exceeding €320
7.2	Failure of MNC Club to comply with ISC 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 Commissioner	€150 per sign

## **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 MNC 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 in writing to BI by the applying club and must confirm the following details:

- A. Previous National Federation, e.g. French, English, Polish
- B. Club of origin and season (s) played
- C. Full name of player
- D. Player date of birth
- E. Player Nationality
- F. 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 SMNC-C/League Commissioner. The player cannot be licensed until clearance is received.

MNC players not eligible to play for Ireland and not holding an Irish passport must also 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 the course of that season. Thereafter a player cannot alter their licence category.

### **Appendix 7 – League Standing**

The League will be decided by a play-off at a venue to be determined by the MNC-C. 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 NLMC-Men's.

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 goal difference of the games between them
- Higher number of goals scored in the games between them
- Higher goal difference of all games in the group
- Higher number of goals 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 – NON-EEA NATIONAL'S IN IRELAND - WORK PERMITS AND EQUIVALENTS**

If a person comes to stay in Ireland for more than three months, and they are not a citizen of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, they must register their presence in Ireland with An Garda Síochána. The EEA or European Economic Area consists of countries outlined in Note 3.

Section 9 of the Immigration Act 2004 sets out the legal requirement for non-EEA nationals to register in Ireland when staying here for more than 3 months. In practice, this means that persons are obliged to register with their local immigration registration officer following arrival in Ireland, if they intend to remain in Ireland for more than 3 months.

The purpose of registration of non-EEA nationals is for border control reasons. Following registration with immigration officials, the applicant will be issued with an "Immigration Certificate of Registration". The Registration Certificate is the size of a credit card and includes name, address, photograph and residence details. It is sometimes called a "GNIB card" as it is issued by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). Asylum seekers receive a different type of certificate - a Temporary Residence Certificate. That Certificate is issued by the Refugee Applications Commissioner. Registration Certificates are evidence that a person is legally resident in Ireland. As well as a Registration Certificate a passport stamp, which specifies the duration and the conditions of permission to remain in Ireland will also be issued. The following table gives a list of the different types of stamp issued to non-EEA nationals, with those equivalents to a work permit noted.

STAMP 1	Issued to persons who have received an employment permit, business permission or a working holiday visa. The latter is considered as an equivalent to a work permit.
STAMP 2	Students who are attending a recognised full-time course of at least one year. They are permitted to work for 20 hours a week during term time and full time during holidays. This is considered as an equivalent to a work permit.
STAMP 2A	Students who are attending a course not recognised by the Department of Education and Science. They are not permitted to work. This is NOT considered as an equivalent to a work permit.
STAMP 3	Persons who are not permitted to work. This includes visitors; retired people of independent means; ministers of religion and members of religious orders; spouses and dependants of employment permit holders. This is NOT considered as an equivalent to a work permit.
STAMP 4	Spouses of Irish nationals; family members of EEA citizens; Convention and Programme refugees; parents of Irish citizen child granted leave to remain on that basis. They are permitted to work without having employment permit or business permission. This is considered as an equivalent to a work permit.
STAMP 4 (EU FAM)	Family members of EU nationals who have exercised their right to move to and live in Ireland. They are permitted to work without employment permit or business permission. This is considered as an equivalent to a work permit.

In conjunction with a player being issued with one of the above stamps (1, 2, 4, 4(EU FAM), basketball players must also hold and produce a copy of one of the following permits/visa's to be eligible to compete in Superleague Competition;

1. Work Permit Holder – A work permit is an employment permit issued to a person which allows the individual to work in Ireland with the specified employer in the occupation specified on the permit. In the case of basketball players, work permits are issued for 6-months.
2. Working Holiday Visa Holder – A Working Holiday Visa is issued to US/Canadian/Australian and New Zealand Nationals citizens for a 12 month period and allows the holder to work and travel in

Ireland for the duration of the visa. There are certain stipulations attached depending on the nationality of the applicant.

3. Green Card Permit Holder - A Green Card Permit is an employment permit issued to a person which allows the individual to work in Ireland with the specified employer in an occupation where skills shortages exist.
4. Student Visa Holder – A student visa is issued for the duration of the course of study and allows the individual holder to work a maximum of 20 hours per week alongside educational commitments.
5. Third Level Graduate Scheme - The Third Level Graduate Scheme is designed to allow foreign graduates from outside the European Economic Area who acquired a primary, masters or doctorate degree from an Irish third level educational institution to remain in Ireland for six months after receipt of their examination results. The person will be subject to the terms and conditions of that person's current student permission during the six month period and shall be allowed to work for up to 40 hours per week without an employment permit.
6. The Intra-Company Transfer Permit Holder – An Intra-Company Transfer Permit is a type of work permit that facilitates the transfer of foreign senior management, key personnel or trainees from an overseas branch or a multinational corporation to its Irish branch. The duration of the permit depends on the reason (training/other) for transfer.
7. Spousal/Dependent Work Permit Holder - Spouses and Dependents of employment permit holders are now allowed to apply for work permits without a labour market needs test. This scheme is designed to ease access to employment for spouses and dependent unmarried children under the age of 18 who have been admitted into Ireland as family members of employment permit holders.

## APPENDIX 9 – ANTI-DOPING UPDATE

A new World Anti-Doping Code came into effect on the 1st of January 2015. From this date the Irish Sports Council and those who have adopted the Irish Sports Council rules must comply with their responsibilities under the new code. Please see below more information with regard to the new WADA 2015 code. - See more at: <http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Anti-Doping/2015-Anti-Doping-Rules/#sthash.yGYEMxTc.dpuf>

### 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 2015 Prohibited List is effective since 01 January 2015 and can be accessed on the WADA website at <https://wada-main-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/resources/files/wada-2015-prohibited-list-en.pdf>. Clubs and athletes are responsible for updating themselves on changes to this list.

*Noteworthy changes to the List include:*

#### **Amendment to the 2014 Prohibited List**

Having been recently alerted to the substance Xenon and its potential performance enhancing characteristics, the WADA List Committee discussed the matter during its April meeting. Following the recommendation of the List Committee, the Executive Committee approved the option to modify Section S.2.1 of the 2014 Prohibited List, where hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) activators like xenon or argon have now been specifically identified. Note that cyanocobalamin (vitamin B12) is not prohibited.

*The amended 2014 Prohibited List will come into effect on 1 September, 2014.*

#### **Formoterol added as an exception to beta-2 agonists**

One of the most significant changes is the removal of formoterol from Section 3 'Beta-2 Agonists' of the List when taken by inhalation at therapeutic dosages. Taking into account recent research results and requests by members of the sports community, inhaled formoterol at therapeutic doses is no longer prohibited. The List prohibits the administration of all beta-2 agonists except salbutamol (maximum 1600 micrograms over 24 hours), salmeterol when taken by inhalation, and now formoterol (maximum 36 micrograms taken over 24 hours). The issue of beta-2 agonists will continue to be a focus of WADA's research activity in order to ensure that the administration of large doses or by systemic routes of these substances is prevented and prohibited, but that the appropriate care and treatment of asthmatic athletes is facilitated. Read the section '[Respiratory and Asthma Medications](#)' for further information on formoterol inhalers

#### **Alcohol and beta-blockers**

At the request of the Federation Internationale des Quilleurs (FIQ), alcohol is no longer included on the List as a prohibited in-competition substance for ninepin and tenpin bowling.

After a review by WADA and following discussions with stakeholders, bobsleigh and skeleton, curling, modern pentathlon, motorcycling, sailing and wrestling have also been removed from the list of sports included in the List in which beta-blockers are prohibited. Nicotine placed on monitoring program

In order to detect potential patterns of abuse, nicotine has been placed on WADA's 2012 Monitoring Program.

It is NOT WADA's intention to target smokers, rather to monitor the effects nicotine can have on performance when taken in oral tobacco products such as snus.

Nicotine is one of several stimulants added to the Monitoring Program, along with the narcotics hydrocone and tramadol. Out-of-competition use of glucocorticosteroids has also been included.

Under Article 4.5 of the World Anti-Doping Code, WADA is mandated to establish a monitoring program regarding substances that are not on the List, but which the Agency wishes to monitor in order to detect potential patterns of misuse.

The 2012 Prohibited List, the 2012 Monitoring Program, and a summary of modifications on the 2012 List can be downloaded below

For queries on the 2015 Prohibited List, please contact the Irish Sports Council at 01-8608829 or [antidoping@irishsportsCouncil.ie](mailto:antidoping@irishsportsCouncil.ie)

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](http://www.eirpharm.com). Medications bought in Northern Ireland or the UK should be checked on [www.globaldro.com](http://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 [www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Anti-Doping/TUEs\\_and\\_Medicines](http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Anti-Doping/TUEs_and_Medicines) for information on TUE Applications.

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. The Irish Sports Council 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 Irish Sports Council's 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.
- C. Athletes who are part of the ISC RTP are informed by the ISC in writing and advised of the TUE requirements.

Athletes who are not on the ISC 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), the Irish Sports Council 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 the Irish Sports Council 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 the ISC for a TUE in advance of using the Prohibited Substance or Method.

For further information, to report doping or to view the Irish Sports Council's policy on Anti-Doping you can visit the site at <https://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Anti-Doping/Report-Doping/>

**DECLARATION OF USE POLICY:**

The ISC 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:**

All previously granted Abbreviated TUEs (ATUEs) have now expired since December 31st, 2009. This has come about with the introduction of the updated WADA International Standard for TUEs. This also applies to TUEs previously granted by International Federations. If you fit the criteria listed above for a Pre-Test TUE you should now follow the steps below and re-apply for a TUE. If you fit the criteria listed above for a Post-Test TUE you should contact your GP/Consultant to ensure that they have an up to date medical file for you.

**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 emailed the Anti-Doping Officer, Louise O'Loughlin to request the form at [loloughlin@basketballireland.ie](mailto:loloughlin@basketballireland.ie)

All matters in Anti-Doping are received in confidence.

**APPENDIX 10 – LIST OF RECOGNISED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS/COLLEGE**

NUIG – Galway; UJJ; DBS - Dublin; Cork IT; UCD; UL; Blanchardstown IT; Carlow IT; DCU; Queens – Belfast; Waterford IT; TCD – Trinity; IT Tallaght; Dundalk IT; Griffith College; Belfast Met; Dublin IT; UCC; NUIM – Maynooth; RCSI - Royal College Surgeons Ireland; NCI - National College Ireland; AIT - Athlone IT; IT Tralee; LKIT - Letterkenny IT; GMIT - Galway Mayo IT; DIFE - Drogheda Institute of Further Technology; Marino College

**APPENDIX 11: MNC-C MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Bernard O'Byrne	Chair, elected by MNC-C
Frank Cashman	Nominee, Organisation of National League clubs
John Gilligan	Nominee, Organisation of National League clubs
Jim Dineen	Nominee, Organisation of National League clubs
To be appointed	Nominee, Board of Basketball Ireland
Frank Ryan	Nominee, Board of Basketball Ireland
Joey Boylan	Nominee, Board of Basketball Ireland