



BASKETBALL New Zealand

REGULATIONS

BOOK 4

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS REGULATIONS

(Updated 5 March 2026)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1 - PURPOSE OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS REGULATION	3
PART 2 - ELIGIBILITY	3
PART 3 - LEAGUES AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER AND TOUR CLEARANCES.....	7
PART 4 - PLAYERS' AGENTS	7
PART 5 - BBNZ REFEREES AND TECHNICAL OFFICIALS	8
PART 6 - BBNZ COACHING QUALIFICATIONS AND PATHWAY	9
PART 7 - BREACH OF BOOK 4	10
BOOK 4 APPENDICES	11
Appendix A – Representative Player Trial Process	11

BOOK FOUR – PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS REGULATIONS

PART 1 - PURPOSE OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS REGULATION

- 1.1 The purpose of this Players and Officials Regulation is to bring together under one regulation the various rules and regulations of BBNZ relating to the eligibility and other requirements of, or related to, players, coaches, officials and referees which are required by, or consistent with, FIBA Statutes and FIBA Internal Regulations.

PART 2 - ELIGIBILITY

2.1 General Principles

- a. Each Affiliated Association or School which enters a team or teams in a BBNZ Competition is responsible for ensuring its players are eligible at all times and will bear the consequences of any breach of these Regulations.
- b. To be eligible to enter and participate in a BBNZ Competition (other than BBNZ School, Wheelchair and Tertiary Competitions, the NBLs), a player must:
 - i. be a member of BBNZ, by virtue of being a current financial member of an Affiliated Association; and,
 - ii. be a New Zealand citizen, except that a player whose nationality is not New Zealand (a foreign player), may participate in BBNZ Competitions provided that the player has been a resident in New Zealand 90 days before the commencement of the relevant competition.
 - iii. be living in New Zealand, except that where a player who is a New Zealand citizen and is otherwise eligible in all respects has recently returned from overseas, the player must have been in New Zealand for a minimum of 28 days before the commencement of the relevant competition. Such players are only eligible to play for the Affiliated Association they were registered with, within two years of the tournament, prior to departing overseas.
 - iv. Players who are exempt to the 28 day rule:
 - Any player who meets the criteria for being a ‘full time’ student at an overseas high school or tertiary institution
 - Any player who has lived overseas to play in a foreign National Basketball League within two years of the tournament.
 - v. Any player who has been granted an exemption from the 28 day rule is only eligible to play for the Affiliated Association they were registered with prior to departing overseas.
 - vi. The players Affiliated Association must apply in writing to the BBNZ Tournament Lead for this exemption at least 14 days prior to the start of the tournament.
- c. A player wishing to play in a BBNZ School Competition must satisfy the eligibility requirements of the School Sports New Zealand rules and regulations ([found here](#)).
- d. A player wishing to play in the NBLs must satisfy the eligibility requirements decided by the League and as set out in the Competition Regulation (Book 3),
- e. A player who is selected to represent an Affiliated Association is a Representative Player. Representative Players must be eligible (under Regulation 2.1(a)) and may only represent the Affiliated Association in the Area of the player’s usual residence, in accordance with this Regulation.
- f. If a player is a bona fide, full time student at a school or tertiary institution situated outside of the Area of the Affiliated Association, the player may choose to represent one of either:
 - i. the Affiliated Association in the Area in which the School or tertiary institution is situated; or
 - ii. the Affiliated Association in the Area of his/her usual residence.
 - iii. For the purposes of this clause, as a guide, a player is a “full time” student at a tertiary education, if he/she is enrolled and is physically attending classes at least four days per week outside the Zone of his/her usual residence. If in doubt, Affiliated Associations should seek BBNZ advice.

- g. Eligibility to be a Representative Player is determined as at 90 days before the commencement of the relevant BBNZ competition in which he/she is playing.
- h. It is expected and within the spirit of the game, that players make themselves available for selection for competitions of their club, their Affiliated Association, and their national team.
- i. Where a Player is eligible to represent more than one Affiliated Association, they may choose which Affiliated Association they wish to play for (Association "A") but may not transfer to the other Association that they are also eligible to play for (Association "B") for a period of at least two years from the date of registration with Association A.
- j. If a player has moved into new Association catchment, they may choose to remain with the current Affiliated Association they are registered to, rather than transferring to the new one, as long as they have been with their currently affiliated association for a minimum of two years.
- k. To avoid any doubt which players are eligible to represent an Affiliated Association, Affiliated Associations must share their Player Trial lists within their zone along with dates of their trials, prior to trials taking place.
- l. A Representative Player can only present themselves at trials for Representative Team at the Affiliated Association for which they are eligible to represent. Appendix A details the Representative Player Trial Process

2.2 Age Eligibility

- a. Subject to Regulation 2.2(a)(vi) the following age restrictions apply to BBNZ Competitions (unless stated otherwise as specified in Regulation 2.2(b) of this Regulation):
 - i. For Under 14 competitions, players must be aged either 11, 12 or 13 years as at 31 December in the year in which the competition is held;
 - ii. For Under 16 competitions, players must be aged either 13, 14, or 15 years as at 31 December in the year in which the competition is held;
 - iii. For Under 18 competitions, players must be aged either 15, 16, or 17 years as at 31 December in the year in which the competition is held.
 - iv. For Under 20 competitions, players must be aged either 17,18 or 19 years as at 31 December in the year in which the competition is held. BBNZ, on application by an Affiliated Association, and in its sole discretion, may allow any player selected for a New Zealand national team who is under 17 years of age, to play in an Under 20 competition.
 - v. For the NBLs and other BBNZ Leagues, all players must be aged 15 years on the first day that the competition commences.
- b. BBNZ will consider applications from Affiliated Associations where a player is a member of a New Zealand national team in that calendar year, to play in a tournament above their usual age group. Only these players may be exempt from regulation 2.2a.
- c. BBNZ may modify the eligibility and age criteria for BBNZ Competitions from time to time, however in the absence of any express variation as stated in the competition rules, this regulation shall apply.

2.3 Association Representative Player Transfer

- a. Where a player is seeking to play for an Affiliated Association in a BBNZ Competition other than the Association they have previously played for (Transferring Association), the Affiliated Association seeking to have that player in its representative team (Receiving Association) must:
 - i. ensure the player is eligible to play under these Regulations;
 - ii. complete Online Transfer on GameDay, that complies with Regulation 2.3(b) below.
 - iii. have the approval of the Transferring Association, via GameDay, within 14 days prior to the start of the tournament.
 - iv. The Transferring Association cannot withhold such approval unless any of the grounds specified in Regulation 2.3(d) of this Regulation apply.
- b. Affiliated Associations are to manage all applications from players seeking to transfer Associations using the GameDay "Request for Transfer" feature.
- c. The deadline(s) for player applications is 14 days prior to the start of the tournament.

Where a transfer cannot be agreed between Affiliated Associations, the player seeking to transfer may forward his/her application to the Tournament Lead at BBNZ via email that will, in their sole and absolute discretion, determine the outcome of the application. BBNZ Tournament Lead must seek the views of both Affiliated Associations and the player on the transfer application, before making any decision. There is no further right of appeal from this decision. BBNZ Tournament Lead may deny an application on any ground including (but not limited to) where BBNZ Tournament Lead determines that the player:

- i. has debts owing to BBNZ or to the Transferring Association or
 - ii. has property of the Transferring Association or BBNZ that has not been returned or
 - iii. is involved in any disciplinary or judicial matters that are pending.
- d. As per 2.1i a player who transfers may not transfer to another association for 2 years. However, Basketball New Zealand recognises that exceptional circumstances may arise. Accordingly, associations may submit a formal request for dispensation on behalf of a player who has transferred within the preceding two years, provided that the request is supported by valid and substantiated reasons. Basketball New Zealand will in its sole discretion approve or decline any such dispensations.

2.4 **Loan Players**

- a. An Affiliated Association may have up to a maximum of three loan players from another Affiliated Association for the purposes of competing at a National competition, or the Under 14 Regionals, provided that;
 - i. loan players are not permitted for Qualifying Competitions. The only exception to this rule is if the player falls under one or both of Regulation 2.4aiii prior to the Qualifying Competition;
 - ii. the loan players are from Affiliated Associations that are within the same Zone; and,
 - iii. the player seeking to be loaned, either:
 - following the process set out in Appendix A, actively sought to gain a place in the team of their Affiliated Association but failed to be selected; or
 - their Affiliated Association is not entering a team in that competition. For the purpose of clarity, a tournament with multiple grades counts as one competition, not separate competitions for each grade.
- b. A loan player must have the approval, via the GameDay online system, of the Affiliated Association to which they are registered and the Affiliated Association seeking to play them as a loan player for each BBNZ Competition. Confirmation of such approval must be provided within 14 days prior to the start of the tournament.
- c. A player may loan to a team outside of their current zone if there are no teams entering the tournament from their zone, or if all teams entering from their zone are already at maximum capacity. Applications must be submitted to the BBNZ Tournament Lead via email a minimum of 14 days prior to the start of the tournament. Approved out of zone loan players cannot compete in qualifying competitions outside of their home association's zone.
- d. Affiliated Associations are to manage all applications from players seeking to be a loan player and must use the online GameDay "Request for Transfer" feature.
- e. The deadline(s) for loan player applications is 14 days prior to the start of the tournament.
- f. Where a loan is not agreed between Associations, an appeal may be made by the player to the Tournament Lead of BBNZ who will, in their sole and absolute discretion, determine the outcome of the appeal.
- g. The Tournament Lead of BBNZ may, on application, approve a loan where the home Association has denied a loan request but is not entering a team and there is, in the Tournament Lead's sole opinion, no reasonable reason to deny the player the opportunity.

2.5 **Compliance with Eligibility**

- a. Each Affiliated Association which enters a team or teams in a BBNZ Competition is responsible for ensuring its players are eligible at all times and will bear the consequences of any breach of these Regulations. This also includes but not limited to Affiliated Association trials, pre-season games, zonal events and BBNZ

Competitions.

- b. A player who participates in BBNZ Competitions or other competitions where the player is a Representative Player, must:
 - i. Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence, and act accordingly at all times on the court;
 - ii. Comply with the rules of the BBNZ Competition and all other applicable rules and regulations of BBNZ, FIBA or those of any other authority for the competition.
 - iii. Not engage in Doping, Match Fixing, Betting or Corruption or any other prohibited conduct as set out in BBNZ Regulations;
 - iv. Agree to submit at any time to medical tests and controls, particularly doping controls, carried out in compliance with the BBNZ Regulations.
- c. BBNZ may refuse participation in a BBNZ Competition to players who it considers do not comply with these Regulations, or who are under investigation for any such non-compliance.

2.6 Restrictions on Eligibility

- a. A player may represent only one Affiliated Association at BBNZ Competitions in any one year;
- b. Loan Players are exempt from Regulation 2.6(a) of this Part.
- c. A player may play in only one of the Under 14 Regionals or Under 16 or Under 18 or Under 20 age group BBNZ Competitions, in any one year; and for avoidance of doubt:
 - i. a player may play in any one or more competitions in the same age-group competitions in any one calendar year;
- d. An Under 18 or an Under 20 player may play in their age group in BBNZ competitions in any one calendar year, and also play in the TUPU League in that same calendar year.

2.7 Team Eligibility for BBNZ Competitions

- a. Teams participating in BBNZ Competitions may represent only those Affiliated Associations which are currently affiliated with BBNZ and which are in good financial standing with BBNZ.
- b. No combined or regional or zone teams will be permitted at BBNZ Competitions as per Book 3 regulation 2.2a.
- c. Affiliated Association A and B teams are eligible to qualify for a national competition but not C teams or below.
 - i. Affiliated Association A and B teams can enter Qualifying Competitions. Other teams must enter non Qualifying Competitions.
- d. Affiliated Associations must use their region name along with A and B in the team name. Using colours or any other name is not permitted.
- e. Zones are required to hold Qualifying Competitions (premierships) and must notify BBNZ of the teams who have qualified by the due date outlined in the annual BBNZ Competitions Calendar.
 - i. If a Zone does not provide BBNZ with the qualified teams by the due date, that Zone will not be eligible to compete unless there is clear evidence of extenuating circumstances.
 - ii. If an Association qualifies and then withdraws after the Zone Qualifying notification, they will be liable for the full entry fee.
 - iii. If a Zone does not fill a spot in any given year, then BBNZ has the right to move a spot in both genders for that Age Group for that Zone in the following year. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, BBNZ intends to enforce this rule.
 - iv. If Nationals spots are not filled, then any such tournament may be reduced to 16 team tournaments in the future BBNZ Tournament Reviews.
- f. School Teams in BBNZ School Competitions must comply with eligibility requirements for teams in the School Sports New Zealand rules and regulations (found [here](#)).
- g. Both boys' and girls' teams are eligible to participate unless the competition is gender specific.
- h. BBNZ Transgender Policy can be found on the BBNZ website [here](#) on the BBNZ Policies page.
- i. Only those Teams which have progressed through the qualifying process may take

part in a BBNZ National Tournament (see Competition Regulation, Book 3, Part 2, Regulation 2.2).

- j. As Teams play three or more games, up to 12 registered and verified players may be listed to participate in each Team as players. Refer to Book 3, Regulation 2.14b members in a team shall consist of (the exception being 3x3 tournaments),
- k. For BBNZ Competitions (excluding BBNZ Leagues), once a Team's first game commences, only the playing roster submitted at the technical meeting for that team may participate in the remainder of that competition as players.
- l. If a BBNZ Competition is a Qualifying Competition, there are no restrictions on changes to the playing roster for the subsequent Nationals except that any new player must have been eligible to play for the team at the commencement of the Qualifying Competition and remain eligible throughout the National tournament.
- m. It is the responsibility of the Affiliated Association or School represented by a Team to ensure that players are eligible under these Regulations and the relevant documentation is properly completed before signing and submitting the Team roster to BBNZ.
- n. It is the responsibility of the School Principal to ensure that all eligibility requirements are met for players in the respective school teams participating in BBNZ Competitions including compliance with School Sports New Zealand rules and regulations (found [here](#)).
- o. It is the responsibility of the Affiliated Association or School Principal represented by a Team to supply the necessary documentation to BBNZ to justify the eligibility of any player if such eligibility is questioned.
- p. All Teams contesting BBNZ Competitions for affiliated associations must be coached by a person who has current coaching accreditation to as required within clause 6.1b.
- q. BBNZ may add additional Team entry requirements at its discretion. Any such additional requirements shall be stated in the rules of the competition at the time team entries are open.

PART 3 – LEAGUES AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER AND TOUR CLEARANCES

3.1. Leagues – NBLs

- a. Refer to the NBL's rules and regulations.
- b. Any person who leaves New Zealand to be a student in an overseas high school or college shall on returning to New Zealand be considered a current member of the NBLs in which that person was a member at the time of leaving for overseas, i.e. the person's membership has not lapsed.

3.2 Transfers/Clearances

- a. International
 - i. All international transfers must be in accordance with the Internal Regulations of FIBA.
 - ii. A League shall comply with the FIBA Internal Regulations governing the International Transfer of Players, including the special provisions affecting young players as contained in those Regulations. A player who has been registered elsewhere in the world may not play in a New Zealand-based League unless and until all FIBA international transfer obligations and any requirements of the Immigration Department of New Zealand have been satisfied.
- b. Domestic
 - i. Refer to the Domestic and International clearance procedure.

3.3 Tour Clearance – Inward and Outward

Refer to the Tour Clearance application:

- a. International teams wanting to play in New Zealand must apply for an inward tour clearance.
- b. New Zealand teams wanting to play overseas must apply for an outward tour clearance.

PART 4 – PLAYERS’ AGENTS

4.1 Accreditation of Player Agents

In order to operate as a (basketball) players’ agent within New Zealand, an agent must be accredited by FIBA.

PART 5 – BBNZ REFEREES AND TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

5.1 BBNZ Referees

- a. Qualifications
 - i. The following ranking levels of referee qualification exist within BBNZ:
 - Kiwi Hoops Referee
 - Level 1 Referee
 - Level 2 Referee
 - Level 3 Referee
 - National League Referee
 - ii. These levels exist in ascending order with National League Referee being the highest-graded standard that can be achieved within BBNZ.
 - iii. BBNZ will establish from time to time the level and standard of education and other requirements that must be achieved as a first step before proceeding to the next ranked level.
- b. Obtaining qualifications
 - i. To obtain and keep a particular ranking, candidates must meet the requirements for each level as specified by BBNZ.
- c. Appointment of referees to BBNZ Competitions:
 - i. Nominations or appointments for a referee to attend a BBNZ Competition, must comply with the following guidelines:
 - The referee must be available for the total competition programme.
 - The referee must be accredited at the appropriate level for the competition.
 - Referees who have been identified as showing potential to progress to a higher level of officiating will be considered a high priority for BBNZ Competition appointments.
- d. Responsibility for nomination/ appointment to attend a BBNZ Competition:
 - i. Appointment of referees for individual games at BBNZ Competitions:
 - The appointment of referees to individual games is a matter for the Technical Commissioner appointed for that BBNZ Competition.
 - Referees are considered “neutral” at all BBNZ Competitions. Appointments will be by merit.
 - ii. Travel arrangements:
 - Any reimbursement of travel costs for referees shall be as determined from time to time. Where BBNZ or competition organisers are to pay such costs, then it would be expected that referees would travel via the most reasonable low-cost option.
- e. Duties of BBNZ referees:
 - i. BBNZ referees shall wear the official BBNZ referee uniform, or other such uniform as determined by BBNZ.
 - ii. BBNZ referees represent BBNZ on the court. They are obliged to conduct the games in accordance with the Official Basketball Rules and to comply with the BBNZ Regulations. They must do everything in their power to accomplish their mission in a satisfactory manner.
 - iii. BBNZ referees shall co-operate with the organisers of competitions/ events to ensure the smooth running of the game.
 - iv. If the BBNZ referee feels that it is necessary to make a report on the game, he or she shall do so immediately after the game and hand it to the Technical Commissioner (see Regulation 5.2 below).
 - v. Referees must carry out their tasks satisfactorily as per Official Basketball Rules, the Constitution, and/or the Regulations of BBNZ.

5.2 BBNZ Technical Commissioners and Referee Trainers

- a. BBNZ may appoint Technical Commissioners:
 - i. If appointed, a Technical Commissioner is responsible for the appointment and evaluation of referees during BBNZ Competitions.
 - ii. Fees: Any fees payable shall be as determined from time to time.
- b. Duties of Technical Commissioners:
 - i. Technical Commissioners shall evaluate and assist the referees during the competition. The Technical Commissioner must provide the referees with all new information and guidelines as established by BBNZ.
 - ii. The Technical Commissioner maybe required to be on the BBNZ Technical Committee of the competition and offer technical expertise during any hearings resulting from reports.
- c. BBNZ may appoint Referee Trainers:
 - i. If appointed, a Referee Trainer is responsible for the training of referees as detailed by BBNZ and the Technical Commissioner, during a BBNZ tournament.
 - ii. Fees: Any fees payable shall be as determined from time to time.
- d. Duties of Referee Trainers:
 - i. Referee Trainers shall evaluate and assist the referees during the competition. The Referee Trainer must provide the referees with all new information and guidelines as established by BBNZ.
 - ii. Having completed his or her duties, the Referee Trainer shall assist the Technical Commissioner to make an evaluation on each referee. They shall complete a Referee Trainer report and send electronically to the National Referee Development Manager after the Competition.

PART 6 - BBNZ COACHING QUALIFICATIONS AND PATHWAY

6.1 BBNZ Coach Accreditation

- a. Qualifications:
 - i. The following levels of coach qualification exist within BBNZ:
 - KiwiHoops Level;
 - Community Level (Equivalent to the previous BBNZ level 1); and
 - FIBA World Association of Basketball Coaches (WABC) Level 1, 2 and 3.
 - ii. These levels exist in ascending order with the FIBA WABC Level 3 being the highest graded standard that can be achieved within BBNZ.
 - iii. BBNZ will establish from time to time the level and standard of education and other requirements that must be achieved as a first step before proceeding to the next coach level.
- b. Qualification:
 - i. Level Descriptors:
 - KiwiHoops is the BBNZ coaching requirement to be able to coach athletes in the Primary and Intermediate School space.
 - The Community Course level is the BBNZ coaching (level desirable) requirement to be able to coach in the Secondary School, Club and representative space.
 - FIBA WABC Level 1 is the BBNZ coaching requirement to be able to coach in the BBNZ National age group programme (BBNZ Camps, effective 1 February 2021).
 - FIBA WABC Level 2 is the BBNZ coaching requirement to be able to coach in the Men's and Women's respective NBL competition's and FIBA Age Group Pinnacle events.
 - FIBA WABC Level 3 is the BBNZ coaching requirement for coaches to be able to coach the national Men's and Women's teams (Tall Blacks and Tall Ferns) at a FIBA Pinnacle Event.
- c. Obtaining Qualifications:
 - i. In order to obtain BBNZ coach accreditation at the desired level candidates must:
 - Attend the required course for the respective BBNZ coaching level provided by the local association, regional or national entity.

- Complete all the qualification requirements of the chosen course.
- d. BBNZ Appointed Coach Developers:
- i. BBNZ appointed Coach Developers report directly to the BBNZ National Director Coach Development and are responsible for the delivery of BBNZ coaching courses and curriculum in the regions and ongoing training opportunities for coach participants and potential association/regional coach developers.
 - ii. The BBNZ Coach Developers work with and support the associations and regional entities to plan their annual calendar for coach course delivery.
 - iii. The BBNZ Coach Developer attends 2 annual BBNZ coach developer workshops determined by the BBNZ National Director of Coach Development.
 - iv. Additional association/regional coach developers will be engaged by the BBNZ appointed Coach Developers. Only the BBNZ Coaching Director and FIBA WABC Accredited Coach Instructors (Developers) may deliver the FIBA WABC Level 1, 2 and 3 courses.
 - v. The minimal coach qualification to be able to attend and coach at a BBNZ regional or national age group tournament for 2018 is the 'Community' coach level accreditation and will be compulsory from 2018 onwards.
- e. Coach Requirement BBNZ National Age Group Teams:
- i. The minimum coach qualification to be able to coach a New Zealand representative team competing at a FIBA event is the FIBA WABC Level 3 qualification.

PART 7 - BREACH OF BOOK 4

- 7.1 The enforcement process and sanctions for breach of any regulation in Book 4 can be found in Book 5.

Book 4 Appendices

Appendix A – Representative Player Trial Process

The purpose of this process is to remove and avoid any circumstances where a Representative Player presents for trials at an Affiliated Association which they are ineligible to represent.

Principles:

Principle 1. Representative Players must only trial for an Affiliated Association which they are eligible to play under regulation 2.1 of this book.

Principle 2. Affiliated Associations within a zone must communicate their trial dates with the other Affiliated Associations within their zone.

Principle 3. Players wishing to trial for a Representative must pre-register with the Affiliated Association for which they are eligible to play.

Principle 4. Upon finalizing their trial lists, it is the responsibility of the Affiliated Association conducting the trial to share their trial list with all other Affiliated Associations within their zone.

Principle 5. It is the responsibility of all the other Affiliated Associations within their zone to check the trial list, prior to the trial date, and to raise any eligibility questions directly with the Affiliated Association conducting the trial.

Principle 6. It is the responsibility of the Affiliated Association conducting the trial to inform and educate their coaches and other staff to the eligibility criteria for Representative Players.

Principle 7. If there are no challenges to the Affiliated Associations trial list, then the trial can proceed.

Principle 8. The Representative Player Trial Process must be followed regardless of the spread of trial dates held by Affiliated Associations within a zone.

Principle 9. Any challenges to the trial list that cannot be resolved between Affiliated Associations within a zone must be forwarded to the Tournament Lead for consideration.

Principle 10. Any breach of the Representative Player Trial Process may result in a fine.