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Handbook 2022

September 2022

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Position held	Governance Officer
Document Status [Approved/Amended/Rejected]	APPROVED This document incorporates changes approved at the 2022 AGM.
Date	17/09/2020
Signature	

1 DESIGNATION

The name of the association shall be Basketball Northern Ireland Limited (the "**Company**"), (formally Ulster Basketball Association), All rights to the former name are retained.

Any one wishing to use either must have permission in writing from the Company.

The Company is subject to the Articles, Memorandum, Rules and Regulations of Basketball Ireland.

The Company has a responsibility to generate and manage the finances that enable it to exist as an organization.

While recognising the geographical limitations imposed on both organisations it is the intention of Basketball Ireland to provide financial assistance to the Company as would be equal to other Basketball Ireland Area Boards.

The Company shall be responsible for the administration and control of basketball within its jurisdiction and shall have power to take appropriate disciplinary action against any club, school, officer, official, and member under its jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of the Company is deemed to be all matters relating to basketball occurring within the area covered by the Basketball Northern Ireland Leagues and Competitions.

2. FUNCTIONS

The Company is charged with all development work/initiatives for the area covered by the Basketball Northern Ireland Leagues and Competitions. Their functions are to promote, encourage and regulate the playing of basketball in Northern Ireland.

At all times the Company will have the responsibility for coordinating the financial aspects of the organisation including dealing with all agencies involved, in particular Sport Northern Ireland.

3. STATUS

The Company shall be affiliated to the IBA Limited trading as Basketball Ireland.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE BNI AREA BOARD

The Company shall be comprised of the following members, (hereafter referred to as the Board), who shall be appointed by the membership of Basketball Northern Ireland for a period, in accordance with Article 15.2. Names of Officers will be notified to members each year at The Annual General Meeting:

- Chairperson
- Hon. Secretary
- Treasurer

- Child Protection Officer

The following Board members are appointed as stated below

- Area Boards/Competitions and Leagues Chairperson voted in by clubs
- Post Primary School Representative voted in by schools
- Technical Officials Representative voted in by officials
- Coach Development Committee Chairperson
- Club Development Committee Chairperson
- Academies Committee Chairperson
- Governance Officer
- Co-option members (at discretion of the Board)

Positions can be doubled up - if individuals are willing to take on a dual role. No-one may sit on more than three standing committees as per Article 21.7.

5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The Company's Terms of Reference

- Identify priorities / requirements in the Board's Region
- Identify financial requirements of the organisation and seek to secure some alternative funding
- Liaise and inform Basketball Ireland of all decisions and developments
- Recruit and train, coaches, officials, volunteers.
- Oversee development programme
- Co-ordinate regional, national and international competitions
- Provide framework of Regional Development Squads / TeamNI
- Promote and develop local basketball
- Deliver regional participation, club development programmes
- Members of the Board will also be available to take on the role of the Appeals body for the Area.

No club may be represented by a member of the Board. Board members must be impartial and represent the views of all the members of BNI.

The main duties of each officer are described below. For more detailed information on duties and requirements see the current job description documents.

CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson will be responsible for the overall running of the Board and the delegation of duties to other Board Members as appropriate. The Chairperson will chair each meeting. The Chairperson will represent the Company at public functions.

The Chairperson will be the primary arbitrator in the event of disagreement among Board members. The Chairperson will be a point of contact with Basketball Ireland and other area boards on policy issues. In the absence of the Chairperson the Secretary will take responsibility.

SECRETARY

The Secretary will be responsible for all correspondence to and from the Board (with the exception of matters directly related to other member's functions, e.g. matters

related to the running of leagues or tournaments etc.) The Secretary will be responsible for the preparation of any paperwork, and will set the agenda for each meeting, where upon the Secretary will take minutes of all meetings. The Secretary is responsible for the general administration of the Board. The Secretary acts as a deputy to chairperson and as liaison to the Appeals Committee (in initiation of appeals procedures).

TREASURER

It is the sole responsibility of the Treasurer to oversee all financial affairs of the Board, including the collection of fees and fines owed by Clubs, the payment of all bills due and bringing matters with financial implications to the attention of the Board. The Treasurer shall maintain a record of all monies received and expended by the Board, lodge all monies received on behalf of the Board and submit a Financial Report in the form of management accounts to the Board Officers each month and at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer is required to produce a mandatory Annual Financial Statement of account for the Board.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

The Safeguarding Officer will:

- Implement and promote the Company's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
- Report regularly to the Board
- Act as the main contact within the Company for the protection of children and vulnerable adults
- Communicate with members on issues of safeguarding best practice
- Keep abreast of developments and understand the latest information on data protection, confidentiality and other legal issues that impart on the protection of children and vulnerable adults,
- Encourage good practice and support of procedures to protect children and vulnerable adults. Establish and maintain contact with local statutory agencies including the Police and Social Work Department if an issue arises.
- Liaise with SNI's C.P.S.U.
- Undergo Safeguarding Officer training courses
- Maintain confidential records of reported cases and action taken and liase with the statutory agencies and ensure they have access to all necessary information.
- Regularly monitor and review the Company's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

6. DUTIES OF OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

The main duties of each officer are described below. For more detailed information on duties and requirements see the current job description documents.

Club Development Officer

The Club Development Officer will be responsible for the overall development of clubs within the NI Area Board. The Chairperson will represent the Company at public functions.

Coaching Director

The Coaching and High Performance Officer will be responsible for all matters pertaining to coach development and high performance, including the coaching of the Regional Development Squads and TeamNI.

Technical Development Representative

The Technical Development Representative will be appointed by the Officials Committee and is responsible to the Board for the management of matters related to officiating. This includes referees, table officials and commissioners.

Competitions Committee Chairperson

The Competitions Committee Chairperson will be responsible for all matters pertaining Basketball Northern Ireland Competitions. The Chair will lead a sub-committee of the main Board to deal with all relevant Competitions matters.

Academies Director

The Academies Director will be responsible for all matters pertaining to the organisation and management of the Regional Development Squads and TeamNI.

Governance Officer

The Governance Officer will be responsible for all matters pertaining to the good governance of BNI, including oversight of compliance with BNI's duties with regard to Companies House, delivery of BNI's Strategic Plan, disciplinary matters, complaints, Equality, etc.

7. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is confined to affiliated clubs whose home courts are in the Northern Ireland area except in cases where exemption has been granted by the members and the Board. BNI reserves the power to refuse or revoke the membership of any club or individual.

8. AFFILIATION / REGISTRATION

- All affiliation and registration fees shall be fixed each year by the Board.
- Currently Clubs must declare which leagues they wish to play under through the Board on or before 31 August each year.
- All individuals shall complete the Basketball Ireland (BI) Sports Stack Registration system to register and pay fees for both BI and Basketball Northern Ireland competitions
- Fees for Club registration must be paid to the Board by 1st October in the year of playing their first games of the season.
- Clubs must register and pay individual player fees prior to the individual participating in their first game of the season.
- Proof of age may be required and this may be given in the form of a Birth Certificate/Passport or alternatively a letter from the registering player's school confirming their date of birth. This requirement is a mandatory part of juvenile registrations.

- All players must first be registered with both the Board and Basketball Ireland in order to be eligible to play in competitions.
- Clubs failing to pay monies due to the Board or Basketball Ireland by the date due will be liable to a fine and suspension and if suspended will not be reinstated until the amount due has been paid in full.
- Clubs can set up a Structured Link with National League Division One or Super League teams as per the MNC Regulations 3.7 – Link Player regulations, to facilitate a pathway that exists for all players from Area Board level through to Super League Level. A signed standard Heads of Agreement (HOA) approved by the Registrar is required.
- Players may not play for more than one team in a Competition per season except as allowed herein or in the Competitions Regulations.
- Any team geographically located outside The Board's boundary, must first complete an Area Boards Competition Form which must be signed by the Geographical Area Board Chairperson in which the club is located, giving the club permission to play in the (BNI Area) Board's Competition.
- All Affiliating clubs shall pay a fee, the amount to be fixed at the discretion of the Board. This fee must accompany each application for affiliation. Failure to affiliate by the due date will result in a fine of £25.00. If a player is registered after the agreed closing date, the fee will be increased at a rate set by the Board.
- Any club with members under the age of 18 must have a designated Safeguarding Officer and a designated deputy Safeguarding Officer. Both of which must have the necessary Designated Safeguarding Officer training, with evidence of training submitted to the BNI Safeguarding Officer prior to commencement of each season. Failure to comply will result in BNI membership being refused or revoked.
- All clubs must have a constitution (a copy of which is presented at registration) that recognises Basketball NI as the relevant authority and indicates that it will abide by the rules and policies set by Basketball NI.
- All clubs must meet BNI's minimum requirements for qualified and registered members. Currently each club must have at least one qualified and registered coach, one qualified and registered referee, an additional qualified referee or one undergoing qualification, and two qualified and registered coach table officials as a condition of membership of BNI. New clubs will be given a discretionary period to have time to get referees and table officials qualified.
- Repeated failure to fulfil the necessary League Rules will mean the loss of the bond.
- Affiliation from teams who have failed to honour their financial commitments in the previous season will not be accepted for the current season until all outstanding monies are received, in the case of National League teams, the matter will be referred to Basketball Ireland for further action.

9. INSURANCE

- Every registered club has to have in place Public Liability Insurance of at least £1 million including where appropriate, Property Owners Insurance providing insurance cover in respect of all club activities.
- A COPY OF THIS INSURANCE HAS TO ACCOMPANY ALL CLUB REGISTRATIONS.
- In addition, where a club engages a person under a contract of service or apprenticeship, the club must have in force an appropriate Employers Liability Policy.

- No club or grouping shall be granted membership where they fail to comply with the above.
- Where a club/group are already registered as members but subsequently allow the insurance to lapse or discontinue they are liable to be expelled and have their registration revoked at the discretion of the Board.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- A club is only considered to be present at a meeting if that club's representative has signed the attendance book on entry and remains for the duration of the meeting.
- The signing delegate is considered to be the spokesperson and the person eligible to vote on behalf of the club at that meeting. Permission to speak must be requested by raising one's hand and only those speaking through the chair will be heard. Other attendees at meetings may participate only when invited to do so by the Chairperson of the meeting.
- Single team clubs fulfilling a league fixture on the day of the AGM should inform the **Secretary** prior to the meeting that their representative cannot attend the meeting. Failure to comply will result in a fine of £25.00. Failure to pay this fine within 30 days from the date of the meeting will result in a further fine of £15.00.
- No person shall be entitled to vote in more than one capacity. The business of the Annual General Meeting will be in accordance with Article 8.1.
- 14 days notice of the Annual General Meeting must be given. Special General Meetings of the Board shall be called in accordance with Article 9.
- No amendments to the Articles will be taken except at the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting. In exceptional circumstances the Board may make amendments. These must be ratified at the next AGM.
- All proposals and amendments to the Articles must be received by the Secretary not less than 21 days in advance of the AGM.
- Resolutions and nominations for vacant posts on the Board shall be accepted no less than 21 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.
- In the event of no nomination being received for any position, the Board shall be entitled to co-opt a person of their choice to fill the vacancy, in accordance with Article 15.
- Should a member of the Board resign during the year, the Board shall have the power to co-opt a replacement, in accordance with Article 14.4.

11. FINANCE

- All matters of finance shall be in line with the finance policy of the Company and the highest standards of good practice. All financial transactions must comply with current financial delegations.
- Cheques drawn on the Account of the Board must be signed by two of the following;
 - Two members of the Board, one of whom must be an Officer*
 - The Board will appoint Officers to be signatories on the account at the beginning of each financial year.*
- All matters of finance shall be left to the discretion of the Board.
- The financial year of The Board shall be from 1 April — 31 March of each year.
- The Board, for the time being, shall for all intents and purposes be the legal owners of all trophies, monies and properties of the Board and shall deal with same according to the discretion of the Board.

- All funds of the Company shall be lodged at a bank or other financial institution as shall be decided by the Board.
- Ex-gratia payments, as agreed by the Board, shall be paid each year to all officers of the Board.
- All members of the Board are entitled to claim for expenses incurred (with receipt) in the course of their Board duties.
- All monies outstanding to the Board must be paid in full at the end of each season before affiliation for the following season will be accepted.
- In the event of a team going out of existence owing money to the Board, the registered members of that team will be required to pay up to a maximum of one-sixth each of the debt due before being allowed to re-register with the Board.

12. THE LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

The Area Board representative on the Board shall be the chairperson at this committee who shall be entitled to nominate other members to sit on the committee until the next Annual General Meeting, these other members to be formally approved and appointed by the Board.

The committee shall sit from one Annual General Meeting to the next unless earlier disbanded by the Board. The committee shall sit at least three times a year and a quorum shall be 50% of membership plus 1.

The purpose of the committee shall be:

- Setting annual budgets for the committee for approval by the Board.
- Administering and organising all BNI Club League Fixtures and Competitions
- Holding and updating Registered Players' Information.
- Drafting and reviewing the rules, including eligibility rules, for BNI competitions.
- Developing and monitoring of yearly operational plans for approval by The Board.
- Designing strategies (or the development of BNI leagues and competitions including increasing participation.
- Reporting to the Board as required and at least on a quarterly basis.

The committee shall have power to administer the day to day running of BNI leagues and competitions within the annual budget and operational plans approved by the Board. In all other respects it shall act in an advisory capacity only to the Board and shall not incur any liability or enter into any contract on behalf of the company without prior approval of the Board. The Committee will include senior and junior league convenors and registrar(s).

SENIOR LEAGUE CONVENOR(S)

The role of the Senior League Convenor(s) will be to set up and administer the day-to-day running of all leagues within The Board's jurisdiction. The Senior League Convenor will be responsible for running all League and Cup/Playoff competitions. The Senior League Convenor's other duties will also include the recording of all league and Cup/Playoff results, the production of all league tables, and provision of Trophies for league and Cup/Playoff awards.

REGISTRAR(S)

The Registrar(s) shall record and control the registration of all players participating in competition under the control of the BNI Area Board. The Registrar(s) will be responsible for Club Affiliation. The Registrar(s) is responsible for the registering of all clubs, players, coaches, officials and volunteers. The Registrar(s) works in conjunction with the League Convenor's in the sanctioning and recording of all transfers, The Registrar(s) will work in conjunction with the Treasurer and will take responsibility for the financial aspects of registration.

JUNIOR LEAGUE CONVENOR(S)

The Junior League Convenor(s) will act as the first point of contact for Junior clubs and will ensure that the issues surrounding underage basketball are adequately communicated to The Board. The Junior League Convenor, with the support of the Board will help to develop initiatives to further promote underage basketball within the Board's region.

13. THE COACH DEVELOPMENT AND HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Coaching Director on the Board shall be the chairperson of this committee who shall be entitled to nominate up to six other members to sit on the committee until the next Annual General Meeting, these other members to be formally approved and appointed by the Board.

The committee shall sit from one Annual General Meeting to the next unless earlier disbanded by earlier Board. The committee shall sit at least three times a year and a quorum shall be 50% of membership plus 1.

The purpose of the committee shall be:

- Setting annual budgets for approval of the Board.
- Development and monitoring of yearly Operational Plans for approval by the Board.
- Striking annual rates for coaching services for approval of the Board.
- Setting annual course charges for approval of the Board.
- Organising and delivering coach education courses and seminars within budgets approved by the Board
- Holding and updating a Coach Register including details of qualifications and identifying any shortfalls and any training or improvements needed.
- Drafting, monitoring and reviewing a Coaching Development Plan for approval of the Board.
- Providing advice and guidance to BNI Coaches
- Providing courses and seminars to educate and improve standards of coaching within budgets approved by The Board-
- Providing continuous professional development opportunities to registered coaches within budgets approved by the Board.
- Appointing coaches for all regional development squads and TeamNI squads and drafting selection procedures and policies for such selection for approval of the Board.
- Ensuring that all coaches hold appropriate coaching/ safeguarding qualifications. All coaches must also have a valid BNI AccessNI certificate.
- Reporting to the Board as required and at least on a quarterly basis.

The committee shall have power to administer the day to day running of BNI coaching development within the annual budget, the Coaching Development Plan and operational plans approved by the Board. In all other respects it shall act in an advisory capacity only to the Board and shall not incur any liability or enter into any contract on behalf of the company without prior approval of the Board.

14. THE CLUB DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Club Development Officer on the Board shall be the chairperson of this committee who shall be entitled to nominate up to six other members to sit on the committee until the next Annual General Meeting, these other members to be formally approved and appointed by the Board.

- The committee shall sit from one Annual General Meeting to the next unless earlier disbanded by the Board. The committee shall sit at least three times a year and a quorum shall be 50% of membership plus 1.
- The purpose of the committee shall be:
- Setting annual budgets for approval of the Board.
- Development and monitoring of yearly Operational Plans for approval by the Board.
- Drafting and reviewing a Club Development Plan for the Board's approval.
- Providing advice and guidance to BNI Clubs.
- Overseeing, implementing and reviewing any club accreditation scheme being run by BNI within budgets approved by the Board.
- Providing courses and seminars to educate and improve standards off Club administration within budgets agreed with the Board.
- Reporting as required to the Board and at least on a quarterly basis.

The committee shall have power to administer the day to day running of BNI club development within the annual budget, the Club Development Plan and operational plans approved by the Board. In all other respects it shall act in an advisory capacity only to the Board and shall not incur any liability or enter into any contract on behalf of the company without prior approval of the Board.

15. GENERAL

In the case of any matter which may arise and is not covered by the existing Constitution/Bye Laws, the Board shall have the power to decide the matter and to suspend and/or fine any club, team or player as it shall see fit.

The Board shall have the power to amend or introduce additional rules if it deems it necessary, such rules to have effect only until the next AGM.

The Board shall have the power to suspend and/or fine any club team or player that does not comply with any decision or motion passed by the Board, always accepting that there is a right to appeal through the relevant channels.

BASKETBALL NORTHER IRELAND LIMITED
GENERAL LEAGUE AND COMPETITIONS RULES
“THE RULES”

- Basketball Northern Ireland Limited (the "**Company**") aims to help as many people as possible to participate in basketball and enjoy the experience, A common set of rules sets clear expectations and creates the environment that will enable games to happen in a suitable but safe competitive situation.
- In any dispute the League Convenor's interpretation of the rules will apply.
- Clubs and individuals registering with BASKETBALL NORTHERN IRELAND LIMITED do so on the clear understanding that they are agreeing to accept and abide by all the rules, regulations, policies, procedures and decisions laid down by the Board and those of Basketball Ireland (BI).
- The composition of the leagues each season shall be at the discretion of the Competition and Leagues committee who will agree this in consultation with the elected league convenor/s, (OR in the event of none being nominated the person appointed by the Board).

1. GENERAL

Any cub failing to abide by any rule makes itself responsible for the consequences.

The Board has the right to restrict entry of any club or individual without question. They shall also reserve the right to restrict the entry of any club or member to any venue being used by or on behalf of the Board, without question. See BNI Venue Guidelines for more detail.

2. STARRING OF PLAYERS

2.2.1 Starring of all players shall be at the discretion of the Leagues and Competitions Committee.

2.2 Starred Players

2.2.1 All players are to play only with one team in their club unless otherwise authorised by the respective League Convenor.

- Any player receiving any form of remuneration for the purposes of playing basketball must be starred, and therefore not allowed to play in the BNI local leagues. Furthermore, any player with a National or Super League license may only play in the BNI Premier League and Cup, not BNI Division 1.
- An exception shall apply to any player under the age of 23 before the first day of the upcoming season, or to players on a 'Structured Link Agreement'

2.3 Modification of Starred Players

- 2.3.1 The convenor has the right to revoke a 'Starred Licence' at any stage if they believe the rule is being abused.
- 2.3.2 Clubs may apply to have a player's starred status changed due to changes in circumstances.
- 2.3.3 All modifications will be reviewed and approval is at the discretion of the Leagues and Competitions Committee.
- 2.3.4 A player's status remains unchanged during the application or modification, either during normal process or appeals, until approval for modification has been given.

2.4 Illegal Players

Playing an illegal player refers to any team who has a player that is not eligible to play for a particular game for that particular competition.

If a player's eligibility to play is queried and cannot be resolved before tip-off, the officials will permit their participation subject to later scrutiny by the Competitions Committee.

2.5 Cup / Playoff Eligibility

- 2.5.1 This rule shall not be applicable to any junior competition
- 2.5.2 A player is eligible to play in CUP/PLAYOFF tournaments if, and only if, they have been registered by October 31 and have played in at least one League game by December 31. (*marked on a score sheet as having participated in a game. NB - Simply being named on the score sheet is not enough, they must be recorded as entering the court.)
- 2.5.3 Clubs with more than one team in the same division must supply separate lists of registered and starred players for each team and they cannot switch across teams in the season. The list of starred players must be submitted prior to the commencement of the season and should be returned to the Registrar.
- 2.5.4 Starring will be subject to the scrutiny of the League and Competitions Committee. The League and Competitions Committee reserves the right to query the composition of any starred list and to request any changes as appropriate.
- 2.5.5 Any clubs with Super-League or National League teams cannot play their starred player's in BNI League or Cup/Playoff competitions.
- 2.5.6 Club secretaries will have access to a list of registered and starred players for each team.
- 2.5.7 For an injured player to be considered eligible to play in CUP/PLAYOFF tournaments, the Team must supply a written request to the League Convenor, who will consult, if necessary, the Leagues and Competitions Committee.

2.6 Illegal Player Penalties

- 2.6.1 The penalty for playing an illegal player will be a game forfeit.

3. TRANSFERS (New BI Transfer Rules June 2019).

- 3.1 All transfers at Area Board level must firstly be completed in accordance with the Regulations and Bye-Laws of Basketball Ireland, Article 10 Transfers Within Basketball Ireland.
- 3.2 All players wishing to transfer at club level must complete the Basketball Ireland Transfer Form regardless of age.

- 3.3 In order to comply with the transfer date deadline, players requesting a transfer must have completed the first section of the transfer form and have it lodged with the Secretary of their Area Board by midnight of the 31st October of the current season.
- 3.4 Once a player has been registered with Basketball Ireland and has been issued with a BI PIN the player is considered to be a member of the club he/she has been registered with for transfers purposes. All players, irrespective of age, must be registered with Basketball Ireland.
- 3.5 A player is deemed to be an inactive player if he/she has not been registered with Basketball Ireland as a player for a minimum of three (3) consecutive seasons and shall not be required to complete a transfer.
- 3.6 No transfer shall be signed by the assigned representative of the Area Board without all sections of the transfer form being fully completed. The BI PIN must be included on all forms if the player has previously been registered with Basketball Ireland.
- 3.7 No transfers shall permitted at Under 12 years and downwards.
- 3.8 No transfers shall be permitted at U12 and downwards (save at the discretion on the NABC in exceptional circumstances such as the player's family having moved house) or any other reason the NABC may decide to take into account into granting permission for the transfer.
- 3.9 Within these rules the NABC shall only have the authority to use its discretion under rule 8 above.
- 3.10 When a player transfers form one geographical area to another. The secretary of the outgoing Area Board, when the transfer has been completed, shall send a copy of the transfer form to the secretary of the incoming Area Board.
- 3.11 A player shall only be permitted to transfer once in a season.
- 3.12 A club can only accept a maximum of 3 incoming players from any one club in a season. If a club caters for both genders, they can accept a maximum of 3 incoming transfers for each gender. **At under 16 to under 13, clubs are only permitted to transfer 3 players into any one team.**
- 3.13 Where a club cannot facilitate a team within their natural age group, Rule 12 above shall apply. The incoming transfer club **may not** accept more than the maximum 3 players.
- 3.14 Where a club becomes defunct prior to the commencement of the season and /or before the 31st October, the players of the club may transfer in complaisance with rule 10 above. The transfer form must be completed with the **TRANSFERRING CLUB AUTHORISATION section** crossed **CLUB DEFUNCT**.

- 3.15 Should a club become defunct after the 31st October, no players from the club may transfer within the remainder of that season.
- 3.16 A player that has transferred during the current season to a club that has become defunct may not transfer for the remainder of the season. Rule 10 shall apply in this instance.
- 3.17 When all transfers have been completed, the assigned representative of the Area board shall forward the forms to the registrar of Basketball Ireland as per Rule 10 E, of Basketball Ireland, Regulations & Bye Laws.
- 3.18 Where a transfer does not come under the above rules. The secretary of the Area Board in whom ever jurisdiction the transfer falls under shall submit the transfer to the National Area Boards Committee (NABC) for their decision.
- 3.19 Where an Area Board refuses a players transfer within the rules above or for any other reason, the player, having firstly complied with the appeal procedures of their Area Board, shall then have the right of appeal to the National Area Board Committee (NABC). The appeal shall be forwarded in writing to the Secretary of the NABC by the player and/or the players intended club within fourteen days (14) of the transfer having been rejected by the appeal committee of their area board.
- 3.20 When the secretary of the National Area Boards Committee (NABC) receives an appeal under rule 3.17 above, the secretary will inform the players Area Board of the receipt of the appeal and set the date for the hearing which shall take place at the next scheduled meeting of the NABC and/or within twenty eight (28) days of the receipt of the appeal. All parties to the appeal shall be entitled to be represented at the hearing.
- 3.21 The National Area Boards Committee shall have the right to exercise its judgement and discretion in interpretation of these rules.

4. FIXTURES

- 4.1 Fixtures arranged by the League Convenor have priority over all other fixtures, except at the discretion of the Board.
- 4.1.1 All league fixtures shall be arranged at the start of each season by the BNI League Convenor.
- 4.1.2 Confirmation of all fixtures should preferably be given to the League Convenor within seven (7) days of receiving the fixtures but will be accepted within 14 days.
- 4.2 Time of games**
- 4.2.1 For evening matches the earliest start time should be 7.30pm and the latest start time 9.00pm.
- 4.2.2 If requested through the convenor, Teams must offer an 8:30pm or weekend date for teams that are based over 50miles away.
- 4.2.3 It is advised that the home Team should confirm the fixture 1 week in advance. The away team should confirm the fixture by phone the night before travelling.

4.3 Postponing a fixture

4.3.1 It is accepted that some matches will have to be postponed or abandoned at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances outside the control of a club. Teams may request a change of time or venue for the following reasons and complete the following actions: -

4.4 Sudden unavailability of the home court -

4.4.1 Immediate notice to the away team and immediate notice by phone and in writing to the League Convenor and the Referees' Appointments Officer.

4.5 Extreme weather conditions, major traffic disruption, and civil unrest.

4.5.1 Any team encountering any difficulties should contact the opposing team, League Convenor and Referees' Appointments Officer as soon as possible. Supporting documentation must be forwarded to the League Convenor in such instances and they will decide what action should be taken.

4.5.2 The League Convenor will make the necessary rearrangements after consulting both clubs.

4.5.3 All league fixtures, with the exception of the Super League, are played on a home-and-away basis. They will be commissioned by the League Convenor. In the event of a gym being unavailable, or deemed unfit for play by the referee(s), on the appointed date, the game must be replayed with the home team retaining home advantage. The away team must pay its own travelling expenses.

4.5.4 If however the problem could have been avoided or advance notice given then the home team will be responsible for the actual travel costs of the away team.

4.5.5 Teams must commit to fulfilling all their fixtures so every club has the opportunity to play the same number of games.

4.5.6 Teams who do not fulfil ALL their fixtures without good reason CANNOT be declared the winner of that competition.

4.5.7 The League and Competitions Committee will enforce the consequences. These may include

4.5.8 Administration charges

4.5.9 The awarding of costs to the home team

4.5.10 Fines or the requirement to post Bonds in the current or following season.

4.5.11 Teams who do not travel to away games (without 2 weeks' notice or a reasonable reason) throughout the season will have to pay £100 fine and if possible play away twice the following season.

4.5.12 Teams who forfeit more than one game are not eligible to play in Playoff competitions.

4.5.13 No Double Header fixtures are permitted whereby the points for two league fixtures are decided during a single game.

4.5.14 In the event of two teams being tied using all discriminators at the end of the season, the League Winners will be decided in a final Play-Off match. This match will be at a neutral venue and BNI will fund.

5. GAME PLAY RULES

5.1 It is the responsibility of both team coaches and the referee to ensure a facility is safe for all those attending. If in doubt a game should not be played and a report sent within 48 hours to the Leagues and Competition Committee.

- 5.2 For a game to take place it should have:**
- 5.2.1 Regulation sized court in safe condition.
 - 5.2.2 Court dimensions are as stated in FIBA REGULATIONS. Where venues do not currently meet this, clubs may refuse to play. See rule 17.2.
 - 5.2.3 Minimum of 5 players and 12 maximum.
 - 5.2.4 Not less than 1.5 hours per senior game.
 - 5.2.5 At least two qualified referees. In the event there are not two referees present, then 11.3.6 will apply.
 - 5.2.6 Two table officials ONE of which must be qualified. THE AWAY TEAM may supply a TO provided they give advance notice of their intention to do so.
 - 5.2.7 Official FIBA standard score sheet. Failure to provide an official FIBA scoresheet (PAPER OR DIGITAL VERSION) for all relevant completions may result in a £25 fine
 - 5.2.8 Official match ball.
 - 5.2.9 Matching / numbered playing gear.
 - 5.2.10 If a match is visually recorded, a copy of any recordings are to be supplied, unedited, to BNI if requested, and may be used by BNI as it sees fit for promotional, training, or disciplinary reasons. [NB: Check latest BNI safeguarding rules and policies on videoing and photography before recording anything.]

6. TABLE OFFICIATING

- 6.1 Every team should have 1 qualified Table Official. The table should have 2 officials.
 - 6.1.1 The opposing team may supply one of the officials provided they give advance notice of their intention to do so.
 - 6.1.2 The home team must provide a viable stop clock, a visible directional arrow, a visible score board, official BI score pad, team foul markers and a signal for the table (e.g. whistle). In the event of a score sheet not being provided alternative material should be used and the game should proceed. The home team should expect a penalty for not providing an official scoresheet.
 - 6.1.3 Apart from players to be substituted, only the named coach may approach the table and only then during breaks or time outs so as to avoid causing the table to make errors.
 - 6.1.4 UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES may anybody else approach the table during play or interfere with their work.
 - 6.1.5 Anyone doing so will immediately be asked to leave the hall.
 - 6.1.6 Clubs must take responsibility for their spectators.
 - 6.1.7 The home team is responsible for correct layout of score-sheet.
 - 6.1.8 No amendments can be made to a score-sheet after it has been signed by the match officials.
 - 6.1.9 Score sheets must be completed in triplicate.
 - 6.1.10 The League and Competitions Committee will enforce the consequences. These may include:
 - 6.1.11 Fines or forfeit of games.
 - 6.1.12 Suspensions of individuals or teams.
 - 6.1.13 Bans on the use of home courts.

7. SCORESHEETS

7.1 The home team is responsible for the safe delivery of the correctly completed Score Sheet and Match Report to the League Convenor WITHIN SEVEN DAYS following the date of the fixture. These may be e-mailed but the original must follow within 14 days. Failure to comply with this will result in a fine of £15.00.

7.1.1 A score sheet must only contain registered players.

7.2 The following points shall be awarded for all league games:

WIN: 3 Points

LOSS: 1 Point

WALKOVER: 3 Points to team which is awarded the walkover.

No (0) points to team conceding the walkover

7.2.1 Development league may have a draw. Each team awarded 2 points.

7.3 Score sheets must be completed in triplicate.

White copy: sent to League Convenor within seven days by home team

Pink copy: given to winning team

Yellow copy: given to losing team

7.4 CLOCK

7.4.1 In the event of a tie at full time and there being no time available to play an extra period, an extra period of five minutes shall be played at a later date. However, if both teams are in agreement, the full game may be re-played at a later date.

7.4.2 All matches organised by the Area Board will have duration of 10 minutes per quarter unless agreed by the organising committee prior to event. The below is to be applied in the event of less than 90 minutes being available to complete the game:

7.4.3 Time available for the Match Duration of Quarters

• 90 minutes	• 10 minutes
• 80 minutes	• 9 minutes
• 70 minutes	• 8 minutes
• 60 minutes	• 7 minutes
Less than 45 minutes	No Game

7.4.4 Clock stopped for all matches as per F.I.B.A. rules.

7.4.5 Extra periods for all matches will be played as per F.I.B.A. rules.

7.4.6 It is hoped that all matches will begin on time. If for any reason, the start of the game is delayed; the referee shall be guided by these regulations in deciding the length of the match or whether it shall be postponed. It is imperative that subsequent matches should not be affected; i.e. the following games must start on time.

7.5 At the discretion of the Leagues & Competitions Committee failure to comply with the above may result in:

7.5.1 Fines

7.5.2 Loss of points or forfeit of game

7.5.3 Suspension from league.

8. OBJECTIONS TO GAME DECISIONS OR OUTCOMES

- 8.1 Individuals registering with the Board do so on the clear understanding that they are agreeing to accept and abide by all the rules, regulations and decisions laid down by the Board and those of BI.
- 8.1.1 In the event of either club involved in a game under the jurisdiction of the Board wishing to dispute the decision of the game, the following procedure shall apply:-
- 8.1.2 The aggrieved club shall sign the score sheet under protest where provided on the official score sheet at the end of the game.
- 8.1.3 The aggrieved club must notify the League and Competitions Committee and the Secretary of the other club involved in the game within 7 days of the date of the game with its reasons for objecting. This objection must be accompanied by a fee of £130.00, refundable if objection is successful.
- 8.1.4 The League and Competitions Committee shall consider the objection and may request clarification of any points arising either from the BNI Officials Committee or from any other club or person who may be able to assist the League and Compulsions Committee.
- 8.1.5 The League and Competitions Committee shall notify the Secretary of the Club in question and the Secretary of the BNI Officials Committee and any other relevant party of its decision within 14 days of its meeting,
- 8.1.6 On receipt of the decision of the League and Competitions Committee, any Club may appeal to the Appeals Committee of the Board within 7 days of receipt by the Club of the decision of the League and Competitions Committee. This appeal must be accompanied by an additional cheque for £130,00, again refundable if successful. If an oral hearing is requested, the request must accompany this appeal.
- 8.1.7 Any Club or individual who is affected by any decision of the League and Competitions Committee may appeal that decision to the BNI Appeals Committee of the Board within 7 days of receipt by them of the League and Competitions Committee decision.

9. TEAM UNIFORMS

- 9.1 Teams are required to wear matching uniforms, which are correctly numbered in accordance with current FIBA Rules. Bicycle shorts must be of the same single colour as the uniform shorts. Shorts a different colour to the top are acceptable so long as everyone is dressed the same.
- 9.1.1 All teams in Senior and Junior leagues should have two sets of gear and in the event of a clash the Home Team should change.
- 9.1.2 At junior level bibs may be used by the Home Team in the event of a clash of colours.
- 9.1.3 New clubs or existing clubs changing their gear must avoid gear colours similar to an existing club.
- 9.2 At the discretion of the Leagues & Competitions Committee, failure to comply with the above may result in:
- 9.2.1 Fines
- 9.2.2 LOSS of points or forfeit of game

10. WALKOVERS

- 10.1 All games must start on time. If one team is not on court ready to play 15 minutes after the appointed time, (other than exceptional circumstances) a walkover will automatically be awarded to the team ready on court. At the discretion of the home team this time may be extended.

11. OFFICIALS

- 11.1 Referees and Table Officials registering with the Basketball Northern Ireland Officials Association (BNIOA) do so on the clear understanding that they are agreeing to accept and abide by all the rules, regulations and decisions laid down by the Board of BNI and those of BI and the NRC.
- 11.1.1 For insurance purposes - registered referees must not referee with an unregistered official; this applies to all leagues and matches in Northern Ireland. This is of the highest importance and is also a directive from Basketball Ireland. The referees' liability insurance will be void if they referee with an unregistered official.
- 11.1.2 All active referees must be registered with Access NI.
- 11.1.3 The Board has a Zero Tolerance Policy. This means that all communications with an official must be acceptable to them. No one may make negative or derogatory comments on their decisions at any time, including on social media, web forums, Facebook, etc. Players, coaches, officials and spectators must at all times accept the referee's decision without question.
- 11.1.4 Before a game the referee should ensure all necessary equipment is available to enable the smooth running of the game.
- 11.1.5 At the end of the game, the referee should check the score sheet and make sure that it is complete as per FIBA regulations and sign it accordingly.
- 11.1.6 If the scoresheet is signed in protest by the captain, the referee shall report this to the League Convenor and BNI Referee Committee chairman ASAP.
- 11.1.7 During a game the referee is responsible for ensuring coaches, players and spectators behave in an appropriate manner. They should act to stop or prevent any and all forms of abuse, especially to themselves or the table officials.
- 11.1.8 Referees may request that any person behaving improperly be removed from the venue by the venue officer or other suitable official. Failure to do so may result in the officials abandoning the match.
- 11.1.9 Providing a referee agrees, and purely for educational reasons, coaches may ask for clarity on a decision provided they do so discretely and in a non aggressive manner.
- 11.1.10 Any complaint about an official should be made in writing to the BNI League Convenor within seven days. BNI will also pass the complaint to the BNIOA Secretary.
- 11.1.11 In the event of:
- any disqualification, or fighting situation
 - a no-show by an official
 - any incident pertaining to the conduct of the game
- the official should fill in a BNIOA Official's Report form which should be sent to the League Convenor and BNI Referee Committee chairman within 7 days

- 11.1.12 The Official's Report Form may be found on the officials' section of the BNI website or requested from BNIOA Secretary.
- 11.1.13 NB - This will also apply to any serious incidents/issues (E.g. Fan abuse, post game abuse from teams, suitability of court) that are not covered above but in the judgement of an official should be reported. These can be reported on an Officials Report Form or directly in writing or by email to the BNIOA Secretary, BNI Competitions Committee or directly to the BNI Board.
- 11.1.14 In the event of a player or coach being disqualified, in accordance with FIBA rules, from any future game under the jurisdiction of the League and Competitions Committee, that player or coach shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two games in that division or corresponding cup/playoff competition. These suspensions take effect immediately and stand until such times as discussed at BNI Area Board level.
- 11.1.15 Any appeal against such decisions by a referee must go to the Leagues and Competitions Committee Chair and be accompanied by a cheque for £130.
- 11.1.16 Senior Game appointments should only be made by the Referees' Appointments Officer.
- 11.1.17 Every effort will be made by the Referees' Appointments Officer to have 2 officials at each game, and teams should expect 2 referees. In the case of a single referee being appointed the following criteria should apply:
- Intro referee may not referee alone in senior games.
 - Only a Grade 3 referee with minimum 1 years experience or higher grade may referee alone, but only with agreement of Referees Appointments Officer.
 - Under no circumstances shall the registered coach or a registered player of a team or coach named on the score sheet officiate on behalf of that team.
- 11.1.18 Referees must be paid before the start of the second half of the match.
- 11.1.19 Officials will be given at least ONE weeks' notice of appointments.
- 11.1.20 Members will be deemed to have received their fixtures if they have not contacted the Appointments Officer by the 1st of the month to advise non-receipt of same. Any games missed as a result of failure to receive fixtures will be dealt with in accordance to BNIOA Non Attendance Rules and Regulations.
- 11.1.21 If a member finds that he/she is unable to fulfil an appointment he/she must find a replacement of equal grade, who would normally be appointed to games of that standard.
- 11.1.22 Any change in appointment that involves a member with a lesser grade must be sanctioned by the BNIOA Appointments Officer. The Appointments Officer reserves the right to refuse any change in original appointment, in this event the referee is responsible for covering the game or finding suitable additional cover.
- 11.1.23 All notice of unavailability must be received in writing by the Appointments Officer prior to 15th of the previous month.

11.2 REFEREE FEES (as proposed by BNIOA Technical Committee)

- 11.2.1 Match Fees and travel expenses will be set by BNIOA Technical Committee with approval of BNI Board. Such figures will be published on BNI website prior to start of season.
- 11.2.2 Travel Allowance

- To be reviewed by BNIOA as required.
- 11.2.3 Public transport - Actual Fare (Taxi fares WILL NOT be paid)
- 11.3 In the event that the game is cancelled:**
- 11.3.1 Without notification to referees (4 hours notice) / neither team show - Full fee claim may be made from BNI through notification to League Convenor and BNIOA Secretary.
- 11.3.2 Non-arrival of away team / Walkover- Home team must pay full referees fee at the game, inform league convenor and resolve dispute with offending club separately or through BNI Competitions Committee.
- 11.3.3 Match Abandonment E.g. Equipment failure, condensation etc - Officials match fees will be paid in full by home team,
- 11.3.4 Non-availability of referees - the BNIOA Appointments Officer will notify both teams and the league convenor giving 24 hours notice.
- 11.3.5 An official who fails to fulfil an appointment or provide a suitable replacement shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Rules & Regulations of BNIOA.
- 11.3.6 When an official finds that his/her co-official are not present for a fixture the following procedures MUST be followed:
- Every effort shall be made to have a replacement found within the gymnasium. This official should be a current member of BNIOA.
 - If a replacement official is NOT found an official with a Grade 3 award (with a minimum of one season as a Grade 3) or higher MUST officiate the game on his/her own. Coaches should be informed that their teams must play or lose the game by forfeit.
 - Once a replacement has been co-opted to do a game he/she CANNOT be replaced by the original official if they arrive late.
- 11.3.7 The one official present must notify the BNIOA Secretary within 48 hours of the game taking place.
- 11.3.8 Where an official fails to appear before half time; that official will not be allowed to officiate if he/she arrives during the half time interval.

12. COACHES

- 12.1 Coaches registering with BASKETBALL NORTHERN IRELAND do so on the clear understanding that they are agreeing to accept and abide by all the rules, regulations and decisions laid down by the Board and those of BI.
- 12.1.1 Coaches with Juniors in their teams must be qualified, registered, have attended a child safeguarding course and have an up to date Access NI vetting certificate.
- 12.1.2 All club coaches must present to their Safeguarding Officer/Secretary their Access NI certificate as proof that it is still valid. (As the Access NI system removes records of its applications from its system after a period of time, it is it very difficult for BNI to review who has and has not been checked).
- 12.1.3 Clubs will be submitted to an audit of their Access NI compliance annually.
- 12.1.4 Coaches who do not set high standards of behaviour and respect for rival teams will be asked to leave the hall.
- 12.1.5 Only the coach/assistant coach named on the score sheet may be on the bench. A team manager may also sit on the bench, provided they do so from the start of the game.

- 12.1.6 They must not approach the table officials during play. They may seek information during breaks in play, (Time outs / between quarters / half and full time)

13. SENIOR LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 13.1 All league fixtures will be commissioned by the League Convenor played on a home and away basis. However, teams may concede home advantage in order to complete a fixture.
- 13.1.1 League winners will be decided by a straight aggregate of points on the competitions of the regular season. FIBA rules apply to ties. If still tied, an examination of the point's difference (For/Against) will occur. If still tied a play off will take place. (This procedure only applies to find the league winner).
- 13.1.2 The Senior Mens League Convenor will organise a cup and plate competition (seeded from last year's league positions). Should a plate format be preferred, the format will be 1st v 8th, 2nd v 7th, 3rd v 6th, 4th v 5th, Semi finals and final.
- 13.1.3 Promotion / Relegation shall be at the discretion of the Leagues and Competitions Committee.
- 13.1.4 Any team which fails to fulfil all its fixtures is automatically debarred from being declared the official winner of their league.
- 13.1.5 Teams who win promotion MUST accept that promotion, with the exception of Clubs who already have a Team in the higher Division.
- 13.1.6 In the event of vacancies arising in a particular division, decisions will be made at the discretion of the Leagues and Competitions Committee.

- 13.2 When a team withdraws from the league, or for any other reason fails to complete a league, the following rules shall apply:**
- 13.3 In the event of a tie between teams in the same league at the end of the season, team placing will be decided by points difference (for Senior leagues) if both teams concerned have defeated each other once. If one team has won both games they are deemed to be the winner. In the event of two teams being tied using all discriminators at the end of the season, the League Winners will be decided in a final Play-Off match. This match will take place at a neutral venue and will be funded by BNI.
- 13.3.1 The Leagues and Competitions Committee are responsible for organising referees end gym time for play-offs. The teams involved may have to contribute towards the cost of the play-offs.

14. DISCIPLINARY ACTION / APPEALS / DISPUTES

- 14.1 The overriding objective of the Disciplinary and Appeals Process is to have a fair and proper opportunity for a complaint to be heard, respecting the principles of natural justice. Clubs or individuals should seek to resolve disputes by mediation where appropriate. BNI can provide guidance.

- 14.1.1 Clubs, coaches, volunteers, and individuals, registering with BASKETBALL NORTHERN IRELAND, or attending BNI events, including spectators, do so on the clear understanding that they are under the jurisdiction of BNI and are agreeing to accept and abide by all the rules, regulations and decisions laid down by the Board and those of BI.
- 14.1.2 Any dispute/query that arises between coaches, players, officials and spectators of individual Clubs or between Clubs must first be presented in a typed format condensed to two A4 pages to the relevant Secretary of that club within seven (7) days of the event. E-mail is acceptable.
- 14.1.3 It is the Club's responsibility to deal with these issues in accordance with the complaints procedures outlined in their Club's Constitution.
- 14.1.4 All league correspondence, including complaints/queries etc. must be presented in a typed format condensed to two A4 pages to the League Convenor within seven (7) days of the event. E-mail is acceptable. All complaints must be accompanied by a cheque for £130.
- 14.1.5 All correspondence from the Leagues and Competitions Committee requesting a reply must be answered within fourteen days. Failure to do this will result in a £75 fine.
- 14.1.6 In the event of an incident happening in a game not relating to above which shall come to the notice of the Leagues and Competitions Committee, either through a referee's report or through a complaint being made to the Leagues and Competitions Committee by any member of the Leagues and Competitions Committee, the following procedures shall apply:
- 14.1.7 On receipt of the referee's report or other complaint the Leagues and Competitions Committee, shall notify the club, against who the complaint has been made, in writing (or e-mail) within seven (7) days of receipt of the report.
- 14.1.8 On receipt of any notification from the Leagues and Competitions Committee, the club shall be allowed seven (7) days in which to lodge their reply with the Leagues and Competitions Committee. If this reply is not received within seven (7) days, a BNI Disciplinary Panel (as outlined in 14.1.17) may hold a meeting to discuss the incident. The Disciplinary Panel, under its powers, may suspend or fine any club or individual.
- 14.1.9 The Board shall notify the offending club of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel concerning this disciplinary action within 14 days of the hearing of the Disciplinary Panel. Details should be lodged with the BNI Secretary at this stage.
- 14.1.10 Any penalties imposed by a Disciplinary Panel, or subsequent Appeal Panel, remain in force while any appeal to higher authority is pending, unless expressly agreed otherwise by the relevant panel.
- 14.1.11 Any club or individual, on receipt of the decision of the Disciplinary Panel concerning a disciplinary action, may appeal to the Board's Appeals Committee (as outlined in 14.1.19) within seven (7) days of the receipt by them of the Disciplinary Panel's original findings. This appeal shall be notified to the BNI Secretary in writing and shall be accompanied by a fee of £130.00. If an oral hearing is required the request must accompany the notice of appeal. If successful the fee will be refunded in part or in full (see 14.1.23). Suitable grounds for appeal are restricted to:
 - a) Error of law
 - b) Unfair procedural conduct
 - c) Very unfair decision or sanctions – excessively harsh or unduly lenient
 - d) New evidence of a substantive nature
- 14.1.12 The BNI Secretary shall then notify the Board, usually via the Governance Officer, of the appeal and forward any written submissions the appellant

- wishes to make to the Appeals Panel. The Disciplinary Panel and any other directly affected party shall also be informed of the notice to appeal and ask them to make any written submissions they may wish to make.
- 14.1.13 If an oral hearing is requested by either party, the Appeals Panel will then notify both the Disciplinary Panel and the appealing club or individual when the date for the hearing has been fixed. Written submissions must still be available before the oral hearing. Both the Disciplinary Panel and the club or individual shall be entitled to be represented at this hearing.
 - 14.1.14 When the Appeals Panel has made its decision, it shall notify the Disciplinary Panel and the club or individual in writing / (email) within seven (7) days.
 - 14.1.15 The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final except for any appeal the club or individual or the Disciplinary Panel may have to the relevant personnel within Basketball Ireland.
 - 14.1.16 A record of any substantiated offence and any sanctions imposed shall be kept on an individual or club's record for a duration to be decided by the Disciplinary Panel, subject to the approval of the Board. The Board reserves the right to decide if the results of a disciplinary hearing should be published in the interests of transparency.
 - 14.1.17 A Disciplinary Panel will be appointed at the discretion of the Board. For most normal matters arising within matches, this role shall be fulfilled by members of the League and Competitions Committee during its meetings. For more serious or extraordinary matters, the Governance Officer, or other person nominated by the Board, shall recruit a panel to hear the matter in question.
 - 14.1.18 The Appeals Committee shall be a panel of three persons designated by the Board (usually through the Governance Officer). They will decide if an appeal can proceed based on the criteria laid down in 14.1.11, and if so, can either consider the appeal on the specified criteria only, or can hear the case de novo.
 - 14.1.19 In exceptional cases, particularly those considered by the Board to be of general interest to the sport, the Board may authorise that an appeal is heard.
 - 14.1.20 All disciplinary hearings shall follow the current BNI Disciplinary Panel Hearing Procedures.
 - 14.1.21 All appeal hearings shall follow the current BNI Appeal Panel Hearing Procedures.
 - 14.1.22 If an appeal is deemed to be successful in part, the Appeal Panel will determine the amount of the appeal fee to be refunded to the appellant.

15. APPEALS

- 15.1 The Board, in order to carry out its business, may nominate any three independent members, or independent persons from outside BNI, to sit to hear any appeal. These independent members, when sitting, shall constitute the Appeals Panel as outlined in Article 20
- 15.1.1 For appeal hearings, the Board shall have the power to co-opt additional persons from clubs to avoid any conflict of interests. Clubs are obligated to provide a representative if requested. The Board shall have the power to co-opt additional persons from outside BNI for appeals if it sees fit.
- 15.1.2

Misconduct / indiscipline, etc. happens		
Referees Report(s)	Complaint from other	
If necessary, Area Board appointed investigator gathers written information from all other parties		
Considered by Disciplinary Committee		
Action fine / suspension etc	No Action end of matter	
Decision accepted matter ends	Decision rejected	
Appeal against decision of the Disciplinary Panel to BNI Secretary.		
Disciplinary Panel send all relevant information / more may be requested		
Decision Overturned - Appeal successful	Disciplinary Panel Decision Upheld - Appeal unsuccessful	
Money returned	Decision accepted	Final appeal to BI
Matter ended		

- 15.1.3 Any member of the Appeals Panel who has any interest in any appeal coming before it shall notify the other members of the Appeals Committee of this interest, and if there is a clear Conflict of Interest the member will be stood down from the Appeals Committee.
- 15.1.4 The Appeal Panel has the power to dismiss or modify any decisions of the Disciplinary Panel. This includes the power to increase or decrease the severity of any sanctions, to add or remove sanctions, or to impose additional penalties of any sort it sees fit.

16. Match Etiquette

- 16.1. Temp guidelines are being circulated and formal proposals will follow. At present for 2016-17:
 Alcohol ban at all venues.
 Right to refuse entry to intoxicated persons.
 Horns and other noise makers to be within acceptable decibel level – officials decision
 Each match to have a designated venue officer

17. SENIOR LEAGUE AND CUP/PLAYOFF RULES

- 17.1 The composition of the leagues each season shall be at the discretion of the Area Board League Convenor.

17.2 Venue

- 17.2.1 BNI facilitates competitions. It is not responsible for the courts which clubs choose to use.
- 17.2.2 All teams must play at an acceptable venue - with proper court markings, a safe playing surface and adequate changing/showering facilities. (see 5.2.1 and 5.2.2)
- 17.2.3 Venues may be subject to scrutiny by the Leagues and Competitions Committee which may at any time ban the use of any court which it deems to be unsuitable.
- 17.2.4 Clubs will have the right to object to playing at any venue they feel is inadequate. A list of proposed venues will be circulated prior to the season starting. A club which objects to playing at a particular venue or court on safety or other reasonable grounds must notify the Competitions Committee at least one month before the season starts.
- 17.2.5 Any dispute over a venue will be resolved by the Competitions Committee.
- 17.2.6 Free entry must be provided for all members of the away team (to a maximum of 15) and all match officials. In cases where leisure centres charge away teams, these monies must be refunded by the home club before play commences.
- 17.2.7 Members of the Leagues and Competitions Committee or the Board will be entitled to free entry to all games including Super League within Northern Ireland.

18. Match Fixing and Gambling

- 18.1 Being developed in conjunction with BI.
- 18.1.1 Spare.

19 MATCH REPORT FORMS

- 19.1. BASKETBALL NORTHERN IRELAND match report forms must be filled out by both teams and enclosed with the score sheet.
- 19.1.1 Referees must fill out their match report forms and return them to the Leagues and Competitions Committee within 7 days of the match being played.
- 19.1.2 The home team is responsible for supplying the match report.
- 19.1.3 The Leagues and Competitions Committee may appoint a Commissioner at any League or Cup/Playoff game. Prior warning of such an appointment is not necessary. Should it make such an appointment, the Commissioner shall report to the League Convenor on venues, changing facilities, court, equipment, dress, conduct and performance of teams, officials and spectators.

20. OTHER COMPETITIONS

- 20.1 Any club wishing to organise a tournament or competition involving one or more of Basketball Northern Ireland's clubs or international clubs must notify the BNI Secretary in writing. All requests to organise tournaments will be considered by the Board. Clubs granted permission will have their tournament included in the Board's Calendar.

- 20.1.1 The Leagues and Competitions Committee will determine whether or not it will instruct the Referees Committee to appoint officials to these tournaments.
- 20.1.2 Where international teams are involved, the referees shall be appointed by the BI National Appointments Officer.

21. SOCIAL MEDIA

- 21.1 Messages which are defamatory, libellous or obscene are prohibited at all times. Failure to comply with this may result in significant personal distress, risk to the reputation of the individual, the sport and/or the club, and may require intervention and/or investigation by BNI, the service providers and possibly the police.
- 21.2 BNI will not tolerate any posting of messages which bring the reputation of basketball in to disrepute and will handle all such instances in line with disciplinary policies.
- 21.3 To report concerns you should contact the BNI office.
- 21.4 A wide range of sanctions may be imposed including suspensions, fines and educational orders. In the worst cases, the matter may be reported to the police.
- 21.5 BNI does not hold any legal jurisdiction over personal (civil) damage to reputation (actual or perceived) made as the result of comments made or posted by another individual on social media.

22. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 22.1 Each club is responsible for taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the officials, the opposing team and its officials and all other third parties against deleterious action by its players, officials or spectators.
- 22.1.1 The Leagues and Competitions Committee shall, subject to these regulations, have the power to discipline any club, team or individual in connection with the activities of BASKETBALL NORTHERN IRELAND, if it believes the game may be or has been brought into disrepute. All available evidence will be used.

23. SUSPENSIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 23.1 In the event of a player or coach or member being disqualified from any game under the jurisdiction of the Board irrespective of competition, that player or coach or member shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two games. (i.e. the next scheduled games following the disqualification). These suspensions take effect immediately and cannot be appealed.
- 23.1 Any suspensions apply across all games under BASKETBALL NORTHERN IRELAND jurisdiction.
- 23.1 In the event that such a player participates in junior and senior competition, the player cannot participate in any junior match that happens before their senior suspension is completed or vice versa. Any exception to this must expressly approved in writing by the Competitions Committee and will only be on exceptional grounds.
- 23.1.1 Any disqualification will automatically be reported to the Leagues and Competitions Committee and League Convenor by the referee who may take further action against the player or coach concerned if they feel it is

merited. The match officials must submit a written report in such circumstances to the League Convenor. The clubs and individuals concerned may also submit written reports if they so wish. All reports must be received within seven (7) days after which a Disciplinary Sub-Committee can be convened and notification given to all parties concerned.

- 23.1.2 A player, coach or team follower suspended from a game shall not be present at the court, changing facilities or any area normally occupied by spectators from 20 minutes prior to the start of the game until 30 minutes after the expiry of playing time. See BNI Venue Guidelines for more detail.
- 23.1.3 In the event of officials becoming aware that a suspended or banned person is attempting to participate or spectate, the officials will inform the relevant venue officer or suitable official that the person must leave the venue. Failure to comply will result in the game being abandoned. If the status of the participant is queried and cannot be resolved before tip-off, the officials will permit their participation subject to later scrutiny by the Competitions Committee. Any such incident must be reported. If the person in question is subsequently found to be in breach of any sanctions, the consequences for the individual and club will be severe.

23.2. Minor Incidents

- 23.2.1 In the event of a minor incident happening in a game which shall come to the attention of the Leagues and Competitions Committee, either through a match or referee's report, or through a complaint being made to the Leagues, and Competitions Committee by any team or individual, the following procedures shall apply: -
- 23.2.2 On receipt of the complaint or referee's report, the League Convenor shall notify the club against whom the complaint has been made within seven (7) days of receipt of the report.
- 23.2.3 The club shall be allowed seven (7) days in which to lodge their reply with the League Convenor.
- 23.2.4 The Disciplinary Panel will then hold a meeting to discuss the incident. The Disciplinary Panel under its powers may suspend or fine any club or individual.

23.3. Serious Incident

- 23.3.1 In the event of a serious disciplinary incident being reported to the Leagues and Competitions Committee, the League Convenor will contact the Disciplinary Panel and it will consider the matter as quickly as possible.
- 23.3.2 The classification of an incident as serious rests with the Board of BNI and will usually be on the recommendation of the Competitions Committee and/or Governance Officer, or an appointed disciplinary panel. Examples would include but are not limited to:
- Safeguarding violations
 - Physical or verbal conduct reported by officials as being beyond that normally encountered in the course of a match
 - Any post game incidents – BNI has zero tolerance for any unbecoming conduct once a match has ended
 - Any verbal or physical abuse of officials
 - Abusive behaviour reported on Social Media
 - Racial or religious abuse
 - Any actions which are deemed by a disciplinary panel to have brought the game into disrepute
- 23.3.3 Should the committee receive a written complaint regarding any abuse outside of the game, or where the referee decides it is after the game, the

following sanctions shall apply;

- 1) In the first instance, the player/coach shall receive a written warning
 - 2) In the second instance, the player/coach shall receive a one game suspension
 - 3) In the third instance, full disciplinary action will occur.
- 23.3.4 If any incident is deemed serious enough to warrant such action, an immediate suspension of a player, coach or team follower may be issued, subject to the normal appeal procedure.
- 23.3.5 The League Convenor shall notify the offending club and other relevant parties of the decision concerning disciplinary action within seven (7) days.
- 23.3.6 Clubs are accountable for the behaviour of their members, team followers and spectators, and should hold them to the BNI rules and codes of conduct. Continued disciplinary infractions indicate that it is unlikely that the club is doing this effectively.
- 23.3.7 If members or supporters of a club are found guilty of two or more serious disciplinary matters in a season, or in any 8 month period, the club's chairperson and secretary, representing their club, will be subject to a special disciplinary panel hearing. The date on which the incident occurred rather than the decision of a panel is the relevant date for the 8 month period.
- 23.3.8 Penalties for such misconduct are at the discretion of the panel and can range from fines, deductions of points, instruction to expel members, suspension from competition, removal from club office up to expulsion from BNI.

23.4. Penalty Points

- 23.4.1 The League and Competitions Committee will administer a penalty points system to discourage poor behaviour by coaches or players. This will be based on more serious fouls blown by referees and match reports and score sheets shall be used to assess the points per season.
- Fighting - 5 points
 - Disqualification - 4 points
 - Unsportsmanlike - 1 point
 - Technical -1 point
- 23.4.2 If a player or coach accumulates 4 points in a season they will automatically be suspended for one game. If it reaches 7 points, then there will be a second suspension for a further match. If more than 7 points are accumulated then the Disciplinary Sub-committee will automatically review that player's eligibility to play for the rest of the season and may issue bans for a fixed number of games up to and including suspension for the rest of the season. If necessary, such suspended games will carry forward in to the cup/playoff competition or into the next season.
- 23.4.3 As noted above disqualification and fighting fouls automatically result in a two match ban.

24 Other Offences

- 24.1 Drugs
- 24.1.1 In accordance with its constitution, the Board will not permit the use of banned drugs by its members, and requires members to abide by BI's Anti-doping policy.
- 24.1.2 The use of any prohibited drugs designed to improve performance is forbidden. For further information visit www.uksport.gov.uk and BI's anti-doping webpage.

- 24.1.3 Any player using, or coaches recommending use of drugs will automatically be suspended.
- 24.1.4 The Leagues and Competitions Committee is empowered to introduce random drug testing at their discretion.
- 24.1.5 All players and spectators at games are not permitted to consume alcohol.

BASKETBALL NORTHER IRELAND LIMITED
Underage Playing Competition Regulations 2022-23

1. Basketball Northern Ireland Limited (the "**Company**") aims to help as many people as possible to participate in basketball and enjoy the experience. A common set of rules sets clear expectations and creates the environment that will enable games to happen in a suitable but safe competitive situation.
2. In any dispute, the Junior League Convenor's interpretation of the rules will apply.
3. Clubs and individuals registering with BASKETBALL NORTHERN IRELAND LIMITED do so on the clear understanding that they are agreeing to accept and abide by all the rules, regulations, policies, procedures and decisions laid down by the Board and those of Basketball Ireland (BI).
4. The composition of the Junior leagues each season shall be at the discretion of the Competition and Leagues committee who will agree this in consultation with the elected league convenor/s, (OR in the event of none being nominated the person appointed by the Board).
5. Passarelle Rules will apply to U12 competitions and first half of U14 competitions, unless otherwise stated. Such exceptions will be outlined in the Clarification on Underage Regulations.
 - Each team at U14 or below must consist of a minimum of 10 players, one of whom shall be Captain. Ten players should be nominated for each game. However the whole squad should be entered on the scoresheet.
 - In games, each player must play at least one full quarter, and each player must sit out one full quarter.
 - If a player is injured, disqualified or has committed five fouls in the first half, then the opposing coach may choose, if they so wish, a replacement player from the reserves (No. 11 and 12). If the team has only 10 players then the replacement must come from the substitutes. The time played by the substitute must be recorded and subtracted from the time they are allowed to play in the second half of the match.
 - Rules regarding duration of quarters, times outs, team fouls, etc., shall be circulated to clubs prior to the start of the season.
 - Unless otherwise specified the game shall be played to FIBA Regulations.
 - Any clarification of the above rules should be addressed to the Junior League Convenor initially.

Further Clarification on Underage Regulations (BI 2022-2023)

1. Competition:

Competition: U11 leagues downwards will be Development Leagues (participation). For competitions up to U11 no score will be displayed. Score sheet will be kept for rotation of players and foul recording.

U12 to U14 Competitive league but the emphasis is still on participation of a minimum of 10 players in the game and on the technical development of the players so rotations are applicable. In terms of fair play, the scoreboard should not show a score difference of greater than 20 at all age levels.

2. Age Limit:

As per FIBA age limits, all players must be under the age on or after January 1st of the current season. To establish the date of birth corresponding to the age limit for an age group, the following procedure is used; the age of the player must be subtracted from the year in which a competition takes place with the understanding that this year begins on 1st January. E.g. the age limit for U18 in a competition in 2018/2019 shall be: 2019 – 18 = 2001, so any player born on the 1st January 2001 or after this date will be entitled to participate in a competition for U18 in 2018/2019 season.

3. Year Groups and 'Playing Up':

A player may only play a maximum of 2 grades within her/his age band within their own Area Board competition in any one season. E.g. a player can play U11 and U12 or U11 and U13. She/He cannot play U11, U12 and U13. No U15 player can take part in the BI U – 18 National Cup. No U16 player can take part in Senior National Competition.

4. Basket Height:

It is recommended that 8.5ft baskets are used up to U12 participation. However it is understood that this is not feasible in all venues and it is acceptable that 10ft baskets are used. In the use of 10ft baskets up to and including U-12, the free throw line should be marked 2ft closer to the basket.

5. Defence:

To assist the proper technical development of young players, ZONE defence is not allowed in U12, U14 A League & U12, U14 & U16 Development Competition. Following the basic man – to – man principles, each defensive player is responsible for an offensive player. The Defensive 3 second rule applies –

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defensive_three-second_violation.

The offending team should be warned on the first incidence and the penalty for non – compliance after the warning is a technical foul awarded to the offending coach. The technical foul should be recorded as a “B” bench technical foul rather than a “C” coach technical foul.

6. Minimum Number of Players:

The minimum number of players up to and including U14 competition is 10 players. In the event of a team having less than 10 players by the start of the second quarter, the team will lose the game by forfeit (20 – 0) and be awarded 1 point at the start of the game. The other team shall be awarded three points regardless of the final score in the game. Where two teams have less than 10 players the game is played and each team is awarded 1 point. Overtime: Any five players may play in overtime.

Team Numbers:

- U9 – U13: No maximum to the number of players who can play
- U14 Onwards: 12 players can play in any game.

If teams have more than 12 players, agreement should be sought between coaches to play more than 12.

The minimum number of players at U14 or below is 10.

U16 and U18 teams must field at least 5 players.

7. Defensive Press

U11's U12's can only press in the 4th Quarter. Teams must retreat to the backcourt after a score or a dead ball in the first three quarters.

U13's can press in the 2nd half. Teams must retreat to the backcourt after a score or a dead ball in the first half.

U14's can press for the start of the game

Teams cannot press if they are winning by 15 points or more.

8. Players:

If a club has two teams in the same league [A and B sections based on ability], a player in Division A may not play for Division B.

Where a club has two teams in the same league [or division], players cannot move between teams.

9. Leagues:

A minimum of six teams must be registered for a league. A division two league will only take place if there are sufficient teams in the first division.

10. Cross-over games.

In the event of a league structure with cross over games between Division 1 and 2, the Division 1 team must field their weaker team. They may play less than ten players for this game.

If a Division 1 team forfeits the game, a one point deduction will occur.

11. Complaints and Appeals:

Please refer to BNI General Leagues and Competitions Rules.

12. Uniforms:

Please refer to BNI General Leagues and Competitions Rules.

Bibs may be used by the home team in the event of a clash of colours.

13. Referees

Please refer to BNI General Leagues and Competitions Rules.

14. MVP

Each Club will nominate an All-Star from each registered junior team at the end of the season

15. LEAGUE POSITIONS

The top team of each division in each league will receive the BNI league title.

The top four teams in each league will qualify for the BNI Cup Playoffs with 1st vs 4th, 2nd vs 3rd in the Semi-Finals with the winners of each game proceeding with the final.

The top two teams in each league will have home advantage in the semi-finals.