



# National Women's Competition Regulations

2016-2017 Season

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

Last Updated: - April 2016

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**1 MANAGEMENT OF WOMEN'S SENIOR NATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

- 1.1. These regulations govern the operation of Basketball Ireland's Women's Senior National Competitions for season 2016/2017. The regulations will be subject to a full review at the end of the season, based on:
  - A. The operation of the National League and the National Cup Competitions
  - B. The Clubs' suggestions for amendments to the Regulations.
  - C. Proposals from the Senior Women's Clubs Committee (WSSC) or any sub-committee of the WSSC
- 1.2. The WSSC will be responsible for all policy concerning Senior Women's National Competitions delegated as by the Council of Basketball Ireland.: The WSSC members as agreed in October 2016 defer this responsibility to the WNLC to be revisited in May 2018.
- 1.3. The League Commissioner will take routine day-to-day interpretations of policy and regulations.
- 1.4. Where time constraints exist the League Commissioner shall make decisions on any matter not specifically covered by the regulations. Any matter decided in this manner will be discussed at the next WNLC meeting for final ratification.
- 1.5. Any member of the WNLC has the right to submit a written report on any aspect of a game at which he/she is present to the League Commissioner. Such reports may be used as a basis for imposing automatic fines and sanctions.
- 1.6. The official channel of communication between the League Commissioner/WNLC and a participating club is the Club Secretary/National League Secretary, as nominated on the League Entry form when the club registers for National Competition each season. All correspondence must be typed, e-mail is acceptable.
- 1.7. These regulations form part of the Regulations of Basketball Ireland and should be read in conjunction with them. Communication will occur as required to ensure that these regulations are complementary to agreed strategic objectives and the development of pathways for Irish players as proposed by the Council of BI.
- 1.8. BI and WNLC members shall be given free access to all basketball courts where games under the control of the WNLC are played.
- 1.9. All suggested amendments to the regulations must arrive with the CO on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March of the current season for consideration by the WNLC.
- 1.10. By entering into and being registered/licensed to play in National Competitions, clubs and/or individuals must accept these regulations in their entirety.
- 1.11. The WNLC and/or the National Disciplinary Committee (NDC) may impose disciplinary action and/or fines for breaches of the regulations that have no specified penalty.
- 1.12. All National Competition trophies will remain the property of Basketball Ireland. When the winning clubs have been ascertained, the WNLC or a person nominated by WNLC will present the appropriate trophy to that club, who will then be responsible for its return to Basketball Ireland by the following deadlines:
  - A. National Cup Trophies – 30th November of the following season
  - B. National League Conference Trophies - 31<sup>st</sup> December of the following season
  - C. National League Champions Trophies - 31<sup>st</sup> January of the following season
- 1.13. Failure to return the trophies by this date may result in Basketball Ireland collecting the trophy, with the cost of this paid by the club.
- 1.14. Should a trophy be damaged whilst under the care or custody of a club, the club may be required to refund to Basketball Ireland the amount of the present value of the trophy, or the cost of thorough repair. Should a trophy be lost or destroyed from any cause whilst under the care and custody of a club, the club may be required to pay Basketball Ireland a sum

equivalent to the present value of the trophy in addition to any other penalty that Basketball Ireland may impose.

- 1.15. The season begins on May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and ends on April 30<sup>th</sup> the following year.
- 1.16. For the purpose of National Competition, a club is a registered member of Basketball Ireland and a member of their geographical area board. Clubs should have competed in their geographical Area Board for a minimum of two seasons before applying for entry into the national league competitions.
- 1.17. A team in National Competition is a collection of individual members from one or more clubs that are registered and/or licensed to compete in a specific National Competition. Members are accepted onto a team subject to compliance with the registration/licensing guidelines of the competition.
- 1.18. The WNLC will have the right to exercise its judgement and discretion in the interpretation of these regulations taking into account the best interests of Basketball Ireland, its clubs and its players and/or potential players.

## **2 COMPETITION STRUCTURES**

### **2.1 NATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

2.1.1 The following are defined as National Competitions as referred to in these regulations:

- A. National League Competition including, Women's SuperLeague (WSL), Women's Division One National League (WD1)
- B. National Cup Competition including Women's SuperLeague National Cup (WPC), Women's Senior National Cup
- C. No team or players participating in the National Intermediate Cup Competition, are eligible to play in either of the National Women's Senior Cups.

### **NATIONAL LEAGUE COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

- 2.2.1 The Basketball Ireland National League competition provides competition for all 32 counties. The competition culminates with Regular Season Final's, Playoffs and National League Finals, with the games taking place in different regions of the Country.
- 2.2.2 The WNLC , prior to the commencement of each season, will determine the format of the National League Competitions under their control depending on the number of entries received by the application deadline
- 2.2.3 Winners of the National Leagues will receive an award, to be determined by the WNLC, each season. The winner will be presented with the National League Champions Trophy and fifteen medals. Second place will also be presented with 15 medals.
- 2.2.4 There will be promotion and relegation from the WSL and WD1 as decided by the WNLC.
- 2.2.5 Acceptance into a competition will be at the discretion of the WSCC on an annual basis.
- 2.2.6 The league standings will be determined by awarding (2) points for a win, (0) point for a defeat and zero points (0) for a forfeiture. In the case of the latter other penalties will be applied at the discretion of the WNLC.
- 2.2.7 If two or more teams finish on level point totals, FIBA guidelines will apply to determine the final league classifications. However, if time permits a deciding game as opposed to a coin toss can be applied .The WNLC may decide that the tied team will play a deciding game at a neutral venue.
- 2.2.8 If a team withdraws or is expelled from the league 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 league table, unless the team has played everybody once, the first round of games will be included.

- 2.2.9 The play of structure and procedures will be sent separately prior to the start of the season based on numbers and agreed by the WNLC and where appropriate by the WSCC.

## **2.3 NATIONAL CUP COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

- 2.3.1 The WNLC, prior to the commencement of each season, will determine the format of the National Cup Competitions depending on the number of entries received by the application.
- 2.3.2 The winners of the National Cup will be presented with the National Cup Trophy and 15 National Cup Medals. Second place will also be presented with 15 Medals.
- 2.3.3 The WSL Cup will be played on a knockout format. The WNLC will conduct an open draw for the competition.
- 2.3.4 The Women's Senior National Cup (WD1) will be played on a knockout format. There may be seeding for clubs not playing in the National Leagues
- 2.3.5 All Players participating in the WSL, Women's Senior National Cups are Cup Tied and may only play for one team in the senior (Senior or Super League) cup competition. Category 2 players **MUST** play at least two League games in the league within which the team is registered to be eligible to play in the Senior or Super League cup competition. The exception to this rule is when a category 2 player is added to the squad as a direct replacement for another category 2 player that has played at least 2 league games.
- 2.3.6 In the case of players playing under the player-link agreements – if both of their associated clubs are playing in the competition, then the link player must play with their home/root club
- 2.3.7 Once the draw is made no there will be no changes made except when a team with proof of entry has been missed out of the draw or via appeal to the national appeals committee.

## **2.4 NATIONAL CUP COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

- 2.4.1 All clubs competing in the above competition must be a registered member of Basketball Ireland (BI) and players should be registered with BI under the team registration scheme. Players leaving the jurisdiction of Basketball Ireland to play basketball may not return to play in National Competition in the current season.
- 2.4.2 Teams accepted into the competition after the closing date will be subject to a late entry fee as decided by the WNLC and other teams must be aware of possible changes and willing to accommodate these changes imposed by the WNLC as a result of a late entry being accepted or as a result of the withdrawal of a team. Any withdrawals after entry will result in the loss of entry fee and bond.
- 2.4.3 Teams withdrawing from the competition prior to the draw being made will be subject to loss of their entry fee. Subsequent entry into this competition will be at the discretion of the WNLC.
- 2.4.4 Teams withdrawing from the competition after the draw has been made and after the issue of fixtures will be subject to loss of entry fee and bond and will be fined in accordance with National Competition Regulations. Subsequent entry into this competition will be at the discretion of the WNLC,

## **3 ENTRANCE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES**

### 3.1 APPLYING TO ENTER THE NATIONAL LEAGUE/NATIONAL CUP

- 3.1.1 There is no automatic entry to the Basketball Ireland National Leagues. Applications to enter the Women's Super League and/or the Division One National League must be received annually, must be accompanied by the entry fee, bond and/or deposit and must be received in the Basketball Ireland Office by the nominated deadline. Applications received outside of the deadline or without the designated fee, will be subject to a late fee. All outstanding monies (i.e. fees, fines penalties) from previous season(s) must be accompanied with the entry fee Bond and deposit
- 3.1.2 Similarly, there is no automatic entry to the Basketball Ireland National Cup Competition, with the exception being teams competing in the Leagues as outlined in 3.1.3. Applications to enter must be received annually accompanied by the entry fee, bond and/or deposit and must be received in the Basketball Ireland Office by the deadline as set by the Basketball Ireland Competitions department, proceeding the season in question. Applications received outside of the deadline or without the designated fee, will be subject to a late fee. All outstanding monies (i.e. fees, fines penalties) from previous season(s) must be accompanied with the entry fee Bond and deposit
- 3.1.3 Once accepted into the WSL, and/or WD1, teams are automatically entered into the National Cup Competition, if eligible.
- 3.1.4 Only teams playing in the National League or teams playing in Division One of their Area Boards league will be accepted into the Senior National Cups. The WNLC reserves the right to refuse or accept an application from a club or team to participate in National Competition.
- 3.1.5 If the application is not accepted, any bond or entry fee will be refunded to the applicant club within fourteen (14) days of its rejection. If the application is accepted, the bond shall be refunded within 1 month of the completion of the League/Cup Finals weekend unless rolled over the following year.
- 3.1.6 If there are any outstanding fines owed by a club, the bond may be held until all fines have been paid or outstanding debts may be deducted from this bond.
- 3.1.7 All WSL/WD1 clubs must be able to satisfy the WNLC that it has adequate funding to fulfil its commitments for the season. A detailed financial statement must be submitted at the time of applying to join the league. WSL clubs may also be asked to provide their Super League team's bank statement during the application process each year. The WNLC reserves the right to request further financial information from the club. The WNLC reserves the right to reject applications if satisfactory financial plans are not provided.
- 3.1.8 Basketball Ireland hereby disclaims any liability whatsoever in respect of promotions, games or any events organised by club teams and/or team companies participating in the National League or any other competitions. Teams participating in National Competition must take out a public liability insurance policy (see Note 1). The WNLC 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.
- 3.1.9 All clubs competing in national competitions must be a registered member of Basketball Ireland (BI) and the players should be registered and licensed with BI under the player registration scheme. Non Category 1 players MUST play two league game before they are eligible to play in the cup (exception outlined in 2.3.5). All players of the club must be registered with the clubs Area Board and with the appropriate team as competing in the Area Boards competition.
- 3.1.10 All Clubs must also pay an annual BI club registration fee, ensure that their players pay their annual Basketball Ireland Membership Fee and any other fee(s), as specified by the BI Registrar to ensure that the team is fully registered for National Competitions.
- 3.1.11 This season the entry fees per team are as follows:
- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| A. Super League (inc. National Cup where eligible)          | €600 + €300 bond |
| B. Women's Division One (incl. National Cup where eligible) | €600 + €300 bond |

- 3.1.12 Entry fees and/or bond are forfeited by a club, which withdraws from National League after the fixtures and/or draw has been made or after 31<sup>st</sup> May, (whichever comes first), prior to the start of the season in question. In addition clubs will be fined for withdrawing from a competition after this date, (see Note 2) and will be subject to sanction per fixture not fulfilled.
- 3.1.13 A team withdrawing from the National Cup Competition five working days prior to the draw has been made will be subject to loss of entry fee and bond and will be fined in accordance with these Regulations. Subsequent entry into this competition will be at the discretion of the WNLC.
- 3.1.14 Teams withdrawing from the National Cup Competition within 5 days of the draw or after the draw has been made will be subject to loss of entry fee and bond and will be fined in accordance with National Competition Regulations per fixture not fulfilled. Subsequent entry into this competition will be at the discretion of the WNLC and further penalties may be applied depending on the time of withdrawal.
- 3.1.15 Team names are subject to approval by Basketball Ireland as outlined in BI Regulations and those outlined in Section 10.

## 4 REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING PROCEDURES

### 4.1 REGISTRATION AND LICENSING FOR PLAYERS, COACHES AND OFFICIALS

- 4.1.1 As per Basketball Ireland Regulations, all National Competition clubs must be registered with Basketball Ireland through the club registration scheme. The club must also be registered with its geographical Area Board. The players competing in the competition must be registered and licensed with the National Competition team under the player registration scheme.
- 4.1.2 New clubs/teams that wish to enter any National League Division One or Women's Super league Competition must have three year's playing experience at Area Board level and be registered together from the current season before applying for the upcoming season. The WNLC may let in new clubs who do not fit these criteria if they see fit and for the good of the league.
- 4.1.3 All National League Coaches, assistant coaches, club officials (any person, other than a coach or player, authorised by the referee to sit on the team bench, and be in communication with the team during the game, including statisticians/physiotherapist etc.), must be registered/licensed as an individual member of Basketball Ireland. Only those licensed will be permitted to sit on the team bench. Breach of this regulation will incur automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.4 Any club who plays an unlicensed or ineligible player in any game covered by these regulations shall automatically forfeit the game and be fined accordingly. (See Appendix 1).
- 4.1.5 Players competing in WSL, WD1 AND WSC must be over the age of 16 before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current season.
- 4.1.6 Players competing in the National Cup must meet the eligibility requirements of the National Cup Competition they are competing in. Players competing in the Senior Cup's must meet the requirements outlined for Division 1 in these regulations. Non-National League Teams competing in the Senior Cup must provide evidence of compliance with National Competition Regulations.
- 4.1.7 Except as allowed for in Basketball Ireland and National Competition Regulations, a player may only be registered with one club at any time and the player must possess a valid competition licence number, issued by BI, to compete in national competitions.
- 4.1.8 Pre-Season, to licence players, all of the necessary licensing documentation as outlined in 4.1.11, must reach the BI office no later than 17:00h on the designated deadline as decided by the League Commissioner. Players licensed after this deadline will be subject to a late fee per player.

- 4.1.9 During the season, to licence a player all of the necessary licensing documentation as outlined in 4.1.11, must reach the BI office no later than 12:00 (noon) on the Thursday for the player to be cleared to play that Friday, Saturday and Sunday. To licence a player for a game on any other day of the week, the above information must reach the BI office no later than 12:00 (noon) on the day of the game.
- 4.1.10 The Basketball Ireland Office will be closed on all public and bank holidays. To successfully licence a player on or immediately after such dates, the necessary documentation must reach the office no later than 12:00 (noon) on the last working day before the game in question is due to take place and/or before any specific deadlines outlined. If a player needs to be licensed during the holiday period, direct contact must be made with the League Commissioner.
- 4.1.11 To licence a player for National Competition, the following steps must be taken:
- A. The National Competition License Application Form/Renewal Form, a copy of the player's current passport (if applicable), one passport photo (if applicable) and the required fees as outlined in 4.1.12 need to be received by 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.
  - B. All documentation including the player declaration must be completed in full and signed by the player and the secretary of the applying club.
  - C. If the player has transferred from another club, a copy of the completed Basketball Ireland transfer form must accompany the application. This transfer must be signed by the acquiring club, the transferring club and finally the local area board the latter club was affiliated to **BEFORE** it will be accepted as a legitimate transfer.
  - D. If the player is a link-player, the structured link application form must accompany the license application. This must also be signed off by the local area board to which the linked club is affiliated.
  - E. If the player has previously played outside of Ireland, then International Clearance as outlined in section 4.2 must be sought by Basketball Ireland from the Federation the player last played with.
  - F. Any FIBA documentation that is required.
  - G. Supporting documentation of proof of residency must be included if required.

4.1.12 The National Competition Licence fees for this season are as follows;

DIVISION	NATIONALITY	BI FEE	FIBA FEE	TOTAL FEE pre deadline	TOTAL FEE post deadline
Super	IRISH	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00
	EU	€10.00	€125	€135.00	€155.00
	NON-EU NATIONAL	€10.00	€125	€135.00	€155.00
WD1	IRISH	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00
	EU	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00
	NON-EU NATIONAL	€10.00	N/A	€10.00	€30.00

- 4.1.13 All league teams must register a minimum of 12 players on or before licensing closing date set each season. (A late fee will be payable after this date). Teams can add to this list at any time during the season from the pool of registered players that were in the club the previous season and had not transferred out,
- 4.1.14 Within a club which has more than one team competing in National Competitions, any player licensed that plays up on a higher level team on more than two occasions, will not be eligible to play for the lower level team, e.g. WD1..



## 4.2 INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE OF PLAYERS & FIBA LICENCE FEE

- 4.2.1 Any player who has played outside Ireland since the previous Basketball Ireland season, or who is new to playing in Ireland must receive clearance from the last National Federation in which the person played, or came from. In some cases, a National Federation may charge a fee for this Clearance which must be paid by the requesting club.
- 4.2.2 The exception to rule 4.2.1 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.
- 4.2.3 Individual players, who are playing basketball, under the jurisdiction of the US School/College/University systems may not play in any National League Competition although they may be registered and licensed. Players may be eligible to compete on their return, subject to compliance with the regulations.
- 4.2.4 If a National League player is cleared for a season to play in another FIBA competition outside of Ireland, the licensing of this player on their return, during the season will be at the discretion of the WNLC.
- 4.2.5 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)
- 4.2.6 For all BI Competitions, where 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.
- 4.2.7 Licensing of players requiring International Clearance and/or proof of Residency 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 WNLC. The player cannot be licensed until clearance and/or proof of residency is received.
- 4.3 Super league players not holding an Irish passport must also pay an additional fee each year as set out in FIBA regulations and included above in 4.1.11.

## 4.4 LINK PLAYERS –

- 4.4.1 All National League clubs are permitted to build links with clubs in their locality, with the objective of promoting the game, promoting the National League team, promoting the linked club and providing opportunities for player development and progression that may not be possible without the forming of such links. Include Structured links should be formed and agreed with the WSCC by the 1<sup>st</sup> October in the current season.
- 4.4.2 4 types of player-link agreements exist for National Competitions, as outlined below:
- A. An official agreement between an Area Board team and a WSL team
  - B. An official agreement between a Division One team and a WSL team
  - C. An official agreement between an Area Board team and a Division One team

- 4.4.3 A structured link can be formed between clubs in a locality (defined as the geographical area under the control of the Area Committee the teams are affiliated to), as specified in 4.3.2, where no equivalent standard team exists in the lower club. If both clubs are not under the control of the same local Area Board, a club must make a special request to the WSCC in order for the link agreement to be sanctioned. This request must be written and must outline the circumstances of the request, e.g. college and/or work commitments. The licensing of a link-player will be at the discretion of the WNLC
- 4.4.4 The BI Official Structured Link Form must be agreed by both teams and approved by the Area Board (in which jurisdiction the player is going to play), prior to it being submitted to the WSCC for approval in accordance with the Basketball Ireland approved 'Structured Link' form.
- 4.4.5 The sanctioning of each player-link agreement will be at the discretion of the WNLC, with the players involved in this agreement eligible to be licensed subject to current regulations.
- 4.4.6 Within a club, where the two teams mentioned above (4.3.2) exist, the link is considered to be an agreement for player development purposes and is therefore restricted to younger players, who may not be getting a high percentage of court-time with the higher-level team. Therefore within a club the link-player must be U23 before the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current season.
- 4.4.7 Between two different clubs, where the two teams mentioned above (4.3.2) exist, the link is considered to be an agreement for player pathway, as no equivalent standard of team exists within their own club so it is not restricted to younger players as the players are expected to fulfil their requirements with both clubs as highlighted in 4.3.11.
- 4.4.8 To be eligible for licensing as a link-player, the player must have been registered and played with the linked club for at least the previous season.
- 4.4.9 Through the forming of a link with another club, the player-link should not in any way jeopardise the stability of the lower-level team/club and the player(s) would be expected play more than 50% of their Area Board games/division 1 games for the agreement to benefit both teams. In the case of a clash of fixtures, they are expected to play for their own club/team. The WNLC reserves the right to request evidence of compliance with the player-link regulations.
- 4.4.10 A link player is entitled to play with their team in the Playoff stages, provided they have played more than 50% of games with the team during the season.
- 4.4.11 The Playoff stages are defined as any games following the completion of the regular season.
- 4.4.12 Within a club, if there are two teams playing in National Competitions, four (4) link players can be licensed on both the Division One and Women's Super League team, with the players entitled to play in the Division One Playoffs, provided they have played more than 50% of games with the Division One team in the season.

#### **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND PROOF OF RESIDENCY**

- 4.4.1 In Super League and Division 1/Senior Cup Competitions, all category 1 players must fulfil the residency requirement of having resided on the island of Ireland for a minimum period of 90 days prior to their first game OR have resided on the island of Ireland on a permanent basis for not less than two consecutive years.
- 4.4.2 The burden of proof with regard to residency shall lie with the player and their club. The player/club must provide proof of residency. The following documents will be considered as proof of residency in Ireland when they include the player's name and current Irish resident address:
  - A. P21 (end of year review of your tax liability), issued to the players resident address showing details during the period in question,
  - B. P60 (a statement of your pay and a record of the tax and PRSI deducted by your employer during the year), issued to the players resident address showing details during the period in question,
  - C. Issue of PPS number to the players resident address during the period in question

- D. Employee photo identification card issued by your current employer, containing your employer's name and address. Your employer's telephone number will be required for verification.
- E. Pay check or stub with your name and Irish address, and your employer's name and address. Your employer's telephone number will be required for verification.
- F. A utility bill for water, gas, electricity or land-line telephone service at least 90 days old.
- G. An account statement at least 90 days old from an Irish financial institution. The account statement must show activity to reflect resident status.
- H. Current Irish Medical Assistance Card
- I. Certified enrolment on a recognised third level course
- J. Certified school record or transcript
- K. GNIB card
- L. Official tenancy agreements, issued to the players resident address showing details during the period in question.

The residency requirement will be strictly enforced with the players involved having to adhere to the law of the land. No proof, no play.

- 4.4.3 Submission of valid documents from the above list must be provided such that the League Commissioner is satisfied that the player complies with the residency requirements. The WNLC reserves the right to request further documentation if necessary as they will have the responsibility of making the final decision should compliance issues arise. The player may have to present in person to confirm his/her presence in the Country during the period in question.
- 4.4.4 The League Commissioner will decline to accept as evidence any document presented if it does not provide verifiable support for the claim of residency. Documents presented as proof must be original. Photocopies and online copies are not acceptable. Documents with a photograph of a person will be accepted only when the person is readily recognizable from the photograph. The League Commissioner will decline to accept any document presented if it has reason to suspect the authenticity of the document. Questionable documents may require additional review.
- 4.4.5 Where a player/club provides evidence of compliance with the residency requirement and subsequently this evidence is found to be inaccurate, the players licence will be revoked, and the club will be fined and/or suspended from the competition (will have to reapply). The WNLC will have the right to make a final decision on applying this retrospectively to all games the player has participated in.

#### **4.5 LICENSING – PLAYER CATEGORIES & QUOTA’S:**

##### **4.5.1 PLAYER CATEGORIES:**

The following three player categories have been defined for Super/National League and Senior Cup Competition.

**Category 1** Players who have gone through primary/secondary school system on the Island of Ireland for a minimum of 3 years

**Category 1:** Any player resident in Ireland for a minimum of 3 months (i.e. 90days) qualifies for a Category 1 license provided they fulfill all the following requirements as an “**FIBA Europe Developed Player**” (FED- Player)

**Category 2:** Any player not qualifying for a Category 1 license. (However, a player cannot be granted a Category 2 license if they fulfill the criteria to be eligible for a Category 1 license.) .

**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.

- A player cannot change categories during the season.

#### **4.5.2 SUPERLEAGUE/DIVISION ONE/SENIOR CUP LICENCES:**

The number of players to be licensed per SuperLeague/Division 1/Senior Cup team from each category will be as follows:

##### **Quotas for Super League and Division 1 teams.**

Only 2 Category 2 players can be on the score sheet for any game.

#### **4.6 DOMESTIC TRANSFER REGULATIONS WITHIN NATIONAL COMPETITION:**

- 4.6.1 A player wishing to transfer between clubs must obtain written clearance from their last club (using the Basketball Ireland Transfer form) and their Area Board to transfer to a new club. A copy of the completed transfer form must be forwarded to Basketball Ireland with the Competition Licence Application.
- 4.6.2 If the player is U-18 a signature of a parent/guardian is required on the transfer form.
- 4.6.3 A player wishing to transfer between clubs must comply with the regulations of their Area Board's to which both existing and new clubs are affiliated.
- 4.6.4 If a player from a club, which is no longer registered with Basketball Ireland, is seeking a transfer, the Area Board to which the club was affiliated must complete the transfer form.
- 4.6.5 In all transfer situations the Club Secretary (or designated official) or Local Area Board representative will have five (5) days from the date of receipt of the transfer form (24hrs after form is confirmed sent by e-mail/post/fax) to sign it or refer the case to the League Commissioner for adjudication. The player can request that the matter be forwarded for adjudication if no action has been taken after the five-day period.
- 4.6.6 If there is a dispute regarding player transfers, the clubs/Area Boards involved must write to the League Commissioner outlining why the player is not being transferred. Until such time as the League Commissioner/WNLC are 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. A copy of the written submission must also be sent to the player in question.
- A. Players registered as National League players for the 2015-16 season may only transfer to a team prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> October of the current season in WSL and Division One competitions provided the player has not played in the current League or Cup season.
- 4.6.7 Players under the age of 20 on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current season may transfer up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- 4.6.8 In accordance with BI Regulations, a player once registered and transferred may not register again with the same club in that season.
- 4.6.9 Teams may transfer in players all subject to the following:

- B. A maximum of **three (3)** of these players may be from the same club in consecutive years. If the Transfer requests exceed three from any one club, additional transfers may be accepted at the discretion of the WNLC. The onus is on all players taking part in All National Competitions to produce completed transfer forms prior to taking part in a competition. Breach of this rule may lead to loss of points and or expulsion from the competition.
- C. A player from a National League team may transfer to another National League team before 31<sup>st</sup> October provided the player has not played in the current League or Cup season.
- D. All other incoming National League players must be registered prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December of the current season.
- E. An incoming National League player is any player who was not registered with your club on the last day of the previous season.

4.6.10 In the case of transfers, permission must be granted from the current club prior to any discussions with the player regarding a possible transfer. This initial contact must be followed up with a transfer application to complete the process. Any infringement may result in disciplinary action being imposed on the club.

## 5 FACILITIES & UNIFORMS

- 5.1 All National Competition venues must be approved pre-season by the WNLC (or a designated representative). The WNLC may also inspect a facility at any stage of the season if a problem develops that might impact on the staging of games. The WNLC (or a designated representative) may approve other venues during the season.
- 5.2 If a facility fails to meet the approval of the WNLC, the team may be asked to move to another approved facility.
- 5.3 The following minimum standards must be provided and be functioning (from 30 minutes prior to game time until the game ends) at each facility. Failure to reach these standards will result in automatic fines as outlined in Appendix 1.
  - A. Use of Basketball Ireland Official score sheet.
  - B. An electronic clock/scoreboard, clearly visible to both teams and the majority of spectators.
  - C. At least two 24-second clocks with a 14 second reset facility. (WSL, WD1, and WSC).
  - D. A temperature of at least 16°.
  - E. Lighting of at least 400 lux.
  - F. Seating for all spectators is preferable.
  - G. Clean toilets for spectators.
  - H. Adequate separate changing facilities with hot showers for both teams and the game officials, (at the cost of the home team). In venues that do not have separate facilities for the game officials, the home team must make suitable arrangements locally with any additional cost also being born by the home team themselves.
  - I. Stable baskets
  - J. Pressure release rings, (Super League, Super League Cup, WD1, WSC)
  - K. Padded backboards for Super League/WSC
  - L. No seating or spectators within two meters of either end line.
  - M. Table equipment (player foul + team foul markers; directional arrows).
  - N. Facilities should be accessible to persons with a disability.
  - O. The home club is responsible for providing suitable first aid equipment at the venue.
  - P. Use of official Molten match ball GG6X,
- 5.4 All teams will register home colours during the application process. If there is a change the League Commissioner must be notified at least two weeks prior to the start of the season. The visiting team may wear whatever colours they choose provided they do not clash with the home team. The home team must be prepared to change their uniforms. In the event of a colour clash the away team will be fined (see Note 3). In the event of the game not going ahead, the away team will not automatically be awarded the game and will pay direct expenses for causing this.
- 5.5 Uniform numbers will be in accordance with current FIBA regulations.

- 5.6 All members of the same team must wear their official club uniform (for each game) including tracksuits and warm-up tops and may vary within these parameters during warm-up. Failure to comply will result in automatic fines as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 5.7 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 neatly dressed to a suitable standard to represent the league, especially in the case of the WSL.

## 6 FIXTURES, GAME SCHEDULING AND GAME RESCHEDULING

### 6.1 FIXTURE SCHEDULING:

- 6.1.1 Games will normally be played on Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday. They may, however, be played on other days as stipulated by the WNLC, or by mutual agreement, and with the permission of the League Commissioner. All games shall take place at 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.	
E. In the case of double or triple header games, earlier start times will apply.	

- 6.1.2 Normally no club shall be required to undertake a weekend fixture that does not enable its players to arrive back at their home base by midnight Sunday unless otherwise agreed.
- 6.1.3 Cross conference fixtures should be scheduled for a Saturday or Sunday (or bank holiday) unless both teams agree and alternative arrangement. Cup and play offs are not classed as cross conference games.
- 6.1.4 The WNLC may have to make special arrangements for TV games, allowing them to be played outside of these times.
- 6.1.5 Basketball Ireland will prepare a fixture list prior to the start of the season and changes will not be permitted in respect of the fixture list, except that:
- A. Prior to the deadline outlined by the WNLC, whenever two clubs reach agreement regarding the rearrangements of a fixture, the HOME team may make an application in writing to Basketball Ireland, using the appropriate 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 31st August, 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 1. 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.
- 6.1.6 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. Depending on the timing of the re-fixture, it may not always be possible to offer three dates or weekend dates, especially during the month preceding the play-offs.
- 6.1.7 Home teams should confirm all their fixtures, including play-by games with the Office in writing by the requested deadline. Failure to confirm fixtures, will entitle the WNLC to set fixtures as necessary.

## 6.2 GAME DISRUPTIONS, POSTPONEMENTS, CANCELLATIONS & RESCHEDULING

- 6.2.1 In the case of a postponement whenever two clubs fail to reach agreement as to when a match shall take place, within seven days prior to the date of the original fixture, the WNLC 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.
- 6.2.2 If the game is being postponed for other reasons, acceptable to the WNLC a new date must be confirmed prior to the original fixture being cancelled.
- 6.2.3 The League Commissioner is empowered to make changes to the fixtures.
- 6.2.4 If a venue becomes unplayable for any reason within fourteen days of a scheduled game, the Home Team should provide a suitable alternative venue and advise the travelling team and BI accordingly, taking 6.1.6 into account. If this is not possible to arrange a venue, the option of reversing the fixture will be investigated.
- 6.2.5 If the visiting team has commenced to travel prior to notification of the postponement/cancellation of the game they can apply to the WNLC for legitimate travel expenses incurred.
- 6.2.6 If the circumstances that led to the postponement /cancellation were outside the control of the home team, then these expenses or part thereof may be paid from the central emergency fund operated by the WNLC. Evidence of the legitimate expenses rests with the club and must be provided within 7 days of the postponement/cancellation.
- 6.2.7 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 6.1.6 into account. The WNLC will decide on any charges that apply.
- 6.2.8 If the circumstances were not outside the control of the home team, they will be asked to pay part or all of these expenses to the visiting team and the WNLC will decide if the game should be awarded to the away team via forfeit.
- 6.2.9 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 3).
  - C. If the court is unplayable through no fault of the home team, the legitimate expenses may be paid from the central emergency fund.
  - D. The WNLC will make the final determination as to whether the home team was at fault. The WNLC may also decide that the home team should pay a portion of the expenses and the remainder is paid from the central fund, depending on the situation.
  - E. If the WNLC decides that the court is unplayable through no fault of the home team, the postponed game will be re-scheduled as outlined above.
- 6.2.10 If a game begins and is disrupted for any reason (with the exception of condensation) the following procedures shall apply;
- A. Commissioner, (or Referee in the absence of a Commissioner) will take the score sheet at the point of the disruption. The commissioner must include a detailed report of this disruption.
  - B. The 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 CO will investigate the circumstances, which led to the disruption.
- D. The WNLC 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 3).
- 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 CO/WNLC.
- 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.

6.2.11 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 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. In the case of Condensation, the home team will still receive 1 point in the classification.

6.2.12 If a team fails to reach a venue due to adverse weather conditions, the WNLC 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 WNLC does not accept the case made by the team then the regulations around non-fulfilment of a fixture apply.

6.2.13 In exceptional circumstances, the WNLC 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.

6.2.14 If a team does not turn up for a game and the WNLC does not accept the case made by the team they will be fined an amount determined by the WNLC (see Note 1).

6.2.15 In addition the game in question will be awarded to the non-offending team 20 - 0 and additional League points may be deducted. The club may be fined.

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

6.2.17 When a club does not fulfil League Fixtures during the month preceding the play-offs, the club will be deducted a minimum of 1 point and potentially lose home advantage in the play offs subject to the discretion of the WNLC.

6.2.18 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.



- 6.2.19 The League Commissioner in consultation with the WNLC reserves the right to change fixtures to accommodate television coverage with the agreement of the teams involved.
- 6.2.20 All National League clubs must send a preview of their upcoming games on a weekly basis. This preview must be sent to the designated e-mail address in Basketball Ireland HQ no later than 14:00h on the Tuesday prior to the Fixture to ensure the BI Office make the printing deadlines for Wednesday and Thursday papers. Preview must contain team news and quotes from the coach/players in relation to the upcoming fixture. Failure to comply with the deadline and requirements of the match preview will result in automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 1.

## **7 GAME PROCEDURES**

### **7.1 PRESENTATION STANDARDS**

- 7.1.1. 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 and should make themselves known to both teams at the earliest possible time.
- 7.1.2. Home teams must provide a game programme that should include the number, name, height, and position of each player on both teams. Failure to do so will result in an automatic fine as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 7.1.3. Home teams in the WSL must provide a manned PA system to meet the following requirements, this is optional for WD1 teams. Failure to provide a manned PA system will result in automatic fines as outlined in Appendix 1
- A. 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.
  - B. 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.
  - C. Music or other entertainment must be played / provided during time outs and half time
  - D. The Commissioner/Referee may ask the Venue Officer to modify or terminate the PA.

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.

- 7.1.4 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.

### **OFFICIALS**

- 7.1.5 All match officials (commissioners, referees and table officials) operating in National Competitions must be registered and licensed as appropriate with Basketball Ireland. Unlicensed/unregistered officials will not receive any officiating appointments from Basketball Ireland and clubs will be fined for using unlicensed officials. (See Appendix1).

The WNLC may appoint a Commissioner to National League/National Cup games as appropriate.

The Commissioner may not interfere with the table officials but may request that the referees be called to the table. Should the Referee deem that these persons are not necessary, they may have the persons removed from the vicinity of the table.

- 7.1.5 The referee shall be responsible for the administrative and reporting duties of the Commissioner, where there is none present.

- 7.1.6 The Basketball Ireland Appointments Officer will appoint two referees to national competition games. 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 / Referee may take the following action:
- A. If two suitably qualified and registered officials are at the venue, they will be informed their services may be required.
  - B. If no suitable officials are available, the Commissioner will decide if the match is to be played.
- 7.1.7 If the referee fails to arrive, the umpire will become the referee and the substitute official will become the umpire.
- 7.1.8 Once a substitute official is named this will not be changed, even if the original official arrives at the venue.
- 7.1.9 If there is no Commissioner/Referee, then the Venue Officer and Coach of the home team should take the step A outlined in 7.2.6.
- 7.1.10 In the case where there are no suitably qualified/registered officials, or only one in the venue, the game will only go ahead with the agreement of both coaches.
- 7.1.11 The home club must provide current BI registered and qualified table officials (TO). For National Competitions, all of these officials must hold the appropriate TO award outlined in the table below. The licence number of the Table Official must be recorded on the score sheet. Failure to provide suitably qualified/registered TO's will result in an automatic penalty as outlined in Appendix 1.

	<b>Level 3 or 2</b>	<b>Level 1 or Intro</b>
<b>Super League</b>	2	<b>1 No for WSL</b>
<b>WD1</b>	1	2
<b>SNC</b>	2	1

- 7.1.12 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.
- 7.1.13 The Commissioner will inspect the licence confirmation of each Table Official prior to each game and ensure that these licence details are recorded on the official score sheet. They will also inspect the licence cards/list for each team. If there is no commissioner present this is the responsibility of the Referee.
- 7.1.14 All Table Officials should wear the approved uniform as designated by BI. The Commissioner/Referee will check and record in the report any deviations from the approved uniform.

## **7.2 PRE-GAME PROCEDURES**

- 7.2.4 The following actions must be accomplished **one hour** before game time:
- A. The Commissioner, match officials, and Venue Officer must be present at the venue.
  - B. The Venue Officer should 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 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.

7.2.5 The following actions must be accomplished **thirty minutes** before game time:

- A. The visiting team shall have access to the game court. This time may be increased if possible and may be reduced in the case of Semi-Finals and or Final where other games are also being played.
- B. The Venue Officer will ensure that the Commissioner receives the match fee.

7.2.6 The following actions must be accomplished **twenty minutes** before game time:

- A. The 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 1.
- B. The Commissioner checks that all people other than players, authorised to sit on the team bench are registered members of Basketball Ireland.

7.2.7 Each team must have a minimum of nine players in uniform and on the score sheet for each game or they become subject to the automatic fines outlined in Appendix 1.

7.2.8 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 licensed and registered, they will be fined (as outlined in the automatic penalties section) and automatically lose the game by forfeit.

7.2.9 Uniform requirements as outlined in Section 5 will also be checked as part of the pre-game Commissioner/Referee check.

### 7.3 GAME PROCEDURES

7.3.4 Games will be 40 minutes in duration, except in the case of National Cup Tournament games where the game duration may be shortened depending on the number of teams competing in the tournament. Forty minutes games consist of four quarters of ten minutes.

7.3.5 Half time will be a minimum of 10 minutes.

7.3.6 The interval between quarters will be a minimum of one (1) minute, although these intervals may vary as necessary.

7.3.7 In the event of the Home team requiring a longer entertainment break at half time this can be arranged in agreement with the opposition and by notifying the League Commissioner at least 48 hours in advance of the game.

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

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

### 7.4 POST-GAME PROCEDURES

7.4.4 The Commissioner or, in the absence of commissioner, the referee is responsible for their report(s) arriving by post/fax/e-mail to the League Commissioner in the Basketball Ireland office by close of business on the Tuesday after the fixture.

7.4.5 Following the game, the Commissioner, or nominated representative will delete from the score sheet the name of all players who were not present in uniform and did not play.

**7.4.6** The home / host team is responsible for notifying the Basketball Ireland results service **by reply text** to the eSports number as confirmed by the fixture, halftime score, and top three individual scorers for each team within 15 minutes of the game finishing. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 1.

7.4.7 The HOME team is responsible for the original score sheet, match programme and copy of referee claim form arriving by post to the BI 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 1.

7.4.8 The visiting team is responsible for its own game statistics (as well as their responsibilities in 7.5.6).

7.4.9 The following procedures apply to the Results Service:

**7.5.6.1 MIDWEEK/ FRIDAY EVENING GAMES:**

**Results (half time/full time + top scorers and some highlights) must be sent by reply text to the eSports number within 15 minutes of full time.**

- A. A 200-word match report outlining brief details on the game must be uploaded on the website or sent to the designated e-mail address report must contain quotes from a coach and key player involved.  
The 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.
- B. The website must be updated with the game statistics within 48 hours of the game finishing.

**7.5.6.2 SATURDAY GAMES:**

- A. Results (half time/full time + top scorers and some highlights) must be sent by reply text to the eSports number within 15 minutes of full time.
- B. A 200-word match report outlining brief details on the game must be uploaded on the website or sent to the designated e-mail address. This report must contain quotes from a coach and key player involved.
- C. The website must be updated with results (half time/full time + top 3 scorers for each team) and game report as outlined in B by 14:00h Sunday.
- D. For WSL and WD1, website must be updated with the game statistics by 8pm on Tuesday of the following week. Failure to do so will incur an automatic fine outlined in appendix 1.

**7.5.6.3 SUNDAY GAMES:**

- A. Results (half time/full time + top scorers and some highlights) must be sent by reply text to the eSports number within 15 minutes of full time.
- B. A 200-word match report outlining brief details on the game must be uploaded on the website or sent to the designated e-mail address. This report must contain quotes from a coach and key player involved.
- C. For Sunday games, Basketball Ireland PRO may contact the designated club PRO/Coach for brief match report and quotes.
- D. Website must be updated with results (half time/full time + top 3 scorers) by 12noon Monday. A game report should be added at this stage also. The game report may be added at any stage up until 12:00 noon on Tuesday.
- E. Website must be updated with the game statistics by 8pm on Tuesday of the following week. Failure to do so will incur an automatic fine outlined in appendix 1.

7.4.10 Failure to comply with the above deadlines will result in an automatic penalties outlined in Appendix 1. The stats must still be imputed once the deadline has passed. If the stats are still not in place within 5 days of the original deadline the team will be fined again. This will be ongoing until the stats have been imputed.

- 7.4.11 If it is found that on a consistent basis clubs have entered inaccurate and/or incomplete statistics on the website then the club will get continual fines and on their fourth offence will be deducted a point from the league table. This may carry over to the next season
- 7.4.12 The BI Office will advise clubs of fines incurred within 14 days of each transgression. Clear information of fine details will appear on each notification/invoice.
- 7.4.13 Should a club wish to dispute an automatic fine, they must do so in writing within 5 working days of date of issue, for consideration by the WNLC.
- 7.4.14** Clubs should pay all fines within 30 days of the invoice been issued. Failure to pay fines will result in an additional penalty as outlined in Section 2 and the handling of clubs with outstanding fines will be at the discretion of the WNLC. . All fines must be cleared before entry into national competitions will be accepted for the following season.

## 8 **PENALTIES, DISCIPLINE & APPEALS**

### **8.1 PENALTIES:**

- 8.1.1 Outside of automatic fines, the WNLC may impose penalties upon individual players, clubs, club members and/or game officials as it sees fit.
- 8.1.2 Penalties may be in the form of fines, league points, suspension or disqualification from the League fixtures or any other penalties deemed appropriate by the WNLC from time to time.
- 8.1.3 All penalties will be notified in writing by the League Commissioner.
- 8.1.4 A penalty imposed by the WNLC not including automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 1 may be appealed in the first instance to the WNLC. Such an appeal shall be in writing and shall be provided to the League Commissioner within 5 working days of the notice of the penalty. The WNLC may decide to refer the appeal to the National Appeals Committee depending on their previous ruling.
- 8.1.5 No appeal under section 8.1.4 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.
- 8.1.6 The appeal must clearly state the grounds on which the penalty is being appealed and shall include any documentary evidence to be considered necessary to support the appeal. The WNLC may not always hold an appeal hearing for such appeals.
- 8.1.7 Until such time as an appeal is heard the penalty will stand unless otherwise determined by the WNLC.

### **8.2 PAYMENT OF FINES**

- 8.2.1 All fines imposed, whether they are individual or club fines must be paid by the date specified in section 7.4.10. All clubs will be liable to pay a member's fine and seek reimbursement from that individual. No fine outside of the automatic penalties in Appendix 1 may be appealed until it has been paid.

### **8.3 WRITTEN PROTEST**

- 8.3.1 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.

8.3.2 A written protest and the appropriate fee (see Note 4) 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.

8.3.3 Video evidence may not be used to determine or change the result of a game.

#### **8.4 OTHER DISPUTES**

8.4.1 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 4. 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.

8.4.2 In relation to a dispute against a referee, a copy will be sent to the assessments officer and it will be the assessments officer, in conjunction with the office who will decide on any action, if deemed necessary. The club will be informed of any decision arising from the dispute.

8.4.3 Any other dispute arising from a non-game situation shall also be subject to the guidelines above.

#### **8.5 DECISION OF THE WNLC**

8.5.1 The WNLC will review all written protests under Regulation 8.3 and other disputes under 8.4. In reaching its decision, the WNLC may consult with others, as it deems appropriate. The final decision of the WNLC will be conveyed to all interested parties in writing.

8.5.2 If the WNLC rules in favour of the team making the protest or dispute, the fee shall be refunded in full.

8.5.3 In exceptional circumstances, the WNLC may deem late written protests or late written disputes compliant with the time limits set out. The WNLC reserve the right to investigate any breaches of regulations brought to their attention, punishment may include fines, loss of points and expulsion from competitions.

#### **8.6 DISCIPLINE OF CLUBS, CLUB MEMBERS, CLUB OFFICIALS, COACHES, PLAYERS AND GAME OFFICIALS**

8.6.1 The National Disciplinary Committee (NDC), comprising of a minimum of three persons, will deal with all disciplinary matters relating to the National League's/National Cup. The membership of the NDC will be determined by the Board of BI and the WNLC and may comprise of more than three persons. The decision of the NDC will be notified to the WNLC and will be binding on all parties.

8.6.2 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.

8.6.3 Serious abuse of match officials and all Basketball Ireland members on social media forums can be subject to disciplinary actions.

8.6.4 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.

- 8.6.5 When a player or member of coaching staff is disqualified from a game they automatically receive 14 penalty points and the national disciplinary board will review the case and determine if more penalty points will be added to this total.
- 8.6.6 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 /WNLC.
- 8.6.7 Disciplinary matters will be referred to the NDC by the WNLCC 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 WNLC who will decide on referring to the NDC.
- 8.6.8 Disciplinary action in respect of automatic penalty points will have immediate effect.
- 8.6.9 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.
- 8.6.10 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.
- 8.6.11 The following procedures shall apply to all disciplinary matters;
- A. 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 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 Basketball Ireland 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 hearings shall be heard in private.
  - E. The NDC in ruling on any disciplinary matters may use video evidence.
  - F. 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.
  - G. BI will endeavor to hold all disciplinary hearings within 13 working days of the incident.
  - H. The League Commissioner 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 she/he is still licensed with the Club or not) is the subject of or affected by a decision of the NDC that she/he is informed of the decision.
- 8.6.12 Game officials are subject to the disciplinary procedures above. Disciplinary matters relating to game officials may be drawn to the attention of the League Commissioner by the NRC; players; coaches; match commissioner; WNLC members.
- 8.6.13 Any such disciplinary notification regarding a referee/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/TOC (depending on the official) and the WNLC by the League Commissioner. The procedures as outlined in 8.6.10 will be implemented.
- 8.6.14 In relation to a club protest against an official, that is not a disciplinary matter – the procedures as outlined in 8.4 will be implemented.
- 8.6.15 Decisions from disciplinary matters have the right of appeal to the National Appeals Committee.

## **8.7 EFFECT OF SUSPENSION**

- 8.7.1 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 8.10.1 herein.
- 8.7.2 All disciplinary action will be applied to both League and Cup games regardless of what competition the incident occurred in.
- 8.7.3 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 8.9 below), the disciplinary hearing, and if required the appeals hearing, shall be held within 8 working days of the incident occurring.
- 8.7.4 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. The email must be followed up with a phone call to ensure receipt of the email.
- 8.7.5 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.
- 8.7.6 In the event of a player not being in a position to serve a suspension, the WNLC may seek to impose relevant sanction(s) on the club at the time of the disciplinary decision.
- 8.7.7 It is only possible to replace suspended players with players who are at the time of the incident leading to the suspension already licensed with the Club.
- 8.7.8 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 WNLC.
- 8.7.9 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.

## **8.8 APPEALS**

- 8.8.1 An appeal from the decision of the NDC, or an appeal from a decision of the WNLC (under regulation 8.5) in relation to a written protest or any other dispute, and the appropriate fee (Note 4) must be sent to the League Commissioner in accordance with Appeal Section of the BI Regulations (14 days). This appeal can be e-mailed and followed up by post copy. The email must be followed up with a phone call to ensure receipt of the email.
- 8.8.2 In exceptional and extraordinary circumstances, the National Appeals Committee, (NAC), may deem late appeals compliant with the time limits set out in BI Regulations.
- 8.8.3 In conjunction with the outline in the BI Regulations, the following procedures shall apply to all appeals to the National Appeals Committee:
- 8.8.4 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.
- 8.8.5 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.
- 8.8.6 All parties will be responsible for their own costs in connection with participation before the NAC.
- 8.8.7 All appeals shall be heard in private.



- 8.8.8 The NAC in ruling on any disciplinary matters may use video evidence.
- 8.8.9 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.
- 8.8.10 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 licensed with the Club or not) is the subject of or affected by an appeal decision that he is informed of the decision.

## **8.9 LEAGUE PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CUP SEMIFINAL'S/FINALS/QUARTERFINAL'S**

- 8.9.1 In the specific case of the League final, league semi-final, league quarter-final weekends and the National Cup final/semi- final/quarter final weekends the following procedures shall apply:
- 8.9.2 Protests must be submitted in writing within twenty-four (24) hours following completion of the game. The fee (see Note 4) 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 WNLC (in that order of precedence).
- 8.9.3 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.
- 8.9.4 The technical committee's (if applicable) decision will be final. Due to time constraints there will be no right to appeal such decisions
- 8.9.5 The members of the technical committee will comprise of members of the WNLC, Disciplinary Committee and/or Appeals Committee. There will be a minimum of two representatives on the Technical Committee.

## **9 ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS**

- 9.1 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 WNLC 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).
- 9.2 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 WNLC and outlined in Appendix 1.
- 9.3 Basketball Ireland reserves the right to require a participant to submit to drug testing at any time as directed by the WNLC and/or the ISC.
- 9.4 Following the amendment to the Irish Anti-Doping Rules by the ISC on April 6<sup>th</sup> 2010, the ISC has adopted various policy changes in respect of Therapeutic Use Exemptions. For a full update on Anti-Doping, please refer to Appendix 3 and <http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Anti-Doping>.
- 9.5 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 Glucocortico steroids.
- 9.6 Any person who refuses to submit to drug testing will be treated as if they have tested positive.

- 9.7 Any person who has a positive drugs test will be subject to disciplinary action before an independent panel set up by Basketball Ireland who will investigate the circumstances of the offence and decide the penalties to be imposed.
- 9.8 The player and/or the WNLC, Basketball Ireland and/or the Basketball Ireland Anti-doping Officer shall be entitled to make written submissions and/or appear in person or be represented before the independent panel.
- 9.9 The decision of this independent panel may be appealed to the IAC, as outlined in the Appeals Section (Section 8.8), whose decision shall be final. There is no recourse to further appeal.

<b>10</b>	<b><i>MEDIA, BROADCASTING, ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP</i></b>
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- 10.1 Basketball Ireland reserves all rights to the videotaping and filming of all League, Cup and National Competitions games.
- 10.2 Basketball Ireland and WNLC 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.
- 10.3 Clubs must inform the WNLC through the CO of the intended name of the team and the duration of the agreement. The authorisation of the CO 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 CO to the WNLC. The following also applies in relation to the team name;
  - A. The official team name must be notified to the CO at least 6 weeks prior to the teams opening game in the League.
  - B. The CO 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 CO/ WNLC.
  - 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 or nickname 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 WNLC reserves the right to make the final decision on team names.
- 10.4 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 WNLC 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 CO in writing must approve any different advertising arrangements.
- 10.5 Basketball Ireland and WNLC 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.

- 10.6 Basketball Ireland and WNLC reserve the right to claim sponsorship exclusivity on brands, companies and institutions. 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.
- 10.7 Exclusivity for advertising signage, courtside services products and game sponsorships shall only be exclusive to the particular competition for which Basketball Ireland sponsorship applies.
- 10.8 A Club shall fulfil all obligations and display signage as directed by the WSC and WNLC in support of the league Sponsor(s). Penalty for non-compliance is outlined in Appendix 1. The Club may be subject to further sanctions as deemed appropriate by the WNLC.
- 10.9 Teams must use basketballs and equipment as approved by Basketball Ireland and the WNLC.
- 10.10 All Basketball Ireland National Competitions matches shall be played with the official Molten approved ball of Basketball Ireland.

## 11 NOTES:

**Note 1**            **3.1.9**    Minimum requirement is €6.4 million public liability insurance cover

**Note 2**            **3.1.13; 6.2.14** Amount to be decided by the WNLC depending on the fixture but not exceeding the following;

Withdrawal fee    €300

Non-fulfilment of fixture fee not exceeding €2000.

Applicable to all National Competitions.

**Note 3**            **5.4; 6.2.9; 6.2.10**            Up to €400

**Note 4**            **8.3.2; 8.4.1; 8.8.1; 8.9.2** €300

Abbreviations:

- BI:        Basketball Ireland
- WNLC Women's Senior Clubs Committee
- CO:        Competitions Officer (or persons acting on behalf of the CO)
- TO:        Table Official
- TOC:      Table Officials Committee
- NDC:      National Disciplinary Committee
- NRC:      National Referees Committee
- NAC:      National Appeals Committee
- ISC:      Irish Sports Council
- WADA: World Anti-Doping Agency

**12 APPENDIX 1: SCHEDULE OF AUTOMATIC FINES**

<b>REGULATION</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
Use of an unlicensed official	€60 per official
Use of an unlicensed coach and/or team follower	€60 per person
Playing of an unlicensed/ineligible player	€130 per match & forfeit
Failure to provide any item(s) of table equipment	€15 per item
Failure to record matches on the official Basketball Ireland score sheet	€25 per match
Failure to use approved match ball in League and Cup games	€25 per match
Failure to provide scoreboard	€130 per match
Failure to provide a visible clock	€130 per match
Failure to provide two 24 second devices with 14 second reset function	€130 per match
Failure to provide pressure release rings	€130 per match
Failure to provide Padded Backboards	€130 per match
Administrative Charge for Change of Fixture Requested	€65 per fixture
Infringement of Facilities (5) and game presentation (7) regulations may lead to a fine as decided by the WNLC	Up to €320 per game
Failure to provide a programme with specific details as required	€30 per match
Failure to provide a manned PA system	€30 per match
Failure to provide a match preview to the PR Office as designated	€30
Failure to provide qualified Table Officials as specified (7.2.9)	€50 per match
Failure to provide a minimum of nine licensed players in uniform for a game	€50 per player to a maximum of €200
Failure to provide licence cards/licence list for bona fide players prior to the game	€10 per card to a maximum of €60
Failure to have the correct colour uniforms	€130
Failure to wear matching uniforms, tracksuits, warm up tops	€60 per player to a maximum of €240
Failure to provide the white copy of score sheet, copy of match programme and copy of referee claim form within five working days	€25 per item
Failure to update web page with match statistics by deadline	€50
Failure to advise correct result and/or scorers to the designated number within 15 minutes of the game	€30
Failure to update website with results or failure to provide 200-word match report including quotes within the specified time frame	€25
Failure to update web page with individual player statistics by deadline	€25pp
Incomplete or inaccurate completion of statistics on the web site	€50 per player
Failure of ANY Club to comply with ISC and/or BI requests in relation to Anti-Doping Procedures.	Not exceeding €2,500
Failure to display signage as directed by Basketball Ireland	€150 per sign
Others as instructed by the WNLCC during the season	As instructed.

## 13 APPENDIX 2: ANTI-DOPING UPDATE

### **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 2012 Prohibited List is effective since 01 January 2012 and can be accessed on the WADA website at <http://www.wada-ama.org/en/> . Clubs and athletes are responsible for updating themselves on changes to this list.

Noteworthy changes to the List include:

#### **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 2012 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 2012 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 or to view the Irish Sports Council's policy on Anti-Doping you can visit the site at <http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Anti-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 dug 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.