



## **National Referees Committee**

Rules & Regulations Governing National League Officials Panel  
(NLOP)

**2016- 2017**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Rules & Regulations Governing National League Officials Panel.....	3
Eligibility .....	3
Fees.....	3
Conference .....	4
Appointments .....	5
Match Day.....	6
Dress Code & Referees Uniform.....	7
Match Expenses .....	8
Discipline.....	8
References .....	9

*Please Note: Any reference made to an official in the male gender is not intended to be discriminatory and also applies to the female gender. It is done for the sake of expediency only.*

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### RULES & REGULATIONS GOVERNING NATIONAL LEAGUE OFFICIALS PANEL

1. The National Referees Committee shall form a panel of officials for the purpose of officiating at Basketball Ireland National Competitions. This includes the Men's & Women's SuperLeague and Division 1 competitions, the National Cup, All Ireland Schools Competitions and other events as sanctioned by Basketball Ireland and appointed to by National Appointments officer, This panel shall be known as the National League Officials Panel (NLOP).
2. All members of NLOP and applicants for membership shall be governed by the NRC and these NLOP Regulations and shall conduct themselves in a manner becoming of an official while engaged in officiating duties and officiating related duties. Members shall not at any time behave in a manner likely to discredit Basketball Ireland, the NRC and/or the profession of basketball officiating.
3. Active members, from time to time, may be invited by the NRC to apply for membership of NLOP. Members of NLOP shall be available for appointments to National Competitions at the discretion of the NRC.

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1. In order to be eligible for membership of NLOP, a member must normally;
  - 4.1.1. Be licensed for the season in question
  - 4.1.2. Submit a completed NLOP Application Form
  - 4.1.3. Attend the required NRC Conference
  - 4.1.4. Pass the required fitness tests
  - 4.1.5. Pass the required annual rules test
  - 4.1.6. Pay the appropriate NLOP registration fee
  - 4.1.7. Be an active member of your Area Association
  - 4.1.8. Be approved by the NRC
- 4.2. In the case where an individual member feels that he has the required standard and experience to apply for membership of NLOP and has not received an invitation to apply for membership of NLOP by August 25th in any year, that member may apply directly to the NRC to be considered. A copy of this application must be sent to the Secretary of the relevant Area Association.
- 4.3. In a case where an individual member does not receive an endorsement from an Area Association for application of NLOP, they may apply directly to the NRC with any additional information to be considered for the application.
- 4.4. NLOP shall be formed each year for the relevant basketball season. Members of NLOP in a particular season will not automatically be invited to apply for membership in subsequent seasons.

#### 5. FEES

- 5.1. Members shall pay a NLOP fee as follows:
  - 5.1.1. FIBA €90
  - 5.1.2. Grade 1 €90
  - 5.1.3. Grade 2 €90
  - 5.1.4. Grade 3 €90

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5.2 NLOP fees should be paid at a minimum of 50% or in full by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, the remaining balance by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

6. For the purpose of on-going assessment (or in the case of some officials, in order to ascertain if an official referees to a satisfactory standard for NLOP membership) certain officials may be required to travel to selected games or tournaments at a reduced rate of expenses. This may be in advance of the normal National League season.
7. The geographical location of some officials may mitigate against the frequency of their appointment to games of a standard to which they would normally referee. It would not be possible to appoint them because of the prohibitive expenses which this would impose on the host team. In such cases these officials may be requested by the Appointments Officer<sup>1</sup> to indicate their willingness to accept appointments at a reduced rate of expenses.
8. The NRC is empowered, at their discretion, to request an official to retake the fitness test at any stage during the season. The NLOP will complete a fitness early in January to ensure member maintain the required level of fitness for the full season

#### 9. CONFERENCE

- 9.1. Normally only those officials who attend the Annual Conference and reach the required standard in the fitness and rules examination shall qualify for membership of the National League Officials Panel.
- 9.2. The National Conference will typically be held on the first weekend of September annually (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016).
- 9.3. Attendance at the Annual NRC Conference does not imply that an official will be accepted for membership of the NLOP. Where, in exceptional circumstances, an official is excused attendance at the Annual NRC Conference, one opportunity may be given to take the Fitness Tests and Rules Examination at a later date. No guarantee can be given that this may not affect early season appointments.
- 9.4. An official who has failed to attend the conference due to exceptional circumstances must pay the conference fee prior to being accepted onto the NLOP



### 10. APPOINTMENTS

- 10.1. The appointment of officials to the National Competitions, organised by and on behalf of Basketball Ireland shall be under the control of the Appointments Officer<sup>1</sup>.
- 10.2. Members of the NLOP should be available on a regular basis, from time to time, this could necessitate absence from home for periods of up to 24 hours.
- 10.3. Membership of NLOP does not guarantee that an official will be appointed to any given number of games.
- 10.4. Appointments will be communicated via email/website members should have direct access to a personal email account and have internet access, members without an email address may not receive appointments.
- 10.5. Appointments will be made on a four week basis; normally officials shall receive two weeks notification of their appointments.
  - 10.5.1. Officials should indicate their non-availability at least one week in advance of the publication of the appointments schedule; this will be taken into account in scheduling their games.
- 10.6. National Cup, Playoff and end of season appointments, may be issued with a shorter notification period.
- 10.7. Officials may be requested to accept an appointment at short notice.
- 10.8. Appointments made as per 10.4 above shall not be changed except in exceptional circumstances. Participation in some other basketball event will not be considered as a valid reason for not fulfilling an appointment.
- 10.9. Requests for changes in appointments or to be excused from an appointment must be made in writing to the Appointments Officer<sup>1</sup> at least one week prior to the scheduled game and must be accompanied by a non-returnable fee of €25.00.
- 10.10. Notwithstanding 10.4 or 10.5 above, it is recognised that emergency situations may arise, such as sudden illness or family bereavement, and in such circumstances the matter will be dealt with in an understanding and appropriate manner.
- 10.11. Officials are not permitted to make substitutions. If, at short notice and in an emergency situation, they are unable to fulfil an appointment, contact must be made with the Appointments Officer<sup>1</sup> in the first instance or failing this contact must be made with the NRC Chairperson – FIBA National instructor in above order
- 10.12. Complaints about one's appointments must be made in writing to the NRC, through the Administrator<sup>2</sup>. The NRC will reply in writing to the official concerned not more than 5 days after the next NRC Meeting.
- 10.13. Notwithstanding MPLB & NCC Regulations "procedure in the event of the absence of an official(s)", it is the intention of the NRC that, wherever possible a match should take place. If only one official is present and a suitable replacement cannot be found for the absent official, then the official present shall officiate the match on his(/her) own and a report shall be submitted to the NRC Administrator within 24 hours. **(At the earliest opportunity a message or call should be made to alert Administrator that this issue has arisen and a report will follow)**



### 11. MATCH DAY

- 11.1. Officials shall be thoroughly conversant with the Men's SuperLeague Board (MPLB) & National Competitions Committee (NCC) Regulations. A copy of these shall be carried to all games by officials.
- 11.2. Officials shall be present at the venue at least one hour prior to the scheduled starting time of the game and shall conduct their pre-match conference before entering the playing court.
  - 11.2.1. Where match official(s) travel a long distance to fulfil a fixture, they must be present at least two (2) hours in the town, prior to the appointed time of the game.
- 11.3. The match officials shall co-operate with the organisers to ensure the smooth running of the game and must make certain that the interests of the two teams on the court are in no way encroached upon. In particular, it is stressed that in accordance with the Official Basketball Rules neither official shall have any current association with either of the participating teams.
- 11.4. All officials shall arrive on court in full uniform 20 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the game and shall assume their responsibilities as outlined in the rules of Basketball.
- 11.5. Officials are prohibited from smoking at or within the vicinity of the venue before, during or after the game.
- 11.6. Prior to the commencement of the game the 'game referee' shall ensure that the players are not wearing or using equipment which may be dangerous to other players. This includes all jewellery such as rings, necklaces, chains, earrings, hair slides or clips. Fingernails should be short. This should be completed when meeting the teams/captain before the game
- 11.7. Each official is individually and personally responsible for his attendance at the venue. Notwithstanding this the first named official shall have primary responsibility for coordinating travel arrangements when the two officials travel by car. When officials travel long distance it is recommended that they meet at least two hours prior to the game in the town.
- 11.8. If before a game is scheduled to commence the floor is in anything other than a totally safe condition the official will immediately inform both coaches that:
  - 11.8.1. MPLB & NCC regulations in regard to dangerous playing conditions are being applied.
  - 11.8.2. The officials shall inform the coach that they will not be responsible for any injury or damage if the players insist on doing warm up exercises prior to the start of the game on the court
  - 11.8.3. When/if the floor becomes playable they will be given fifteen (15) minutes to warm up.



### **11.9. All Incident Report forms must be emailed to both Basketball Ireland and the NRC Administrator;**

**Basketball Ireland...**

**MSL & Men's Division 1: Conor James, [cjames@basketballireland.ie](mailto:cjames@basketballireland.ie)**

**WSL & Women's Division 1: Matt Hall [mhall@basketballireland.ie](mailto:mhall@basketballireland.ie)**

**within 24 hours, failure to do so will incur a fine of €50.00. It is the duty of each official to submit an Incident Report form.**

- 11.9.1. Under no circumstances are you allowed to consume alcohol 24hrs prior to your game.
- 11.9.2. NLOP members are prohibited from refereeing or playing in any sporting activity on the day of your National League game, unless directed to by the National Appointments Officer<sup>1</sup>.

### **12. DRESS CODE & REFEREES UNIFORM**

- 12.1. All NLOP members shall abide by the dress code when arriving at and leaving each venue.
- 12.2. Male officials are required to wear a shirt and tie, slacks and clean shoes (shirt and tie should be clearly visible).
- 12.3. Female officials shall wear a skirt, dress or slacks.
  - 12.3.1. The wearing of jeans, tee shirts or training shoes to/from National Competition Venues by NLOP members is STRICTLY forbidden.
- 12.4. Failure to comply with regulations governing dress code above shall incur, for the first offence, an automatic fine of €30. Subsequent breaches of the regulation may be punishable by a fine and/or suspension.
- 12.5. An official should strive for neatness in appearance at the game's end as well as at the beginning.
- 12.6. Uniforms should fit and should be cleaned and pressed. It is important that the two officials be dressed alike or as near as is possible. Conduct before, during and after the game should always be dignified, business-like and professional (refer to the Code of Ethics governing the conduct of Officials).
- 12.7. The uniform when officiating NLOP appointments shall be as follows:
  - 12.7.1. O'Neill's Blue or Black Jersey, Black Lanyard and Black Whistle.
  - 12.7.2. Black slacks.
  - 12.7.3. Black shoes and black socks
  - 12.7.4. O'Neill's Jacket as designated by the NRC



### 13. MATCH EXPENSES

- 13.1. It is the duty of every official to keep referees expenses to the teams to an absolute minimum.
- 13.2. Officials should, where possible, stay in accommodation on the recommended list as provided by the club. Any occasion to stay in accommodation outside of this list should be communicated to the home club in advance.
- 13.3. Officials should claim in line with the below agreed fee structure for all National Appointments, for competitions outside of the below list, officials will be informed in writing in advance of the appropriate fee structure:
  - 13.3.1. Men's SuperLeague €60 - 3PO
  - 13.3.2. Women's SuperLeague €70 - 2PO
  - 13.3.3. Men's Division One €70 - 2PO
  - 13.3.4. Women's Division One €60 - 2PO
- 13.4. Mileage for all National Competitions shall be claimed at the current rate<sup>3</sup>, or actual expense incurred through rail or bus travel (receipts should be available).
  - 13.4.1. Tolls paid at actual cost incurred may also be claimed (receipts should be available)
- 13.5. Subsistence claims should only be claimed for trips in excess of **X** hours and in line with below; (to be agreed with BI before season starts)
  - 13.5.1. Overnight stay €20 please check with Appointments Officer<sup>1</sup> prior to booking.
- 13.6. The Match Referee shall submit all officials' claims for payment to the Venue Officer prior to the start of each game.
  - 13.6.1. In the event match payment is not provided on the night, a report should be sent immediately after the game to the NRC Administrator.
- 13.7. Copies of the match claim forms (both referees) must be sent to the NRC Administrator within three (3) days following the game or games. In Men's SuperLeague and Division 1, claims to be sent to Basketball Ireland on agreed dates.
- 13.8. Officials should have receipts available (upon request) for all submitted claims.

### 14. DISCIPLINE

- 14.1. The NRC shall have the power to take disciplinary action against any NLOP member and may be expelled from membership, suspended from membership, suspended from officiating in a particular division of the National League or be fined up to a maximum of €250.00 as is considered, necessary and appropriate by the NRC.
- 14.2. The NRC shall have the power to remove any official from the NLOP who, in the opinion of the NRC, is not available for reasonable regular appointments to National League games.
- 14.3. The NRC shall have the power to remove any official from the NLOP who, in the opinion of the NRC, is not refereeing up to the required standard.
- 14.4. The NRC will suspend any official from officiating who has being suspended from their Area Association. An official may also be removed from a particular division of the National League based on assessments if not refereeing up to the required standard for that division.
- 14.5. In the event of a report being submitted which may lead to disciplinary action against a club or any of its players or officials your attention is drawn to the provision contained in the National Competitions Regulations.

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### REFERENCES

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<sup>1</sup> National Appointments Officer: Joe Naughton, [appointments@nrcireland.com](mailto:appointments@nrcireland.com)

<sup>2</sup> NRC Administrator: Marie Horgan, "Ivy Bridge", Carriganurra, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny, [nrc@basketballireland.ie](mailto:nrc@basketballireland.ie)

<sup>3</sup> Current Mileage Rate: €0.35 per mile (€0.22 per km) (BI run events 25c per mile)