



**BRITISH BASKETBALL FEDERATION  
LICENSING REGULATIONS**

**SEASON 2024 -2025**



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Reviewed in July 2024

This document and the regulations contained therein can be updated at any time by the BBF, as a minimum to meet changes in legislation, regulations and operating procedures.

Note – In any dispute to these or any other regulations / policies of the BBF – in compliance with FIBA - the FIBA General Statutes and Regulations will take precedence at all times.



## DEFINITIONS

1. "FIBA" shall mean the International Basketball Federation, who are the sole competent authority for basketball throughout the world and is recognised as such by the IOC. Unless specified herein, any reference to FIBA, shall include FIBA's Regional Offices, as defined by FIBA. **In any dispute of these and any other BBF Policies or Regulations, the FIBA General Statutes and Internal Regulations or Polices take precedence.**
- 2 The British Basketball Federation (BBF) are the National Governing Body of the sport in Great Britain, recognised as such by FIBA, UK Sport, British Olympic Association, UKAD and the Home Country Sports Funding Bodies, since October 2016. It is the final appeal body in GB (subject to defined criteria within its Appeals Policies) for all disciplinary processes managed by the Home Countries or the British Basketball National Championship Leagues (BBNCL) Clubs.
- 3 UK Anti-Doping, is an active participant in the global fight against doping in sport - and is the national body responsible for creating a UK-wide environment of confidence in clean sport. Whether that is in competition, training or spectating, UKAD are working for everyone who loves sport. In the UK, they make sure sports bodies comply with the World Anti-Doping Code through implementation and management of the UK's National Anti-Doping Policy.

The UK Anti-Doping Rules and Policy as adopted by the BBF, apply to all persons licensed (whether permanently, provisionally, temporarily or otherwise) to participate in the sport, for which ever is the longer of a) the length of the licence period; or b) 12 months from the date of issue of the licence, in accordance with the BBF License Regulations (as detailed herein) whether or not the licence holder is a citizen of, or resident in, the UK.

A player who retires from the sport, while holding an active licence should inform the British Basketball Federation, via [license@gb.basketball](mailto:license@gb.basketball), to ensure that their licence is cancelled.

- 4 **Leagues:** Refers to **any league licensed, authorised, approved or operated** by or under the jurisdiction of the British Basketball Federation, (this includes all HCA operated & managed Leagues i.e. **National Leagues – Non Professional**), as defined in and subject to the FIBA General Statutes, Regulations and Policies in operation and any amendments thereto.
  - (a) **League Club or Club** means any club registered as a member of a Home Country Association and therefore automatically affiliated to the BFF, to comply with FIBA Regulations, participating in a BBF league , a British Basketball Licensed National Championship League (Professional) or Home Country Association League and any related competitions.
  - (b) The current British Basketball Federation – FIBA recognised **British Basketball NATIONAL Championship Leagues (BBNCL) being licensed as Professional /Semi Professional Leagues** are
    - 1- Men – Premier Basketball Ltd
    - 2- Women - The Women's British Basketball League (WBBL)



- 5 **Home Country Association (HCA)** : Refers to the members as defined within the articles of the British Basketball Federation. Currently this is Basketball England, Basketball Scotland and Basketball Wales. As members of the BBF, they and the leagues operated by them, are subject as a minimum to all FIBA General Statutes, Regulations and Policies, BBF Policies and Regulations and the UK Anti Doping Rules and any amendments thereof.
- 6 **Basketball Participant** – as defined within the FIBA Regulations Book 1, (and any amendment thereof) as it applies to the British Basketball Federation, its members, leagues and clubs;
- Any Person playing a direct or indirect role in basketball, including without limitation the following;
  - players and their agents or representatives;
  - player support personnel (e.g. coaches, assistant coaches, doctors; physiotherapists, etc.);
  - any other person included on a team delegation roster;
  - game officials (e.g. Referees, Technical Delegates, Commissioners, Table Officials; Statisticians etc.);
  - followers with special responsibilities (e.g. managers, physio, trainer, mascots, etc.);
  - Persons employed by, or engaged in activities on behalf of (whether paid or unpaid);
  - or having a direct or indirect affiliation to BBF, an HCA, a League or a Local League or Local Organising Committee or Club; and
  - any other person accredited for or in attendance at an Official Game.
7. **Playing Nationality** –  
A participants playing nationality is determined by;
- A- **First** – Government issued Passport (Current or Expired) **or**
  - B- **Second** - ID Card or – VISA Card - issued by a National Government showing their Nationality when issued. If none of the above are held
  - C- **Third** - Birth Certificate. – **This is a BBF decision in consultation with FIBA, if A or B do not apply.**
8. **FIBA International Transfers & Letters of Clearance – CLUB REQUIREMENTS (Not Applicable to BUCS or Local Leagues Players)**
- ALL PLAYERS**, irrespective of their nationality or age, **who were previously registered / licensed outside of Great Britain, (this includes all players coming from USA - Schools/Colleges) their club MUST** apply for and be in possession of a FIBA Letter of Clearance confirmation, (issued via the BBF by email), before a players licence in the current season will be issued.
- FIBA - Young Player** – means a player who has not reached their 18th birthday.
- 8.1 BBF - Under 18 Player** in the BB National Championship Leagues M & W- means a player having **attained** the age of 16 or 17 years .
- The FIBA Letter of Clearance remains valid, including transferring to another team in Great Britain, as long as the player does not leave Great Britain and register in another country. **Players leaving Great Britain (GB) after licensing to play in GB (this includes all HCA Leagues) in a current season, to attend Colleges and Schools abroad e.g. USA, a FIBA LOC is required before the player can relicense to play in Great Britain, if they return during the same season. Any current license is suspended until a FIBA LOC is in place.**



[FIBA LOC and BBF Licensing Forms – Click Here](#)

**8.2 ALL Players i.e. who are Non GB Passport holders or hold only a Non GB ID Card**, or only possess a GB issued Visa / Travel ID card ( e.g. persons designated as refugees, or seeking asylum in GB) and **have never played basketball anywhere in the world** and are applying to play for a club in Great Britain, i.e. a **first registration**, the club **MUST** ensure it is in possession of a FIBA Letter of Clearance, before a playing license will be issued.

**FIRST REGISTRATION - FIBA IR Book3 – Article 3-57**

The term ' **First** ' **Registration**' refers to a player that,

A- Does not hold the nationality of the licensing National Federation ie British.  
(defined as at Point 7 above)

**and**

B- Has never been registered or licensed by a National Federation.

**PLEASE NOTE – It is the responsibility of the club to make the application.** The club is responsible and liable at all times for any failures to meet FIBA or BBF Regulations, in the application process and any fines issued for failing to comply with FIBA / BBF regulations. Full details of the FIBA requirements, applicable costs and application form available via the GB Web site

<https://gb.basketball/fiba-players-international-clearance/>

**NOTE – A persons Visa status or any travel document issued under the GB VISA process does not make them British e.g.. Refugee, Asylum, EU Settled or Pre Settled .**

**9. Gender –**

These BBF or FIBA regulations apply to all genders and all references to males or females in this text or any other texts applicable (e.g. him, her, his, she, hers etc) shall be considered to apply to other genders and shall be read accordingly.

**10 Player License - Per FIBA Regulations.**

***“All league Clubs must be affiliated with their National Federation (BBF) in which they are domiciled and ensure that their players are licensed by that National Federation. (BBF)”***

**The BBF, as the FIBA National Federation, are responsible for defining the criteria and costs applicable to license players, to play basketball at all levels in Great Britain, as shown on page 10 of this document.**

**Exemption – FIBA have approved that clubs who hold membership covering the current season i.e. 1st August 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025**, of their respective Home Country Association (HCA), are automatically affiliated to the British Basketball Federation (BBF), the FIBA recognised National Federation for GB, to comply with **line one** of the above FIBA regulation. The BBF / FIBA may seek proof of this membership at any time, from the club or respective HCA.



**EQUALITY IN LICENSING PLAYERS - NOTE – There is no FIBA or BBF requirement, as the FIBA National Governing Body, responsible for International and Domestic Player Licensing, and to ensure equality for all basketball players, for **NON UK Nationals**, to be the subject of any additional **DOMESTIC** licensing costs, without BBF approval, over those shown at page 11 below, to participate in the BB National Championship Leagues or an HCA managed Regional League.**



## BBF LICENSING REGULATIONS

1. As a participant in a British Basketball Federation (BBF) League or licensed professional or semi Professional Leagues, i.e. The designated British Basketball National Championships Men & Women) or any league managed and operated by a Home Country Association (HCA) (British Regional Leagues) and in consideration of the acceptance on behalf of the affiliated **Club**, as named on the individual licence application, its participation therein and benefits therefrom, the **affiliated Club, (hereafter referred to as the Club) as well as, but not limited to, its Office Bearers, players, coaches, support staff and volunteers** agree to comply with all the provisions of UK Govt Visa Legislation, (if applicable), the UK Anti Doping Rules, the National Championship Leagues Policies, as applicable, National Championship Leagues Operational Regulations, FIBA / BBF Policies and Regulations, HCA Regulations, where applicable.
2. The following apply at all times namely, the UK Anti Doping Rules, the FIBA General Statutes, FIBA Internal Regulations, Policies and other FIBA rules and regulations in force at the time of all Competitions of the said National Championship Leagues and HCA leagues (jointly "Regulations") or published under the [www.fiba.basketball/regulations](http://www.fiba.basketball/regulations), including but not limited to, all Regulations on International Licensing and Transfers, Integrity, Code of Conduct, Betting & Corruption, Sanctions, Anti-Doping, Duty of Care, Safeguarding, GDPR, use of personal data for the objectives sought by the Regulations etc and with any decisions issued thereupon by FIBA, BBF, BBNCL or HCA and any FIBA bodies and divisions (jointly "FIBA").

**NOTE - In any dispute relating to this or any other BBF / HCA or National Championship League Policy or regulation, as determined by FIBA within its Regulations that are binding on all Basketball Participants, the FIBA General Statutes and Internal Regulations or Polices will take precedence.**

- A- The **Club, must be a member of its respective Home National Governing Body and by doing so, it is then affiliated to the BBF, in compliance with FIBA Regulations.** In registering any individual for a BBF Licence, (whether issued by the BBF direct or any entity acting as a data processor on its behalf e.g. one of the three HCA's or any third party so appointed by the BBF) the **CLUB** agrees, that those individuals and in addition, any other Basketball Participants, as defined within the FIBA Internal Regulations Book 1, linked to the **Club**, are notified and a record kept of delivery of this notification, as to the **requirements and sanctions, as a minimum, relating to the FIBA Code of Conduct and the FIBA Anti-Doping Regulations, Book 4** and that of the **UK Anti Doping Rules.**
- B- Integrity and Anti-Doping information, as well as access to online training and awareness, can be found via <http://gb.basketball/integrity-information/>
- C- All Basketball Participants, as defined within the FIBA Internal Regulations Book 1, and any amendments thereof, shall be deemed to have made themselves familiar with and agreed to be bound by the UK Anti-Doping Rules and to submit to the authority of UK Anti-Doping in the application and enforcement of the said **Anti-Doping Rules.**  
<https://gb.basketball/anti-doping-regulations/>

**C.1 UKAD Testing of Minors – As detailed in Section 5.7 of the UKAD Rules, all players under the age of 18 – Minors, are subject to the UKAD Rules and testing procedures and testing takes place within a defined safeguarding process. Information via link**  
<https://www.ukad.org.uk/violations/testing-process-minors>



**UKAD Requirement – NOTE - Clubs licensing or holding a license for any individual who is U18 MUST ensure that the player, their parent/guardian, receive a written communication advising that they have consented for testing through participation in any league (as defined on Page 3 Section 4) and highlight the testing process. A copy of the written communication should be available to the BBF if required.**

**D- Duty of Care BBNCL CLUBS Only** - The Club must ensure that **the Head Coach** and all licensed **Assistant Coaches** must hold the UK Coaching, Duty to Care, Digital Badge. This is a free course available via <https://www.ukcoaching.org/duty-to-care>. **This will be required to be in place from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Evidence of course completion will be sought by the BBF in January 2025.**

E- At least one member of the licensed coaching staff as detailed at “D” above, will require to hold this Digital Badge, issued within the previous 12 months, (issued from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2024) when licensing players and staff to participate in the **BBNCL CLUBS from season 2025-2026.**

**F- Under 18 year old Players in the BBNCL - Safeguarding Requirements**

**Club Guidance Document & Two Application Forms - Appendices B to D**

**All BBNCL CLUBS** clubs at the **start of each season must hold approval, via their respective Home Country Association, to license Under 18 aged players (i.e. players having attained the age of 16 or 17 ).** This is obtained by completing the **BBF Club Approval U18 Playing In Professional Basketball-form.**

**And submitting it to their respective Home Country Association.**

Once approval has been granted by the respective HCA, the club have then to complete a **BBF - Playing in Professional Basketball- Player Approval form** and submit this to their respective HCA.

Only when this approval has been granted (**the player must already hold a non professional GB license issued by the respective HCA**), can the club apply for a GB Professional Player License, as an Under 18 player to play in the BBNCL. **This approval is required each season for the player even though they may reach the age of 18 during a season.**

3. The BBF, UK Anti Doping, FIBA and the Home Countries while acting as data processors in any licensing or other process, will collect and use personal data in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and all relevant UK & Swiss Legislation. Our legal basis for holding and processing your data is our legitimate interest. Data may be processed by other organisations that act as Data Processors on our behalf. They will only use your data for the specific purposed for which they act as our data processors. They are not allowed to pass this on to any other organisation, unless required to so under legal requirement. The personal data is not passed on or sold by us to third parties whether or not connected with FIBA or the BBF. Full information about our data use policies can be found published under our Privacy Notice <http://gb.basketball/privacy-notice/>





4. The **Club** acknowledges and agrees that any individual that a BBF licence is issued to, participates in the competitions of the British Basketball National Championship Leagues, an HCA or other BBF approved competition, is at the individuals own risk. The individual being a person registered by the said **Club** and that the **Club** will take all reasonable measures to protect these individuals from the risk of participation and **provide insurance cover to mitigate risks** to the player and club, in compliance with the relevant UK Company Law, UK Regulations, FIBA, BBF, National Championship Licensed Leagues, HCA Operating Procedures and or Policies where applicable.

The **Club** acknowledges and irrevocably releases on behalf of the individuals and the club, the BBF and FIBA (and their respective members, directors, officers, employees, officials, volunteers, contractors or agents) from any liability (to the extent permitted by law) for any loss, injury or damage that any person licensed to participate may suffer in relations to their participation in the relevant BBF National Championship Leagues or HCA leagues or competitions.

5. The **CLUB** are wholly liable, at all times for its actions and the actions of those Basketball Participants, licensed to or representing the **CLUB** and this includes any failures by the **CLUB** or those Basketball participants, as detailed in this article, to meet Financial Sanctions imposed on the BBF (**due to Club failures to meet FIBA Regulations**) or any such Basketball Participant via a FIBA and or a BBF Disciplinary process.

5.1 Any third party (HCA or other agencies so engaged) acting as data processors on behalf of the BBF, who fail to meet the FIBA regulations, in the administration of the player licensing process, will be liable and required under these regulations to meet any fines imposed by FIBA on the BBF, resulting from such failures. The BBF may impose further fines under its Administrative Fines Sanctions process **and or** instigate Disciplinary Proceedings.

6. The **Club** or an HCA (defined herein), agrees that any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, in connection with or on the occasion of this Licensing process and/or generally the regulations, which cannot be settled amicably and which remains unsettled once the remedies established by the BBF Policies / Regulations, National Championship Leagues Regulation or Operating Procedures and if applicable FIBA Regulations, have been exhausted, shall be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for final and binding arbitration in accordance with Swiss Law (excluding conflict of law provisions) and the Code of Sport-related Arbitration. **This does not apply to Administration Offences detailed herein or any FIBA Administration Fines imposed on the club or an individual, via the BBF as per 5.1 above.**

The arbitration shall be governed by Chapter 12 of the Swiss Act on Private International Law ("PILA") to the exclusion of rules for Swiss domestic arbitration, shall be conducted in English and its seat shall be in Lausanne, Switzerland. The CAS shall have the exclusive power to order provisional and conservatory measures.

The **Club or HCA** hereby waives the right of any person deemed to be a Basketball Participant, in compliance with this Regulation, by the **Club or HCA**, to institute any claim, arbitration or litigation, or seek any other form of relief, without first following the remedies detailed in the previous paragraph in any other court or tribunal, other than the Court of Arbitration for Sport as detailed in the preceding paragraph in accordance with the PILA 5.



## Investigation

7. By completing the BBF license registration process, operated by the BBF or any entity administering such a process on behalf of the BBF, **e.g an HCA**, the Club / HCA or Individual acknowledges and understands that the FIBA Internal Regulations' Book 1, **Code of Conduct Chapter 5** and the FIBA Internal Regulations Book 4 – **Anti-Doping**, the **UKA Anti Doping Rules**, including any updates or amendments thereof, shall apply to the **Club** and all **Basketball Participants**, linked in any way to the **Club / HCA**, as defined in the said **Chapter 5**, referred to above and prohibit certain conduct by those persons, including without limitation the obligation of making prompt and complete reports to FIBA , the BBF or UK Anti Doping, in case of matter or facts coming to your attention and evidencing a violation of the aforementioned Chapter 5.

The Club / HCA and all Basketball Participants linked to the club/ HCA, as per the above paragraph, further agrees to report any violation of **Integrity**, by using the platform available on FIBA's website at the following address <http://www.fiba.basketball/integrity> **the Club / HCA** understands that no participant of any Competition, personnel, employees or contractors (or any other person who is a "Basketball Participant" as per the said Chapter 5, may pass on or post on social media, blog or discuss any inside information (defined in Chapter 5) until such time that it may have been released officially.

The **Club / HCA** understands and accepts that the BBF, FIBA, UK Anti Doping, may conduct investigations into the activities of the **Club / HCA** or any Basketball Participant, if FIBA, the BBF or where applicable UK Anti Doping, have reasonable suspicions that such Club / HCA or a Basketball Participant has committed a breach of FIBA Internal Regulations, or BBF Policies and Regulations, including but not exclusively, relating to FIBA Internal Regulations Book 1 Chapter 5 or FIBA Internal Regulation 4 – Anti-Doping or UKAD Anti Doping Rules.

Such investigations may be conducted in conjunction with relevant authorities (including criminal, administrative, professional and/or judicial authorities) and all Participant must co-operate in full with such investigations and a failure to co-operate with any such investigation may itself be sanctioned under the said FIBA or BBF Regulations.

## SANCTIONS

A range of sanctions that can be applied to any breach of the said FIBA Regulations or BBF Policies or Regulations, or the UK Anti Doping Rules , are detailed within the FIBA Internal Regulations Book 1 (including any FIBA or BBF Administrative Fines), as well as in the BBF Internal Regulations – Sanctions, or the UK Anti Doping Rules, as sanctions relevant to any internal discipline proceedings that can be applied for a breach of a BBF Policy or Regulation or FIBA Regulations that the BBF has authority to manage as the National Federation. FIBA have the authority to impose its own sanctions over and above any sanction imposed by the BBF or UK Anti Doping, where applicable.

## 8- LICENSE FEES

License Type	Fee	
Head Coach	£60	<b>BB National Championship Leagues (M&amp;W) with FIBA/WABC License</b>
Head Coach	£120	<b>BB National Championship Leagues (M&amp;W) Only – NO FIBA / WABC License</b>
Assistant Coach	£40	<b>BB National Championship Leagues Only</b>
Team Follower	£10	<b>BB National Championship Leagues -Any person on bench not Coach or Player.</b>
Pro Player – Over 18	£40	<b>BB National Championship Leagues (M&amp;W) Only</b>
Pro Player Under 18 - Possession of an GB HCA Non Pro League License	£15	Player must be in possession of a GB HCA issued licence for HCA Competitions only, before being licensed to play in the BBF national Championship Leagues.
Pro Player Over 18 in possession of a GB HCA League Licence	£35	<b>Player licensed with HCA league club to play in the BB National Championship Club Team (M&amp;W) during current season i.e. 2024 - 2025</b>
BBF Letter of Clearance (Aged 18 and over) <b>(U18 FREE) Regulation 12 below.</b>	£30	<b>Internal Transfers, involving National Championship League Clubs (M &amp; W) or HCA League Club to National Championship Club, or vice versa. ie National Championship club to HCA league club</b>
	£15	<b>X Border Transfers - HCA league Club to another HCA League Club, (ie club in Scotland to club in England or Wales or vice versa) NOTE – INTERNAL Transfers Involving clubs in the same HCA League are not subject to this regulation, but the relevant HCA League Rules.</b>
FIBA - Coach – Renewal of FIBA WABC License <b>-This fee applies only to GB Nationals.</b>	£50	as per FIBA Regulation- the BBF will apply & pay to FIBA for GB Nationals. Then invoice the club or Individual. <b>NON GB Nationals</b> require to apply via their National Federation. <b>See 4 (c) below.</b>
FIBA Letter of Clearance	250CH	<b>Paid by all Clubs direct to FIBA</b>
FIBA A License – Male BBNCL	£250	Paid to BBF on application for payment to FIBA
FIBA A License - Female BBNCL	£125	Paid to BBF on application for payment to FIBA
<b>FIBA Competition B License</b>		<b>FIBA will invoice clubs direct under their competition rules. The BBF may impose an administration fee per license.</b>
<b>GB HCA Issued Licence</b>		<b>Valid across all non BB National Championship leagues</b>
Over 18	£5	<b>These fees are collected by the respective HCA</b>
Under 18	£3	<b>And passed to</b>
Under 12	£1	<b>The BBF.</b>

**Note : FIBA / GB Costs shown are correct at time of publication and are subject to change.**



## 8. Licensing – SUMMARY

### BB National Championship (Men & Women Professional League) Regulations

Players may be licensed at any time prior to **midday** on the **last day of February**. Thereafter, licence applications can only be considered in respect of coaches and team followers and in such cases only bona fide applications will be processed, after approval from the BBNCL, as appropriate.

**HCA's operated leagues may have their own closure registration / licensing date. The GB Regional Licence issued by an HCA to a player during a season, is valid in all other HCA managed leagues across Great Britain, should the player transfer to another HCA and register to play with a new club in their league. No new license fee for that season can be charged, although additional new league registration / new club administration charges may apply.**

**If a player leaves GB to play in another country after being licensed for the current season (this includes USA School or College) then the current license becomes invalid. Should the player return during a current season then a new license has to be issued, as determined under these regulations, including any FIBA LOC required.**

To be eligible for consideration, an application for a **players International Clearance**, accompanied by any specified documents and fees, must be received by the BBF, prior to the deadlines set out above. It is acknowledged that paperwork from third parties (ie Home Office Certificate of Sponsorship or FIBA International Clearance) may arrive post the deadlines set out above, however all other paperwork and fees must be received prior to the deadlines. The player will only be licensed once all paperwork and any payment due is received.

### PROCESSING

#### NOTE:

8.1 Clubs as per the respective BBNCL / HCA regulations and this document, here in, must be members of their respective Home Country Association.

**The club is then affiliated to the BBF, without direct registration**, currently, as an exemption under FIBA Regulations granted to the BBF.

**Transfers** – All internal player transfers involving Non BBNCL Clubs (**HCA leagues**) **to or from** BBNCL clubs, BBNCL club to BBNCL club, or across GB Internal Borders, (e.g. Scotland to Wales etc), must follow the **BBF Transfer Clearance Process**, detailed on the last page of this document. Clubs in addition, should also ensure that they follow the transfer procedures, as detailed within the said BBNCL / HCA regulations, if applicable.

8.2 An example list of automatic Administrative Fines applicable (more are detailed within FIBA regulations), are shown at the end of this document. **These fines do not carry a right of appeal.**



- 9 **BB National Championship Leagues (M&W) Only – Licensing Under 18 Players (aged 16 & 17 years old only) MUST first** be registered with their Home Country Associations, any **FIBA Letter of Clearance requirements** or **FIBA A License Requirement**, (required for ALL NON UK Nationals in BBF National Championships Only) are as **normal via the BBF Online Form**. **The FIBA LOC process must be completed prior to obtaining a GB License issued during any HCA managed registration.** **BB National Championship League Licensing** – Clubs should upload a copy of their GB Regional License issued during HCA Registration on the BBF National Championship License Application Form. **The GB U18 Professional License is £15.** Further documentary evidence may be requested by the BBF if required.

9.1 To license an under 18 year old as detailed in 9 above, to play in the BBF national Championship, the CLUB, is required to complete a **BBF Playing in Professional Basketball – Club Approval** form and submit this to their respective Home Country Association. Once approval is given, the club must apply to their HCA, for approval to license an Under 18 player using the **BBF Playing in the Professional league- Player Approval Form**. No license will be issued until these approvals are in place.

Full details within the **Appendix B**

**BBF Professional Basketball – U18 Player - Club / Team Guide**

#### 4 **British Basketball National Championship Leagues (M&W) - Coach & Assistant Coach –**

- a. Coaches (including Assistant Coaches) should be appropriately qualified and meet the qualification requirements for the level of competition, as detailed by the BBF, BB National Championship Leagues, the Club and their respective HCA or within the **sports Home Office VISA GBE requirements**. Evidence of that qualification can be requested. by the BBF.

**Non UK Staff** - The GB International Sports Person Visa GBE, managed by Basketball England on behalf of all the Basketball Bodies in Great Britain, determines qualifications required.

- b. UK Nationals who are Head Coaches in the BB National Championship leagues**, will require to be registered by BBF with FIBA, on the FIBA / WABC Coaching register – FIBA Regulation requirement on BBF to record Top Level Coaches. **This will be done automatically by the BBF during the license process, if they do not already hold a FIBA/WABC membership. These coaches will require to hold a Basketball Level 3 Coaching award by April 2025.**
- c. **NON UK National Head Coaches / Assistant Coaches in the National Championship leagues**, are required to hold a FIBA WABC Coaching License issued via their National Federation with FIBA. They will also be required to hold appropriate Coaching awards determined by the Home Office Basketball GBE process. **Evidence of this being issued by FIBA, will be required at the time of any license application .**



## Licensing – Deadlines

BB National Championship Leagues (M&W) - Players may be licensed at any time prior to **midday on the last day of February**. Thereafter, licence applications can only be considered in respect of coaches and team followers and in such cases only bona fide applications will be processed, after approval from the BBNCL (m or W), as appropriate. **ALL BBF Licenses issued for the current season, while they have an expiry date of 31<sup>st</sup> July, in meeting the UKAD Rules, the license holder is bound by the UKAD Rules until that time, unless they have left GB. .**

HCA's may have their own league closure registration date for the issuance of licenses.

**British Basketball National Championship Leagues (BBNCL)** -To be eligible for consideration, an application for a **players licence**, accompanied by any specified documents and fees, must be received by the BBF, BBNCL, or an HCA, prior to the appropriate deadlines . It is acknowledged that paperwork from third parties (ie Certificate of Sponsorship or FIBA International Clearance) may arrive post the deadlines set out above, however all other paperwork and fees must be received prior to the deadlines. The player will only be licensed once all paperwork is received.

The online BBF Player – Staff License Application (**BBNCL CLUBS only**) and online FIBA Transfer Forms, are available via <http://gb.basketball/gb-league-registration-forms/>

**Please note the FIBA Player Letter of Clearance, has a FIBA processing timescale of up to seven (working ) days, after FIBA approve the application or if applicable , any payment due is made by the club, to FIBA . This is invoiced to the club contact in the application by FIBA.**

Once the FIBA Player Clearance is confirmed and approved **by FIBA**, then the **FIBA A Licence (BBNCL – Player - Non UK nationals Only)** – if required, is then applied for automatically by the BBF. Processing by FIBA of the A License can be three to seven (working) days, to be processed, depending on demand. **Only then will a BBF Playing Licence will be issued.**

Players who do not require any FIBA processing, their BBF license will be issued within three working days of receipt of the relevant payment.

The BBNCL CLUBS club are provided with a live link to their list of registrations and as this list is updated automatically as the BBF add entries to it. A link to this list is also supplied to the BBNCL CLUBS Administration.

**NOTE - The FIBA Player Letter of Clearance & FIBA A Licence, can be applied for before the BBF (or HCA - BBF managed) Licensing application is submitted, to expedite this process, due to the FIBA timescales involved. Clubs should ensure they submit all the required information and documentation to negate unnecessary delay.**

**Failure to pay FIBA the Letter of Clearance Fee within 14 days without a reasonable justification, Clubs will be automatically fined £150 and the application withdrawn. Clubs who pass on the payment link to a player are always responsible for any non payment within this time frame.**

Any issues with the process or with the online forms should be reported to [license@gb.basketball](mailto:license@gb.basketball)



## **9- PAYMENTS**

All Fees are exempt from VAT and are non refundable.

### **Two Methods of Payment Available.**

#### **1 On line credit/bank card payment at time of application**

A payment receipt is issued automatically for club records.

#### **2. Invoice can be sent payable via Bank Transfer (This applies to BBNCL League Licenses only) Choice of Payment Type is selected within the respective forms.**

**IF INVOICES ARE ISSUED FOR PAYMENT, THEY MUST BE SETTLED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF ISSUE**

## **10- VISAS**

Information on Governing Body Endorsement & Visa requirements, available via [Basketball England](#) who operate the British GBE Requirements, as detailed in the Home Office Code of Practice, on behalf of Basketball Scotland, Basketball Wales and the BBF, information is via the [UK Govt](#) web sites. The GBE process only applies to players / staff who are designated as an International Sports Person , who require a work visa AND will be engaged by a club in the BBNCL (M&W) and the BE NBL Men Div 1.

The issue of a FIBA A or B License or BBF Playing License, **IS NOT EVIDENCE of A RIGHT TO WORK** in the UK, this is a license to play basketball, to meet FIBA Regulatory requirements. All persons subject to UK Border Agency VISA regulations, require to be in possession of a valid UK Visa or a EU Residency Status e.g. Settled Status. British Basketball **National Championship League clubs**, a copy of the valid work Visa / EU Status is required to be provided in the license application process.

Professional Sportsperson – Correct VISA - **the club or the company employing the player/coach/staff member, being licensed by the Home Office to sponsor workers, have a legal obligation, as well as the employee , on ensuring the worker is in possession of the appropriate VISA to work in GB, keep appropriate documentary records, especially if they are defined as a Professional Sportsperson, under the Home Office criteria.** Where the BBF finds that the information provided does not meet the legal requirements for a person to work and therefore participate in the BBF National Championship leagues (M&W) , England NBL Men Div 1, then the playing license is automatically invalid and the club will subject as a minimum, to the penalties under the Administration Offences, as detailed below, at Point 1 and further Disciplinary action by the BBF. The BBF will also inform the Home Office of the situation.

**NOTE – In the FIBA Letter of Clearance applications, all clubs will be required to indicate if a **NON GB National** meets the Home Office Professional Sportsperson criteria and confirm their Visa status.**

**Following relates to BBNCL Clubs Only (as defined on Page 2) each season:**

- 1. The BBF will require the details of the Clubs Home Office Sponsorship License, via the online form. As Circulated**
- 2. The BBF will require details of each clubs Safeguarding Officer, via the on line form. As circulated.**
- 3. The BBF will require the details of the person who has a current UKCC Duty to Care Digital Course Badge / Certificate. (Issued from September,2022)**



## VISAS – SUMMARY

**A - Clubs** should remember that their ability to recruit non-UK players / staff is governed by law and that they **must check the visa status of any non-UK citizen (including EU Citizens) they recruit**. This requires examining, reviewing and copying the original documents, considering their validity against the entry criteria and then holding them on file, with identification as to who checked them and when, etc.

**B** - FIBA/BBF may require production of a players visa as part of any registration or transfer process.

**C** - The BBF – **Non GB Passport Holders Eligibility Guide** – Appendix A herein, provides some guidance on visa requirements for any non- GB passport holder wishing to play basketball in Great Britain, . The British Basketball National Championships via the licensed leagues and Home Country managed leagues may set their own criteria (subject where applicable to BBF agreement) and in compliance with any legal requirements or restrictions, as to the number of **non UK Nationals (this includes all EU nationals)** that can play for a team in any competition or game.

**D- Non UK Nationals who meet the definition of an International Sports Person must where required under legislation be in possession of GBE (issued via Basketball England) & or the appropriate Visa allowing them to be employed in the British Basketball National Championship Leagues (M&W) and the Basketball England NBL Div 1 Men. GBE does not apply to any other leagues operated within the Home Countries.**

**E-** The GBE process is **ONLY** applicable to players/staff of clubs participating in the above leagues who meet the definition of an International Sports Person, detailed within the relevant UK Government legislation .

**F- DISCLAIMER – Clubs should ensure they have obtained / sought the appropriate legal / expert advice on Visa / Employment / tax requirements, as any information provided by the BBF in these or other documents is for guidance purposes only.**

### 11. **Playing Foreign Teams Within or Outside of Great Britain**

In compliance with FIBA Regulations, any member or affiliated club or Home Country Association, who are invited or wish to take part in non FIBA events or games, involving clubs or representative teams from other Federations e.g Euroleague, non FIBA, European Leagues / Competitions, Pre season games, in season friendly matches, player development matches, within or outside of Great Britain will require BBF Approval. If an entity as above, hosts an event involving a mix of GB and Non GB Teams, then only the Host requires to obtain the approval. **A copy of any invitation should be provided with the request for approval**

All visiting teams will require confirmation from their Home Federation to travel and play in Great Britain. This should be held by the club/ event organisers and made available to the BBF on request. While in Great Britain all visiting teams are subject to FIBA, BBF and UKAD Polices and regulations, where applicable. All teams from Great Britain are always required as a minimum, to be in compliance with FIBA Policies and Regulations, UKAD Policies.

A request for a Letter of Approval should be made to [license@gb.basketball](mailto:license@gb.basketball).





## 12- Administrative Offences

The following automatic fines will be imposed by the BBF, on any entity as defined within these regulations, for failures to follow the requirements within this Regulation. **This does not negate any Disciplinary Process that may be required under any of the Regulations identified within this document or FIBA Regulations and Policies.** Any fines imposed by FIBA on the BBF, that are due to an HCA or Club or any other basketball participant, as defined by FIBA, failure to comply with any of the said FIBA / BBF Regulations, will be charged to the respective entity as a £ (Pound) value. e.g. 500 CH = £500.

1. Playing Unlicensed Player is subject to BB National Championship League (BBNCL) /HCA Operating Rules, except as below;
2. Playing a player without International Clearance or FIBA A Licence (if applicable) – **immediate player suspension and a minimum Fine on the club of £500 up to a maximum of £2000 – All matches played by the player will be forfeited. All parties (HCA/Club/Player) may be subject to further disciplinary action by BBF and or FIBA.**
3. License a player on behalf of the BBF, (HCA or other BBF approved entity, registration process) without an International Clearance being issued where it is applicable, in compliance with FIBA regulations. **Minimum Fine of £500 up to a maximum of £2000 per license issued. The sanctions as per Point 2 above will also apply if the player has played in any HCA sanctioned Competition.**
4. BBNCL - Unlicensed Coach - **Fine - £500 (This includes FIBA Licence for Non UK Nationals)**
5. BBNCL - Unlicensed Team Support Staff – **Fine - £100**
6. Failing to respond to a request for information required in these Regulations within 7 days – **Fine - £200**
7. Failure to pay a BBF issued invoice within SEVEN DAYS - **Fine - Suspension of ALL Licenses UNTIL invoice is paid and a £50 administration charge.**
8. Failure by a club to pay the FIBA Letter of Clearance Application Fee within 14 days – **Fine of £150 and removal of the application from the FIBA system.**
9. Failure by a club / player aged 18 and over to disclose previous registration with another Federation in the FIBA Player Self Declaration process – **Fine up to £50.**
10. Fail or refuse (without compelling justification) to co-operate with any FIBA, BBF or UK Anti Doping Code Compliant Anti Doping investigation or proceedings. **Fine up to £5000. This is in addition to any sanctions imposed by FIBA or UK Anti Doping**
11. To commit an act of misconduct related to anti-doping which does not amount to an Anti Doping Rule Violation . **Fine up to £5000. This is in addition to any sanctions imposed by FIBA or UK Anti Doping.**
12. Failure to provide details of Safeguarding Officer BBNCL – **Fine £100**
13. Failure to provide details of Clubs Home Office VISA Sponsorship Licence BBNCL Only – **Fine £100**
14. Failure to have a member of Staff hold the UK Coaching - Duty to Care Digital Badge BBNCL ONLY **Fine £500**
15. **Second and further repetitive offences, the fines will be automatically doubled in value, from the last fine imposed.**
16. **Failure to apply for GB Internal Transfer Clearance as per BBF regulations minimum Fine of £50 up to a maximum of £500**
17. In any dispute of these BBF regulations and sanctions, as per FIBA Regulations, then the FIBA General Statutes and Internal Regulations or Polices take precedence.



### **Disciplinary Action.**

Where an individual defined by FIBA under Regulation Book 1, as a Basketball Participant (see part 6 above) is the subject of any disciplinary proceedings by an HCA or BBNCL, **details of any action take, especially if it requires the suspension or removal of any license held, the circumstances MUST be communicated to the BBF, for a decision, as the FIBA designated body responsible for licensing.**

Dependent on circumstances, if the license is suspended or removed , it may be circulated to the BBNCL and other HCAs, as well as FIBA .

Any disciplinary action taken by the BBF under its or FIBA regulations will be circulated accordingly with FIBA and all HCA's and the BB National Championship leagues (M&W) . A public circulation may also be undertaken.

**All communications in relation to this section should be sent to [integrity@gb.basketball](mailto:integrity@gb.basketball)**



## 12- BBF PLAYER TRANSFER

- 6 In compliance with FIBA Regulations, the BBF requires to have in place a transfer process managing player movement within its boundaries.
- 7 The BBF adopts the FIBA Transfer Regulations as part of its Governance Procedures and will interpret them to manage Transfers within the Federation boundaries of the BBF.
- 8 **ALL Under 18 Internal Transfers** will be subject to the requirements of the FIBA Transfer Regulations for Young Players, as detailed in Book 3 of the said regulations, Chapter 2, as it applies to movements of Young Players within the Boundaries of the Federation.
- 9 **The U18 Transfer process will be managed by the BBF in conjunction where applicable with the respective HCA's involved.**
- 10 All players aged 18 and over, internal transfer between clubs in the same HCA league will be subject of that HCA leagues transfer process.
- 11 All players aged 18 and over, transfers between Clubs from different leagues will be subject to the BBF process. i.e. Player moves from Club in Wales to Scotland or England, to or from a BBNCL club , to or from an HCA league Club to the BBNCL team.
- 12 If a club **WAS NOT** a member of the BBNCL in the previous season, then this process applies. i.e HCA league club to BBNCL club.
- 13 All Players who were registered with a Non BBNCL club subject to these regulations, will require to have clearance issued by the BBF, before any BBF License is issued.
- 14 Applications for Transfer will be via the online form.
- 15 A fee of £15 is payable at time of application for 18 and over Internal Transfers, between clubs in different HCAs leagues.
- 16 A fee of £30 is payable at time of application for 18 and over Internal Transfers, between clubs in an HCA league to a BBNCL club and vice versa or BBNCL club to BBNCL Club (M&W)
- 17 All Under 18 transfers processing, No Fee will be charged by the BBF.
- 18 Clubs should make themselves fully conversant with the Transfer of Under 18 Players as detailed in the FIBA Internal Regulation, Book 2, Chapter 3.
- 19 In any dispute, as per FIBA Regulations, the FIBA General Statutes and Internal Regulations or Polices take precedence.

## 13- AGENTS

**Agent licensing is managed by FIBA and all regulations relating to them and their engagement with clubs etc are contained within the FIBA IR Book 3. The BBF reserves the right to create a registration process and fee under the said FIBA Regulations, over and above any FIBA requirements, in relation to agents engaged in contracts for players registered in Great Britain. Only FIBA licensed agents can represent a player in a transfer process.**

**Player Contracts – Should clearly detail the FIBA agent involved and that any payment made by the club to the agent on behalf of the player (agents fee) will be recovered by the club from the player in an agreed and documented process.**

**Contracts should clearly show that any dispute will be managed via the FIBA Basketball Arbitration Tribunal process.**

**Further information can be obtained by contacting [license@gb.basketball](mailto:license@gb.basketball) or <https://www.fiba.basketball/bat/process>**



## 14- Information

**FIBA International Transfer and Clearance process via**  
<https://gb.basketball/fiba-players-international-clearance/>

**Foreign Player Licensing - FIBA A or B Licence- Only applicable to BBNCL CLUBS Clubs**

<https://gb.basketball/fiba-a-licence-application/>

Transfers – International Clearance - [transfers@gb.basketball](mailto:transfers@gb.basketball)

BBNCL Licensing – [license@gb.basketball](mailto:license@gb.basketball)

BBF Safeguarding – [safeguarding@gb.basketball](mailto:safeguarding@gb.basketball)

BBF Integrity – [integrity@gb.basketball](mailto:integrity@gb.basketball)



- **Checklist (Players/ Coaches) -**

National (returning player)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>BBNCL – IF Applicable –</b> BBF Transfer process if previously licensed for another BBNCL club.</li> <li>- <b>BBF Transfer process if moving from HCA to HCA or HCA to BBNCL club or vice versa.</b></li> <li>- BBF License Registration (BBF or BBF- HCA administered)</li> </ul>
National (new player)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>FIBA LOC (if last played overseas incl Northern Ireland)</b></li> <li>- <b>BBNCL CLUBS –</b> BBF Transfer process <b>-if applicable</b> if moving from another BBNCL CLUB.</li> <li>- <b>BBF Transfer process if moving from HCA to HCA ,or HCA to BBNCL CLUBS or vice versa.</b></li> <li>- BBF License Registration (BBF or BBF HCA administered)</li> </ul>
Non National (returning player)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>BBNCL CLUBS – If Applicable –</b> BBF Transfer process if moving from another BBNCL CLUB.</li> <li>- <b>BBF Transfer process if moving from HCA to HCA or HCA to BBNCL CLUBS or vice versa.</b></li> <li>- <b>FIBA ‘A’ Licence (BBNCL CLUBS Only)</b></li> <li>- BBF License Registration (BBF or BBF HCA administered)</li> </ul>
Non National (new player) <b>ALL LEAGUES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FIBA LOC / FIBA Self Declaration / FIBA National Team Form– if Required - <b>(NB -Note the requirements of the FIBA PSD /NTD Forms)</b></li> <li>- FIBA ‘A’ Licence – BBNCL CLUBS Only</li> <li>- BBF License Registration (BBF or BBF HCA administered)</li> </ul>
U18 Non & UK Nationals  U18 Non National  U18 UK & Non National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>FIBA LOC – Required if they were registered outside of GB before being licensed to play in any league operated under jurisdiction of the BBF, which includes BBNCL CLUBS &amp; HCA leagues. (NOT BUCS/ LOCAL LEAGUES)</b></li> <li>- <b>FIBA Regulation Book 3 – Chapter 2 Pages 16-19 Apply</b></li> <li>-</li> <li>- <b>FIBA LOC Required -as above - for all FIRST Registrations i.e. NEVER Played in any country before being registered with BBF (includes GB Licensing via an HCA)</b></li> <li>- <b>BBNCL CLUBS Only - FIBA A License -Automatically processed as part of above</b></li> <li>- or</li> <li>- <b>BBF National Championship Leagues (M&amp;W) FIBA A License - ONLY if a valid FIBA LOC to play in GB has been issued previously and they have not been registered outside of GB since it was issued.</b></li> <li>-</li> <li>- <b>All via BBF On Line Forms</b></li> <li>-</li> <li>- BBF Licence via Home Nation Governing Body (HNGB)</li> <li>- BBF License Registration ( – upload copy of HCA Licence)</li> <li>- Club to ensure conformity with its own and the applicable BBF requirements <b>(P11 Sec 9 above)</b> plus HCA Safeguarding and Medical requirements on the playing of young players in a Senior environment., including the UKAD Minors requirements, as detailed above <b>Page Section Section 2 C in full. .</b></li> </ul>



## Appendix A

### British Basketball Federation - Non GB Passport Holder Visa/Permit Eligibility Grid

CLUB level	Visas that permit work or participation in sport	Definition of a Professional Sportsperson (UK Visas & Immigration)
All Clubs	<p>No work restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU/EEA with pre-settled/settled status</li> <li>• Irish citizens</li> <li>• Certificate of entitlement to the right of abode</li> <li>• Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force) with Commanding Officer confirmation</li> <li>• UK Ancestry &amp; UK Ancestry Dependant</li> <li>• Family Member (spouse/partner of a settled person)</li> <li>• Settlement (Indefinite leave to enter/remain)</li> <li>• Refugee</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>A player, coach, performance staff, falling within any of the following circumstances will be a professional and not amateur:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• player , coach or performance staff at a professional or semi-professional level whether paid or unpaid,</li> <li>• receives payment, including payment in kind, and that payment covers all, or the majority of, their costs for travelling to, and living in, the UK, or has received such payment within <b>the previous 4 years</b></li> <li>• currently registered to a professional or semi-professional sports team or has been so registered within the previous 4 years <b>(this includes all academy and development team age groups)</b></li> <li>• has represented their nation, national team, state or regional team within the previous 2 years, including all youth and development age groups from under 17s upwards</li> <li>• has an established international reputation in sport</li> <li>• engages an agent/representative or has engaged an agent/representative in the last 12 months</li> <li>• is providing services as a sportsperson or coach at any level of sport, unless they are doing so as an “Amateur” in a charity event.</li> </ul> <p><b>Please see <a href="#">UKVI's definition</a> of a professional sportsperson for what is considered amateur.</b></p>
BBNCL M&W or-England NBLM1	<p><b>Work restricted to a club registered with a Home Office sponsor licence International Sports Person GBE (SGBE)</b></p>	
AMATEUR	<p>Amateur players and/or coaches at amateur clubs (purely on an amateur, unpaid basis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Mobility and other Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) routes</li> <li>• Students*</li> <li>• Visitor</li> <li>• Other work routes including Graduate, Tier 2 General/ICT, Skilled Worker, Intra Company, Global Talent, Innovator, Representative of Overseas Business, ECAA</li> </ul> <p>*Students at degree level or above playing or coaching sport as an amateur or as part of an official course work placement will be considered amateur.</p>	

**The above information is provided as guidance only in relation for player /staff registration and eligibility purposes.**

**If you require immigration guidance you must contact UK Visas and Immigration or a UK immigration law specialist.**

Specific league regulations governing the number of Non GB Passport holders that can be registered to play by a club will be determined within the respective regulations of the British Basketball National Championship Leagues, and the Home Countries basketball leagues.



## BBF Professional Basketball – U18 Player -Club / Team Guide

### Who is this process for?

This process is for all clubs in the BBNCL – clubs Men & Women, with Under 18 year old male and female players who they wish to license and play Professional League Basketball Competitions . Under 18 in this regulation, is defined as the player having attained the age of 16 until their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

### Why is the regulation and process changing?

There have been some significant updates to safeguarding requirements as defined by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) and Disclosure Scotland for children playing in adult sport in the UK. These BBF Regulations and process changes have been introduced to ensure our professional clubs are not putting themselves or their staff/players/volunteers at risk.

The process will support our professional clubs in:

1. Aligning to the updated DBS / Disc Scot requirements.
2. Safeguarding the Under 18 old playing in a professional basketball environment.
3. Safeguarding the adults they are playing with/against .
4. Ensuring there is robust, consistent assessment and approval process for a 16 & 17 year olds to play Professional Basketball. There is evidence that in the past, Under 18 year olds have often been asked to play adult level sport to meet the needs of a team rather than the development needs of the player. This was often done without an appropriate assessment of the player's physical and emotional development. Across sports a number of cases have been identified in the past, that this has affected their transition to adult level sport and resulted in players leaving sport as they were playing outside their friendship groups and in an inappropriate adult environment.

### What is the 2-stage process?

1. The Club must apply for and be approved by its Home Country Association (HCA) to play 16 & 17 year olds in adult professional basketball. This is done by completing and submitting the BBF Playing Professional Basketball – Club Approval form and process **each season**.  
**Page 27 to Page 30 - Inclusive**

2. The Club must assess each individual Under 18 year old who wishes to play Professional Basketball and gain approval from its HCA for the player to do so.

This is done by completing and submitting the BBF Playing Professional Basketball – Player Approval form and process **each season**, even if they attain the age of 18 during the season.

**Pages 31 to 35 - Inclusive**



**Are you saying 16 & 17 year olds shouldn't play professional level basketball?**

The BBF have considered the various aspects of player development and the opportunity for talented players on a GB pathway, to experience being part of a professional environment . However, the BBF also recognised that a more robust process should be in place to assess the player's suitability and there should be a neutral element in approving this. In some cases through this new process it may well be agreed that it is not in the players' best interest to play Professional level basketball – the process helps to determine and support this.

**When do we apply for approval for 16 & 17 year olds to play Professional Basketball?**

It is recommended that clubs seek Playing Professional Basketball – Club Approval either before or at the beginning of the season if they think they will have 16 or 17 year olds potentially playing in the BBL or WBBL. . This ensures they have everything in place to then be able to apply for individual Player Approval during that season when the situation arises for the individual.

**Why do clubs need HCA approval first?**

Clubs / Teams, as part of the professional league licence are required to be members of their respective Home Country Association and need to be able to demonstrate they have the infrastructure and ability for a 16 or 17 year old to play Professional Basketball (e.g. that, if needed, separate shower facilities are available and they have the suitable people in place to support a child in an adult environment). We also need clubs to demonstrate they have a proven record of being player centred so there is confidence that decisions on playing professional basketball are made in the player's, not the club's, best interest.

The HCAs being the bodies responsible for player development, are best placed to assess a submission and determine if a club has the right things in place for a 16 & 17 year old to play at a professional level. The process will provide information to help the HCA make this decision.

**We are an adult only club – do we need to do this?**

Yes, if a 16 or 17 year old is to play in any adult professional team, the club should follow the regulation and process. Additional requirements may be applied by the respective Home Country to ensure approval is sought from the players Youth Team Club.

**We have a U19 or U23 team – do we need to follow the same process?**

Yes, if in a BBNCL licensed competition, this constitutes an adult team. Youth teams end after the Under 18 age group.

**What things do we need to do to help demonstrate our readiness as a club to play an Under 18 year old in Professional Basketball?** Clubs should follow the checklist below:

What do we need to do?	Supporting information	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a Club Safeguarding -/ Child Protection Officer (CSO / CPO) who has completed an appropriate Safeguarding Course via their HCA , Local Authority, other sports body or e.g. NSPCC	If you have a junior teams you will already have a CSO / CPO who will support. If you are an adult only club you will need to create the role of CSO and record this as required by the respective HCA and or BBF



<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopt the relevant HCA or club safeguarding policy and display within the club	See Resources at the end of this document.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure players are registered with the respective HCA systems and that medical and emergency contact details are provided to team managers. Confirm that photographic consent has been provided from the parents / guardian, as well as providing the UKAD Policy on testing Minors.	Note Under 18 year olds may be registered via their parents on HCA systems. The club data officer should provide medical information, emergency contact and photographic consent to the team manager, as well as confirming the UKAD Policy relating to testing Minors has been provided to the parents/guardian.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed Safeguarding audit if applicable via HCA system or NSPCC – safeguarding self assessment	NSPCC available via this link. HCA via their respective web site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional Team Coaches undergone HCA Enhanced DBS or Disc Scot checks . <b>All coaches should also hold the UKCC Duty to Care award.</b>	DBS / Disc Scot applications are made via the Club Safeguarding/ Child Protection Officer. Further information can be found via the respective HCA web site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional team manager undergone HCA Enhanced DBS or Disc Scot checks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional team captain undergone HCA enhanced DBS or Disc Scot checks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional team roles (i.e. physio, 1st aider) undergone HCA enhanced DBS /Disc Scot checks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure there are separate changing + shower facilities available for Under 18 year olds (if the player requests)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit the “ BBF Club approval form” and received approval from HCA	This form is located on within the BBF Licensing Regulations Appendix C This application needs to be made annually.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete “ BBF Player approval form” and submit to HCA?	This form is located within the BBF Licensing Regulations Appendix D Completed forms should be secured safely online and password protected and paper copies destroyed. This application requires to be completed each season.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has assigned a suitable adult from within team and management as mentor for the U18 player	
<input type="checkbox"/>	On a match day: Ensure referee , table officials and opposition are informed there is / are Under 18 year old player (s) in the side	
<input type="checkbox"/>	On a match day: Ensure parents have provided consent for travel arrangement, remembering that no child should be left alone in a car with an adult. <b>Overnight trips.- Under 18 player should only room with another Under 18 player or single room must be provided.</b>	Further information can be found via the relevant HCA/BBF safeguarding Policy



### **Does every adult in the team need to complete a DBS / Disc Scot Check ?**

**No, only those in positions of trust and responsibility** – e.g. manager, coach, first aider, captain. Adult players however should be reminded of their responsibility with a child playing in the team, with regards to behaviour, alcohol licensing laws etc. Consideration should be given to providing Safeguarding Awareness training to Professional Team Staff & Players.

### **What if we cannot provide separate shower facilities for Under 18 year olds?**

We anticipate that most Under 18 year olds will be happy to shower and change with their team mates, however alternative arrangements may need to be made if a young person requests this, such as allowing the Under 18 year old to shower first. We want to protect everyone in the game and it is sensible to avoid a situation where a Under 18 year old is left alone with only one other adult in the shower or changing area.

### **Is there a limit to the number of Under 18s who can play in a professional basketball team?**

This will be determined by BBL/WBBL Operating Rules, however the assessment needs to be completed for each individual. Once approved a player can play with that professional team up to the point they turn 18. **The player assessment / approval requires to be completed each season until the player is 18.** The assessment and application must demonstrate that it is in each player's development interests to do so – not only in the interests of the team / club.

### **Why do we need to inform the Referees / Table Officials and Opposition?**

The purpose is to safeguard the adults as much as it is the Under 18 year old – they will be able to modify their behaviour knowing that a child is present and avoid leaving themselves (even accidentally) open to accusation. The club does not need to identify who the Under 18 year olds are, they will simply inform the opposition that there is / are Under 18 year olds playing/involved/present. This is as much about what happens off the court as it is about what happens on the court and is a critical element of the safeguarding of the young person and adults they are involved with.

### **Why a UKCC Level 2 Coach**

A UKCC Level 2 award holder (includes an HCA Level 2 Coaching Award) must “endorse” the assessment has been undertaken. This level ensures the person has a skill set to assess the player. This is the minimum standard, even better if they have a UKCC Duty to Care award, FIBA WABC membership or a UKCC/HCA level three Coach award. We'd expect for a coach to make an assessment and determination of a player's ability to play in a Professional Basketball League.



**Who do we send our completed forms to in the relevant HCA ?**

This will be determined and communicated by the HCA. If in doubt contact the respective HCA administration/ safeguarding officer.

**We have not been granted approval from our HCA, how do we appeal?**

An appeal by a club where approval has not been granted by their respective HCA , will be reviewed by representatives from the GB Performance Commission, Chaired by the GB Performance Director and supported by a representatives from each of the HCAs Performance Staff, not involved in the application refusal.

**What things do we need to include in our Player Approval application?**

The form should be used to build a picture of the player, their ability, development, confidence and competence. Clubs need to demonstrate clear evidence of a good, robust assessment process taking place that is focussed on what is appropriate for the player. The guidance below shows some of the type of things those reviewing your application will be considering in various sections of the form:

Number of years the player has played basketball:	<i>This will help to determine experience of a player. It wouldn't normally be expected for novice Under 18 year old players to be granted permission to play professional basketball.</i>
Representative basketball the player has played since 15 years old	<i>This should include e.g, Academy or Centre of Excellence, HCA/ GB representation. This is to help determine the ability of a player – however an academy level player alone does not mean guaranteed approval, nor should approval not be granted if a player hasn't played rep basketball.</i>
Professional basketball team(s) the player is likely to play for:	<i>How many teams the club has and what level they play in; what coaching support the club has in each team; is the "professional team" a suitable environment for the young player.</i>
Will the player also continue to play Age Grade Basketball?	<i>If yes, there is evidence this helps their transition to the professional game with their peers. However, how will you try to balance their playing/training time? Are they going to be overplaying by playing e.g.twice in a weekend? Has their overall training/playing schedule been discussed and agreed with the parents/guardian. Will there be sports science and medical support, covering injuries occurring in the non professional team, as well as with the professional team. Is their adequate insurance in place covering injury and career ending injury. All these points, as a minimum, should be detailed in a written agreement with the parents/guardian of the young player.</i>
Reason for the player to play out of their Age Grade:	<i>The explanation should focus on benefits to the player. Clubs should not be solely applying based on a club/team being short on numbers; it must also be of benefit to the young player's development and retention in basketball.</i>
Requested start date for playing Professional Basketball.	<i>Note: Approval is for one season only, or until the player is 18 years of age in the current season. This should help demonstrate that a club has a planned approach to support a young player. Approval cannot be given retrospectively</i>



## Appendix C

# Playing Professional Basketball– Club Approval Form

- Approval for a male or female Under 18 year old to (i.e. 16 or 17 years old) play in the BBL/WBBL \_ GB professional leagues, is required under BBF regulation. Due to changes in requirements of the Disclosure Management Services across the UK, this is a 2-stage process.
- The Club need approval by completing this Club Approval Form and process; and each individual player must be approved, by completing the **Playing Professional Basketball – Player Approval Form** and process.
- This form should be read and actioned alongside relevant HCA Safeguarding Policies or Codes of Practice

The purpose of this form is to help clubs prepare for the possibility of Under 18 year olds playing up into the professional game. Legally, whatever their physical and emotional characteristics, Under 18 year olds are still children and we have a duty to ensure that their welfare is protected.

To enable a Home Country Association (HCA) to give consent that Under 18 year olds may play professional level basketball at a club, there is a requirement that this form is completed **every season**. Please be aware that club eligibility for Under 18 year olds to play up into the professional game may be revoked by the relevant HCA or BBF if significant concerns are raised in relation to discipline or safeguarding.

### To be completed by Club:

It is a requirement of BBF Regulation that this form is fully completed, signed and submitted to the relevant Home Country Association (HCA) for approval every season.

*Please note: Until this approval by the HCA is received, the club cannot apply for any individual Under 18 year old to license to play in their professional league team.*

Club Name:		
Has the club appointed a Safeguarding / Child Protection Officer and are their details available on your website? <i>Even where there are no age grade teams, there is a requirement that clubs who have children playing up into the adult game appoint a CSO/CPO</i>		Yes/No
When did the Safeguarding / Child Protection Officer complete the HCA or NSPCC or other recognised course. If not yet completed, give date and location of the course applied for ( <i>this must be asap and no later than in six months' time</i> )		
Has the club adopted their HCA Safeguarding Policy or put in place their own and is it visible on your website?		Yes/No
Has the club completed a Safeguarding Audit for this season?		Yes/No



Have those in a position of trust in the adult teams, such as Coaches, Captains, Team Managers, 1 <sup>st</sup> Aiders undergone a DBS / Disclosure Scotland PVG check through the respective HCA Safeguarding Department? Please record these people below:			Yes/No
Name:		Role:	
DBS/DS Number:		Expiry Date:	
Name:		Role:	
DBS/DS Number:		Expiry Date:	
Name:		Role:	
DBS/DS Number:		Expiry Date:	
Name:		Role:	
DBS/DS Number:		Expiry Date:	

Will the young person have the opportunity to shower and change separately if they wish?	Yes/No
Can you confirm that the referee, table officials and opposition will be informed that there is an under 18 year old in the side?	Yes/No
Is your Club HCA Membership Accreditation up to date?	Yes/No
Do you commit to following the guidance issued by the BBF in relation to Under 18 year olds playing up into the professional game?	Yes/No

Club Secretary or Chair:		Signature:	
E-mail:		Date:	

Club Safeguarding/ Child Protection Officer:		Signature:	
E-mail:		Date:	

Please send the completed form to your appointed HCA Performance Dept/ Safeguarding Official for review and approval.



To be completed by the Home Country Association:

Are there any disciplinary matters that give you cause for concern with this club?	Yes/No
Does your HCA Safeguarding Manager have any safeguarding concerns in relation to this club?	Yes/No
Do you require any further evidence or advice from the BBF Safeguarding Officer or GB Performance Director	Yes/No

<p>Is consent given for this club to play Under 18 years olds in Professional Basketball ?</p> <p>Note: Completion of the Playing Professional Basketball - Player Approval form and process is also required for each individual player</p>	Yes/No
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Approved by:		Signature:	
HCA Role:		Date:	

When approved this completed form should be sent to the BBF at [license@gb.basketball](mailto:license@gb.basketball) and the respective HCA Safeguarding Officer retain a copy.

**The HCA should confirm to the club that the application has been approved / rejected as applicable.**



**Appendix D**

## Playing Professional Basketball – Player Approval Form

- Approval for a male or female Under 18 year old (i.e. 16 or 17 years old) to play professional basketball in the BBNCL Men or Women , is required under BBF Regulation . Due to Safeguarding Requirements from 2019 this is a 2-stage process.
  - In addition to the individual player being approved, the Club also need firstly **to have their HCA approval to play** Under 18 year olds in professional basketball by completing the **Playing professional basketball – Club Approval Form** and process.
  - This form should be read and actioned alongside the respective Home Country Safeguarding Policy and any Age participation related Codes of Practice.
1. The ultimate consideration must be for the welfare and safety of the player and those they play with/against.
  2. There must be clear communication with all those involved in and affected by the decision.
  3. The following aspects must be considered:
    - i. The physical and social development of the individual and their playing colleagues
    - ii. The skill level and experience of the individual
    - iii. The individual’s playing position in the team
    - iv. The competitive standard of the particular match and playing conditions.
  4. The form must be completed in full, endorsed by a coach of at least UKCC Level 2 and submitted to the Constituent Body (CB) for approval. Once approved, an application to have an U18 player licensed to play in the BBNCL – Men or Women, can be submitted, not before.

<b>Player Full Name:</b>	
<b>HCA ID Number:</b>	
<b>Club:</b>	
<b>School/College:</b>	

<b>Date of Birth:</b>		<b>Current Age Band:</b>	
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<b>Youth team Playing Position(s):</b>	
<b>Potential Professional Playing Position(s):</b>	
<b>Number of years the player has played basketball:</b>	



Representative basketball the player has played since 15 years old ( <i>icl, GB Teams, HCA Rep teams, Academy or Centre of Excellence</i> ):	
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Professional team(s) the player is likely to play for:	
Will the player also continue to play Age Grade Basketball.	
Reason for the player to play professional basketball and out of their Youth Age level team:	
Requested start date for playing Professional Basketball <i>Note: Approval is for the current season e.g. 24-25.</i>	

<b>Player Assessment:</b> <i>To include findings and how each element was measured. HCAs may have guidance on supporting evidence and how it might be measured. <b>Attach a copy of the signed players assessment form contained in the Club Guidance Document.</b></i>		<b>Suitable for Professional Basketball?</b>
Skill level and ability		Yes/No
Physical development for their age		Yes/No
Social & emotional development for their age		Yes/No
Additional comments & considerations		

**Coach Endorsement** (This assessment must be endorsed by a coach of at least UKCC Level 2 & FIBA WABA Member):

Coach Name:		Signature:	
HCA/BBF ID Number:		Date:	





WABC No			
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**Declaration:**

We certify that all the information on this form is correct and if approved, agree to play the above player in Professional Basketball in accordance with BBF Regulation .

Proposed by:		Signature:	
E-mail:		Club Role:	

Parent or Guardian:		Signature:	
E-mail:		Date:	

Please send the completed form to your appointed HCA -Safeguarding Officer for Approval or Head of Performance for review and approval.

**Home Country Association (HCA) Player Approval:**

Does the HCA approve the club’s assessment process and findings to allow the player to play professional level basketball? *Approval is for the current season or in the current season until the player turns 18.*

Yes	No	Date:	
Approver:		HCA Role: e.g. Safeguarding Office/ Head of Performance	



**Appendix D - Cont**

**Player Assessment Form . – To be submitted with the Players Application Form -Appendix C**

<p><b>Player Assessment:</b>  <i>To include findings and how each element was measured.. Clear evidence and fact is crucial in these sections. Approvers will be looking for clubs to show a good and robust assessment process taking place, backed by a UKCC Level 2 coach. Approved players should all have a “Yes” in each of the boxes. If the HCA believes that the assessment is less than satisfactory from a welfare and safeguarding point of view, they should not approve the player to play professional level basketball.</i></p>	<p>Suitable for Professional Basketball?</p>	
<p>Skill level and ability</p>	<p><i>A player should usually be one of the top performers in their age group – not just in their playing position.  A coach should have observed them in training and match situations and be comfortable in their ability to manage basketball contact situations in particular. Their playing experience at GB / academy /national league or school team may help to make a decision here. Does their ability match with the playing level of the professional team they are potentially going into?</i></p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p>Physical development for their age</p>	<p><i>Club should detail their weight, height and how this compares to others in the similar positions in the team. If the club/school/college have other measurements taken e.g. during PE (fitness test) this should be included. This should compare to a player of a similar position in the professional team. Approvers should be confident this player will be physically safe to play in the professional team requested.</i></p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p>Social &amp; emotional development for their age</p>	<p><i>In this section clubs should detail leadership roles in the club or school (captain, young leader, prefect) as well as detailing their current interactions with adults in club / team. Detail about how they are in school/college may also support this section. Players who demonstrate resilience, emotional</i></p>	<p>Yes/No</p>



	<p><i>intelligence and who will be able to cope with adult settings may be more appropriate. Remember, players want to play with their friends – what is the impact of removing them from a friendship group in the club?</i></p>	
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Coach Endorsement (This assessment must be endorsed by a coach of at least UKCC Level 2):

Coach Name:	Signature:	<p><i>This is further demonstration of you taking the assessment seriously and someone with a technical knowledge and credibility endorsing it. Approvers should be looking for current coaching award and evidence of current, active CPD or further qualification. e.g. UKCC Duty to Care Award.</i></p>
HCA /BBF Lic No-	Date:	
WABC No. -		

**Declaration:**

We certify that all the information on this form is correct and if approved, agree to supports and play the above player in Professional Basketball in accordance with BBF Regulation - Licensing

Proposed by:	Signature:	<p><i>Should be a position of responsibility within your club (e.g. Chair, CEO, Head Coach).</i></p>
E-mail:	Club Role:	

Parent or Guardian:	Signature:	<p><i>This needs to be signed to ensure those with parental responsibility have received a written agreement (as detailed in the guidance document) and are shown to be involved and aware of the potential for their child to play in professional basketball.</i></p>
E-mail:	Date:	

**How should we complete the player assessment part of the Player Approval process?**

In addition to advice in the above, the UKCC – Duty to Care or via respective HCA, have resources on the considerations coaches should make for player participation.

Resources - Click on the links below to access guidance and resources on Safeguarding and Child Protection / Courses etc including information in relation to DBS/Disclosure Scotland checks where applicable.

[Basketball England](#) [Basketball Scotland](#) [Basketball Wales](#)

[NSPCC](#) [CPSU- Child Protection in Sport Unit](#) [CEOP – Child Exploitation & On Line Protection](#) [UKCC](#)