

London Basketball Nation Official Rulebook

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COMPLAINTS

1 Purpose of the Procedure

1.1 To establish a complaints procedure for London Basketball Nation.

2 Why Do We Take Notice of Complaints?

2.1 Complaints must be taken into consideration to ensure that London Basketball Nation renders the best potential services to its participants. Complaints assist us in improving our services for members and also inspire us to make changes and revamps across the organisation.

2.2 Complaints should be regarded as criticism against the franchise as an entity. As much as we strive for perfection, inevitably there will be times where the expectations are not met. It is imperative to recognise the frustration and feelings from the source of the complaint.

2.3 Everyone has a right to lodge a complaint regardless of their membership status.

3 How to Respond to Complaints

3.1 Every officer working for London Basketball Nation is responsible of conducting the procedure.

The procedure relies on all staff playing their role in being amenable, fair, righteous and reconciliatory in their approach. This procedure can be truly implemented only by the means of the aforementioned qualities.

3.2 All London Basketball Nation staff are asked to:

Act on complaints

- Respect the confidentiality of complaints
- Listen to members and non-members and take their complaints seriously

- Treat members and non-members fairly regardless of whether they complain or not
- Provide advice and support to those members and non-members wishing to submit a complaint

- Act upon the findings of complaints investigations to better services

3.3 All members and non-members can expect London Basketball Nation to:

- Inform those who have been complained about
- Provide training in handling, receiving and encouraging complaints
- Advise staff on the outcomes of complaints

4 Receiving Complaints

4.1 Any member of staff may be approached by a complainant as the first point of contact. Complaints can be received by letter, email or in person via letter. Complainants do not need to be able to write to make complaints.

4.2 The key information to collect is:

- The complainant's name, address and other contact details
- The name of the member or non-member they represent, if the complainant is acting on their behalf
- The subject of the complaint
- Club and location details
- A breakdown of the complaint into individual points

Full details of any complaint should be accurately recorded by staff upon reception.

4.3 As the initial point of contact, staff are in a vital position to resolve issues instantly. If the complaint can be tackled on the spot with a swift and satisfactory conclusion, the staff members are expected to provide it.

4.3 Complainants should be told:

- That LBN Committee is available to discuss the issue further
- That the outcome might differ from their expectations, but a full response will be given
- That there is a three stage procedure

5 What do Complainants Seek?

5.1 Identifying the complainant's desired outcome is essential. Objectives may include but are not limited to:

- An apology
- An assurance that LBN will respond aptly
- Ensuring there will not be a repeat of the incident
- More information (e.g. why a decision was made)
- Being taken seriously and acknowledgment of views/opinions

6 When Does it Qualify as a Complaint?

6.1 The standard definition of a complaint reads:

"Any expression of dissatisfaction that needs a response"

6.2 A complaint should not be indistinguishable from other forms of dissatisfaction. Other representations could include requests for advice, comments, or suggestions. If in doubt, all derivatives must be deemed complaints and treated accordingly.

6.3 Staff members should be solution-oriented in their responses. All officers should work towards a constructive solutions that will ideally benefit all parties, while taking into account the complainant's wishes and the full extent of the events.

6.4 If a matter is trivial or simply solved, and yet a member insists on it being registered as a complaint, it still qualifies as a complaint.

7 Complaints Procedure

7.1 The formal process comprises 3 stages. The first stage presents an opportunity for a local resolution of any problems and it is anticipated that the complaints will predominantly be settled at this level. Where this is not applicable, stage 2 of the process will come into play, which involves the investigation of the complaint by the LBN Committee. A third stage of the procedure will entail an impartial review of the complaint and its investigation at stages 1 and 2.

8 Stages of the Procedure

Stage 1 – Local Resolution of Complaints

8.1 This is an informal stage. The aim is to sort out the problem by the staff with the greatest knowledge of the particular situation.

8.2 All officers should be responsive to complaints and attempt to accept them without taking it as personal criticism or threat. Those staff directly involved are the most suitable to address complaints informally, while maintaining healthy relationships with the member or non-member.

8.3 Where a complaint is received by a representative of LBN it must be recorded, even if it can be resolved informally. A complaints form should be used to record the complaint, the action taken to deal with it and whether or not the complainant is satisfied with the outcome. A copy of the form should be sent to the LBN Committee as soon as possible after the complaint has been made.

8.4 If the complaint is not resolved at the time it was made, then, except for minor issues, the LBN Committee should be notified. The utmost effort should be made to respond within 3 working days. In any event, a letter of acknowledgement; e-mail or other response must be sent out to the complainant within 3 working days and a record should be kept of that contact.

8.5 Every effort should be made to resolve the complaint as promptly as possible within 28 working days. The response to the complainant should be recorded. LBN Directors will also be informed via monitoring of the complaints process via regular reporting by the LBN Committee.

Stage 2 - Formal Investigation

8.6 When it has not proved possible to resolve the complaint informally, the complainant may request for their complaint to be investigated by the LBN Committee. This is Stage 2 of the Complaints Procedure.

8.7 The main objective of this stage is to consider any parts of the complaint that are still unresolved by using an Investigating Officer.

8.8 All complaints which proceed to Stage 2 must be recorded. A response to acknowledge reception of the complaint must be sent to the complainant within 3 working days.

8.9 Investigating Officer will conduct an investigation.

8.10 Investigating Officer should get in touch with the complainant and agree their complaint which should be recorded in writing. Following their investigation Investigating Officer will submit a report. A written response is made to a Stage 2 complaint, preferably within 28 days of its receipt.

8.11 In those instances where a resolution is unlikely to be reached within this time limit, the complainant and the LBN Directors must be informed. There must be a full written response within three months of the Stage 2 complaint being registered.

8.12 The response to the Complainant should urge them to ask for a review given they remain dissatisfied. A time limit (7 days would be reasonable) should be suggested for them to request

this, after which it will be assumed that they are satisfied with the outcome of the investigation.

Stage 3 - Review of Complaint

8.13 If a complainant remains dissatisfied with the outcome of the full investigation; they may request a review of their complaint, which will fundamentally be the review of the whole process. This will not restrain the ability of LBN Committee to investigate further, if they have doubts about the definitive outcome.

8.15 LBN Committee will have access to all records relevant to the complaint and will form an opinion on the matter.

8.16 LBN Committee will provide a report to LBN Directors. A response to the complainant will be sent from the LBN Committee.

8.17 Should a complainant remain dissatisfied with the decisions or actions taken, their final course of action would be litigation.

9 What Does Not Qualify as a Complaint?

9.1 LBN complaints procedure does not apply when:

- The complaint is in regard to actions and decisions of another organisation, agency or entity
- It includes matters which should be dealt with under other proceedings such as:
 - Disciplinary proceedings
 - Grievance procedure
 - National or Local League Rules or regulations
 - Criminal investigation where court action is pending
 - Where legal advice recommends that the complainant is not capable of understanding the findings of the investigation
 - Contractual disputes
 - Where the service user has already taken the same complaint through to Stage 3 of the complaints procedure and the Chief Executive has provided recommendations.
 - Child Protection or Safeguarding

9.2 Where a complainant wishes to make an anonymous complaint, they should be informed that their concern will be recorded and considered by LBN. However, it is impossible for a complaints investigation to proceed without being able to verify the recipient.

10 Other Channels

10.1 Nothing in these procedures will prevent a member from raising concerns via other channels. In all circumstances, LBN will attempt to achieve resolution in a consistent manner with the official procedure.

10.2 The LBN Committee will advise the London Region of Basketball England.

11 Child Protection and Safeguarding

11.1 The above procedure lays out the process for complaints. In the sensitive area of child protection and safeguarding, the relevant policy and procedures will apply. However any matter in relation to child protection should be immediately reported to the LBN Committee. All incidents of injury to a young person/vulnerable adult, discrimination, victimization and racial, homophobic content should be passed directly to the LBN Committee.

12 Conclusion

12.1 The procedure establishes the method for handling complaints. Any complaint will normally be admitted through the procedure.

12.2 The application of this policy is the key to its success.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

1 Fundamental Principles

1.1 Disciplinary cases are often inevitable results stemming from the competitive spirit of the sport of basketball. Hence it is apt and essential to establish a set of rules to handle potential incidents. London Basketball Nation is fully aware that every single case requires a distinctive evaluation of all circumstances with a professional approach. LBN vows to deliver this promise throughout its existence.

2 Disciplinary guidelines

2.1 Regulation 49.7 of the Basketball England regulations denotes that a system of cumulative "penalty points" will apply, and a one-game suspension is automatically served whenever a person's total penalty points reaches (or exceeds) each of the following totals: 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, etc. LBN abides by these standards.

2.2 The tables in the section "Disciplinary Procedures" are to be used as guidelines to determine the condign penalties for the given improper conduct. While they are a valid representation of the overall system, the Disciplinary Committee will have the discretion of superseding the existing regulations if deemed necessary.

2.3 The after disqualification points column pertains to actions taken after a participant has been disqualified, which will give them at least a one game ban, they will then get additional points on top of the points normally received for the 'act' of disqualification.

2.4 The Disciplinary Guidelines will also apply to Spectators and Team Followers of their respective clubs.

3 Appeals

3.1 Any Club or individual may appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee by submitting an appeal as follows:

3.1.1 The grounds for the appeal must be submitted by the appellant in writing or via email to London Basketball Nation within seven days of the appellant being informed of the corresponding decision or the date of any incident incurring automatic disciplinary points.

3.1.2 The committee will review the appeal submission and determine the validity of the appeal. A personal hearing may be arranged by the Disciplinary Committee to obtain further information.

3.1.3 Any decision will be final and conclusive on the parties.

4 Timeline

4.1 The following timeline displays a guideline of the disciplinary process. This is merely an example.

Saturday Incident occurs

Sunday Incident occurs

Monday Reports received (must be sent through by Tuesday 12:00PM to be processed)

Tuesday Notification of the process and officials reports sent to club

Wednesday

Thursday Deadline for teams to submit reports

Friday Examination and evaluation by Disciplinary Committee

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday Disciplinary outcome sent to club(s) (deadline for clubs to submit appeal is set as 48 hours following notification)

Wednesday

Thursday Suspension Letters issued

Friday

Saturday Suspension enforced

Sunday Suspension enforced

5 Disciplinary procedures

5.1 Outstanding suspensions Any suspension which remains unserved at the end of a season resulting from these disciplinary procedures must be served at the beginning of the following season. Participant must be fully licensed and registered with their club to be eligible to serve the suspension.

5.2 Re-arranged matches The Disciplinary Committee will have authoritative power to omit a game from the suspension if they're convinced the underlying reason of the game's arrangement is to fulfil the person's suspension.

5.3 Disqualifications & Violent conduct Where a player, coach or official is disqualified by the

referees, he/she must leave the venue and take no further part in the game (spectating is not allowed).

LBN will not tolerate violent conduct of any kind, regardless of the context. Where a person registered with LBN is discovered to have committed an assault on another player, coach, official, referee and/or spectator, the person will be suspended according to the disciplinary regulations. LBN will reserve the right to present the name and details of the person associated with the violent act to the authorities for further legal action.

5.4 Grading & Description of misconducts There are five grades for each misconduct, severity ascending from Grade 1 to Grade 5.

The following tables demonstrate the penalties to be inflicted on the concerned parties.

PLAYERS/COACHES

Grade	Incident	Penalty Points	After Disqualification Points	Not Disqualified Points	Fine
5	- Violent conduct (excessive violent behaviour)	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Up to £5000
4	- Violent Conduct 2 (Pre-mediated physical violence) - Verbal Abuse 3 (Continuous & Aggressive Abuse)	8-21 Added		15+	Up to £700
3	· Violent Conduct 1 (Physical Retaliation) · General Improper Conduct	5-10 Added		9-15	Up to £300
2	- Verbal abuse (excessive foul language)	3-8 Added		4-12	Up to £100
1	- Unsportsmanlike conduct - Verbal Abuse 1 (Obscene/Foul Language)	0-3 Added		5-10	N/A

OFFICIALS

Incident	Penalty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical violence - Racist, homophobic, sexist, discriminatory attack - Sexual harassment - Theft and/or fraud - Substance abuse - Drunken conduct 	<p>Lifetime ban from all LBN and Basketball England sanctioned games/events</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verbal abuse - Obscene language - Physical/verbal threats 	<p>Fixed period suspension from all Basketball England licensed activities</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Granting permission to players or coaches without required authorisation to partake in the fixture. - Breach of Match Officials Code of Conduct - Failing to remove disqualified members of teams from the venue - Failing to submit a disciplinary report within the deadline or at all. - Arriving less than 20 minutes prior to the scheduled top off time or failing to fulfill a nomination without a valid reason. - Failing to correct a score sheet that leads to a mistake in the final score. - Failure to ensure that disqualified players/coaches are ejected from the venue. 	<p>4th Offence - Fixed period suspension from all Basketball England licensed activities & £75 fine</p> <p>3rd Offence - Final Warning. No officiating appointments for 4 weeks & a £50 fine</p> <p>2nd Offence -Written Warning. No officiating appointments for 2 weeks</p> <p>1st Offence- Verbal Warning. No officiating appointments for 1 week</p>

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

1 General Principles

Code of Ethics and Conduct applies to everyone that partakes in the activities of London Basketball Nation. All participants have a responsibility to display the highest standards of integrity in their actions and to play their part in retaining the respectable reputation of basketball.

London Basketball Nation is devoted to maintaining the highest possible standards of ethics and behavioural conduct, therefore a set of principles has been entrenched to be satisfied at all times by the concerned parties:

1.1 All participants must treat everyone equally regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural or social background, sexual orientation, religious belief, political affiliation, or any other personal characteristic/feature. Violent, offensive, or discriminatory behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Unequivocal rules have been put in place for potential offenders to be expelled from the organisation upon violation of our fundamental principles.

1.2 All participants carry the responsibility of treating others with dignity, respect, sensitivity, and fairness.

1.3 It is a mission for everyone to make it a safe and enjoyable environment for younger participants and vulnerable adults

2 Coaches

2.1 All coaches who are affiliated to London Basketball Nation must accept their responsibility to the participants, their families, to coaching and to LBN affiliated associations through the Code of Conduct.

2.2 All affiliated coaches agree to:

- Prioritise the safety and wellbeing of all individuals in their charge
- Ensure their treatment of individuals is not misconstrued of favouritism, misconduct, or impropriety

- Endorse the essential boundaries in the working relationship between coach and player, especially regarding under-18 players. Coaches must discourage any attempt by a player to initiate an intimate relationship, explaining the ethical basis of the refusal
- Plan their training and minutes allocation with careful consideration to their players' physical and mental wellbeing
- Encourage players to accept responsibility and consequences for their own actions
- Encourage Coaches to be appropriately qualified as per the requirements of the Basketball England Coach Education Programme

- Respect the rights of players to choose to decline to participate within coaching or playing situations, never force or exploit them
- Declare any affiliation, sponsorship, or accreditation honestly and accurately
- Abide by all rules and policies of London Basketball Nation
- Hold a clear Enhanced DBS check when in a position of regulated activity.
- Comply with all safeguarding and first aid policies and procedures including submitting Self-Declaration forms when necessary.
- Promote prevention and education regarding the misuse of performance enhancing drugs and illegal substances
- Declare any history where you were disciplined, dismissed, cautioned, warned or convicted of any offence relating to children/young people/vulnerable adults on a Self-Declaration form submitted to the LBN Committee
- Whilst working under the jurisdiction of LBN will only coach individuals that are registered with LBN & Basketball England.
- Comply with the confidentiality of information policies
- Never smoke, consume alcohol or be intoxicated while coaching
- Never use foul, sexist, homophobic or racist language or resort to violence
- Refrain from public criticism of other coaches or match officials
- Refrain from posting negative or derogatory comments on social media about other clubs, coaches or officials
- Refrain from posting any comments on social media to defame London Basketball Nation or Basketball England

3 Data Protection

3.1 London Basketball Nation and its representatives have a legal obligation to our members and our employees to handle data sensitively, ensure that it is secure and that it is destroyed when no longer needed. An automatic expulsion will ensue upon obtaining or using data without the consent of LBN for any coach or individual.

4 Approaching players already registered with another club

4.1 'Player poaching' is a serious offence. It is deemed unethical to make direct contact with any player currently registered with another club with an ulterior motive to recruit them to play for your club. A disciplinary protocol will be carried out upon the discovery of such misconduct.

5 Protocols for Recruitment

- All clubs, coaches, representatives or players must act reasonably and with complete transparency when recruiting a player.
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 - Recruitment of any player should only occur outside or after the preceding season or prior to the upcoming season.
 - During a season, a player can only be recruited when the player has not signed for any other club for that current season.
- The only consent that must be sought throughout the recruitment process is the concerned player's consent to be recruited. The club, its coach and its representatives will have no say in dictating the player's present and future.

Since LBN encourages interteam relations, player movement could play a key role in this. Players have the freedom to approach other clubs to seek for information and attend to their tryouts during the offseason.

6 Players

6.1 All affiliated players agree to:

- Treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or political affiliation
- Treat their teammates and opponents, coaches, club officials and match officials with respect and consideration at all times
- Not use foul, sexist, racist, homophobic language or offensive gestures at any time
- Know and abide by the rules and spirit of the game
- Refrain from violence and reckless play to avoid injuries
- Accept the decisions of the match officials without question, excessive gestures or harsh complaint (let the captain or coach ask the necessary questions)
- Abide by the instructions of the coach and club officials, given they do not contradict the spirit of this Code of Ethics and Conduct or the rules of basketball
- Not attempt to improve individual performance through the use of banned substances
- Denounce the use of recreation and performance enhancing drugs and abide by all anti-doping requirements

- Concentrate on the game, do not react/respond to unwarranted criticism from spectators, parents, opposition coaches or opposition club officials. Raise any concerns calmly and professionally to the match officials to respond, deal and report
- Be a good sport, applaud and appreciate all good performance, whether by your team or by the opponent
- Shake hands in a cordial manner with the opponents and match officials at the end of every single game regardless of the result
- Do their best to communicate in English Language as much as possible during games, both to their teammates and the referees, officials and opposing team.
Referees reserve the right to penalise verbal abuse that occurs in any other language.

7 Match Officials (Referees & Table officials)

7.1 All affiliated match officials must:

- Treat everyone equally and sensitively, regardless of their disability, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion, age or political affiliation
- Not tolerate foul, sexist, homophobic or racist language
- Only officiate in games where all individuals are registered to LBN
- Be honest, consistent, unbiased, impartial and courteous when applying the rules of the game. Officials must withstand any possible influence or pressure from protests on the part of participants or spectators of the game
- Claim any affiliation, sponsorship or accreditation in a truthful and accurate manner
- Show patience and tolerance towards players who may be relatively new to the game and not unnerve them
- Make every effort to prepare fully for a game, both physically and mentally
- Ensure focus is maintained at all times, do not be distracted by mobile phones or personal devices unless identified prior to the game and are used to benefit the game
- Decline to be appointed to a fixture if not completely physically or mentally fit to participate and justify your decision to LBN representatives
- Have regard to protecting the players by enforcing the laws of the sport
- Show respect when speaking with participants in the game, even in the event of violations
- In reports, lay out the true facts and omit personal feelings
- Refrain from public criticism of fellow officials or the organisation itself
- Aid the development of your less experienced peers
- Declare any history or instances where you were disciplined, dismissed, cautioned, warned or convicted of any offence relating to children/young people/vulnerable adults on a Self-Declaration form submitted to the LBN Committee.

8 Club Officials

8.1 All club officials agree to:

- Treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religious belief or political affiliation
- Not use foul, sexist, homophobic or racist language
- Use your official position to take action against any club member or spectator who harasses, abuses or uses foul, sexist, homophobic or racist language
- Accept the responsibilities of the role that you have to set a good example of behaviour and conduct at all times and promote ethical principles
- Ensure your club is aware of and follows best practice guidelines to safeguard young people and vulnerable adults
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- Ensure that proper supervision is provided by suitably qualified coaches and officials who are capable of promoting good sporting behaviour and good technical skills
- Ensure all equipment and facilities meet safety standards
- Resist all illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques
- Encourage all players and coaches to abide by the rules and spirit of the game and do not manipulate the rules in order to benefit yourself personally or your club
- Show respect to match officials, coaches, players and others involved in the game
- Do not attempt to tamper with the result of a game by any actions that are not strictly within the rules
- Downplay the importance of individual and team awards
- Always have regard to the best interests of basketball, including where publicly expressing an opinion of the game, others involved and any particular aspect of it
- Accept the decisions of match officials regardless of the outcome

9 Spectators

9.1 All spectators of games agree to:

- Do not use offensive, discriminatory or obscene language or gestures. Do not harass or verbally abuse players, coaches, match officials or fellow spectators in any form
- Treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or political affiliation
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms and refrain from any violent or aggressive behaviour
- Show respect for opponents and match officials
- Acknowledge and appreciate good performance and fair play by opponents as well as by your own team
- Remember the players are taking part for their enjoyment and not yours
- Not ridicule or belittle players who make mistakes. Main objective is to encourage people to play the game, not succeed
- Not overemphasise the importance of winning and lose sight
- Not enter the court unless authorised by officials

10 Young People

10.1 There are additional requirements for how young people should be treated by adults and how young people should treat their peers.

10.1.1 Adults to young people:

- Be aware of how your language and behaviour may have an effect and ensure you do not use foul language, humiliate or bully any young person
- Make sure you are fully aware of and follow the latest guidance on working with young people
- Treat everyone with respect and dignity, recognising the additional needs or disadvantages of those with disabilities or from minority backgrounds
- Set a good example as young people will learn from you;
- Make sure disciplinary actions are non violent/humiliating and use rewards, praise and acknowledgment to reinforce good behaviour
- Listen and act if a young person tells you they're being bullied or abused

10.1.2 Young people to each other should:

- Never bully, spread rumours or tell lies about other young people
- Welcome and include new players whatever their background or ability
- Control your emotions - verbal or physical abuse is not acceptable at any time
- Don't show off or try to humiliate/belittle other players
- Don't ridicule or blame teammates who make mistakes
- Make sure you tell your coach/parents if another young person confides in you and you think they need help

11 Anti-Doping

11.1 London Basketball Nation denounces and is totally against performance enhancing drug use in the sport of basketball. All involved in basketball must:

- Familiarise themselves with the UK Anti-Doping Rules
- Take sole responsibility for all foods, medications and supplements taken
- Be aware of the implications and penalties in place for a positive doping test result
- Beware disciplinary action may be taken for criminal conviction for possession or use of drugs

12 Possible Penalties

12.1 In associating or licensing with LBN, everyone agrees to abide by this Code of Ethics and Conduct and all of LBN's policies and procedures. LBN therefore has the right to investigate and take disciplinary action against any alleged or suspected breach of this Code of Ethics and Conduct and any breach which may sully the reputation of the game of basketball.

The following sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of Basketball England on any individual or club/academy/institution/team/coach/player. Sanctions may be used in combination where deemed appropriate and where there has been a repeat offense: A warning; a fine; forfeiture of game(s); temporary, permanent or indefinite suspension; removal from post; ban from participating or attending any match under the jurisdiction of LBN.

COMPETITIONS

1 General Regulations

1.1 London Basketball Nation has the sole responsibility and jurisdiction of arranging fixtures for the participating teams. A league will be proclaimed as official upon confirmation of the games schedule.

1.2 The format of any league is subject to change if deemed necessary. Any potential tweaks in the format will be run by the participating clubs before implementation.

1.3 The official FIBA Rulebook will be deployed for all levels and competitions. FIBA's periodical updates concerning basketball rules will also be incorporated instantly.

2 Eligibility

2.1 All players, coaches and representatives of clubs will have to register with Basketball England and London Basketball Nation to be eligible for LBN competitions. Once this is completed, no further action will be required to partake in games.

2.2 The minimum age to participate in LBN and affiliated organisations is 18 for all levels and competitions.

2.3 Men's Divisions will only allow male players, while Women's Divisions will operate with female players. All genders are eligible for Mixed Divisions. Coaches and other representatives can be elected from any gender or sexual identity irrespective of the type of competition.

3 Team Uniforms

3.1 All clubs are obliged to have two sets of jerseys to preclude a potential colour overlap. Home team will play with a light colour (white, yellow, pink and derivatives) and away team will wear dark coloured (black, brown, grey and derivatives) jerseys.

3.2 Tops and bottoms of team jerseys will have identical colours. No other colour will be accepted.

3.3 Jersey tops will have discernible numbers changing from 00 to 99 both on the front and on the back. Numbers will be either embroidered or printed - not drawn or marked.

POSTPONEMENTS, WITHDRAWALS, EXPULSIONS, FORFEITS & DEFAULTS

1-Fixtures may not be cancelled or postponed unless there is exceptionally inclement weather, transport strike or circumstances out of the participants' control. Play-off and cup fixtures cannot be postponed once published.

2-Any team that considers they have grounds for postponement must get permission from the league secretary. The Club Secretary will inform the league secretary (in his absence, the vice-secretary) of any postponement with at least two (2) weeks notice.

The communication about a postponement can be verbal but must be confirmed in writing (email or letter). Failure to comply with this policy will incur a fine of £50 per fixture and rearranging costs.

3-The requesting club must rearrange the game within fourteen days of the original date and inform the league secretary of the new date. The league may charge the requesting club court booking and officiating fees.

4-The decision to suspend or not to initiate a game relies on the Referee/Crew Chief only, as per FIBA regulations. League officials may decide to suspend or not to initiate a game if the decision is in the best interest of the league.

5- The league will impose fines to teams for the following:

- Losing a game by forfeit (i.e. arriving more than 15 minutes to a scheduled tip-off, failing to have 5 eligible players or not turning up at all). The team responsible will pay a £50 fine.

- A team will be expelled from the competition once they have forfeited three games during the season. The team will be liable to pay the full league fee and fines regardless of the number of games they have played.

- Each disqualification or disciplinary incident (pre-game, post-game) will be dealt with according to the current Disciplinary Handbook.

- Each player not wearing a matching uniform as per League rules, will get a warning. Up to a maximum of 2 per season. After the second offense, the player will not be able to play unless he/she complies with the uniform code and the club pays a £10 fine.

- Each player, coach or official who requests a second registration card in the season, £10 per card.

6-All communication between the league and the clubs will be between the league secretary and the club secretary. The league website and email are the preferred means of communication to send fixtures, updates or any official message.

7- The League has a zero tolerance policy towards verbal, physical, racist or homophobic abuse or threats of any kind towards anybody participating in the game or any other kind of unsportsmanlike behaviour. Acts of racial, physical, homophobic assault/insult or threats will result in the perpetrator(s) being banned from all competitions for the whole season at least.

8- Any club that withdraws from the league will be liable to pay the full fee and any other fee or fine that may apply.