



WOMEN'S LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

SEASON 2015/2016

1. **BWB Women's League**

- 1.1 The BWB Women's League is organised in compliance with the IWBF Official Rules of Wheelchair Basketball. Any omissions or amendments to these rules are detailed in these Rules and Regulations and are considered to be "local rules" applying to this competition only.
- 1.2 The Women's League consists of one or more national divisions which is organised as a central venue competition on weekends allocated by BWB during the National League season. The size and format of each division will be determined by club/entry each season.

2. **Affiliations & Registration**

- 2.1 All Clubs must register their teams with the BWB Office, pay the appropriate fees, by the set date in order for them to play in the Women's League.
- 2.2 Playing clubs will only be accepted after the set date at the League Sub-committee's discretion, and in the best interests of BWB.
- 2.3 All new clubs, or existing clubs wishing to change their name, must submit their proposed name to the Memberships Officer for approval. It would enhance the appeal of the sport if clubs names included a place name, i.e. town or city where a club plays.
- 2.4 Club Entry deadline is noted below. All playing members who were registered and received a permit to play in any BWB senior competitions the previous season must be registered with the BWB to play for a club the following season by the date also indicated below:

Women's League Entry	- 23 June
Women's League Player Registration	- 18 July
- 2.5 New players and players who were not registered nor received a permit to play in the Women's League the previous season may sign for a club and be registered at any time.
- 2.6 No female player who has been registered in the same season for a club competing in any other NOWB league or competition will be permitted to play in the Women's League. A female player permanently relocating to the UK from another country during the season may apply for registration, providing they have obtained a letter of release from the NOWB if they were previously registered with a club in that country. Note: A permit will not be granted to players meeting this criteria if they seek registration after the 31st January until the end of the current league season.
- 2.7 Each club must have a laminated year dated Team Summary Sheet for the team listing all of its registered members. Clubs with teams in the Women's League must submit their Team Summary Sheet to the BWB Office by the 18th July.
- 2.8 Players, who were registered to play for a club in the Women's League the previous season, who register after this date (31st January), will not be eligible to play for their club in the first two games following their registration.
- 2.9 All players must be registered before participating in Women's League games and have been issued with a current Licence Card.

Note: 14 days should be allowed for the processing of new registrations.

A new "Fast Track" registration is available, fee noted below:

Fast Track Registration Fee - £15.00 1 player + £5.00 additional players.
(Providing office staff available - posted 1st class within 48 hours)

- 2.10 A coach, an assistant coach and up to a maximum of 5 additional team staff are permitted to sit on the team bench.

Note: BWB will try to ensure that the nearest spectator is no closer than 2m from the last player/team staff member at the end of the bench area.

- 2.11 All clubs playing in the Women's League must have a qualified Grade 2 coach who should be present at their games if at all possible. A new club has 12 months from first registration to comply with this rule.

- 2.12 Clubs may register additional players up to 3 weeks prior to the first round of games in the Women's League. Thereafter, additional players may be registered allowing a minimum of 14 days for new player permit/s and Team Summary Sheet to be issued. Only players inscribed on the laminated and year dated Team Summary Sheet will be permitted to play for the club. (See rule 2.7 for Fast Track Registration Fee option).

- 2.13 Playing clubs must bring a qualified Level 2 table official for each team it enters to each round of games in the Women's League.

- 2.14 Clubs must provide to the scorer their Team Summary Sheet and players League Licence Cards, as issued by the BWB Office, immediately prior to their warm up period before each game.

- 2.15 The Team Coach, or in their absence team captain, must ensure that the licence numbers are inscribed on the score sheet alongside each player's name together with their classification points.

- 2.16 Players become "free agents" the day following the BWB AGM each year, until such time as they sign a contract/registration form to play for a club in the Women's League for the new season.

Players may change clubs at this time providing that their former club has no legitimate objection. Should a club have any such objection it is this club's responsibility to inform the BWB Office and League Secretary in writing, together with any evidence or explanation for the objection. The League Secretary will view the information provided and make a decision, informing both the objecting club, the player and the club for whom they have or wish to register with.

Note. It is in the interests of clubs and players that any agreements involving payments and the purchase, or loan of equipment is written and signed by both parties and a copy lodged with the BWB Office.

- 2.17 Once a player has signed a contract/registration form for a club for that season they are committed to play for that club until the end of that season, which ends on the day of the BWB's AGM.

- 2.18 Mid-season transfer of players in the Women's League will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the League Secretary. Any player seeking to transfer must write to the League Secretary with the reason, together with a letter of release from the club with whom they are registered, and an administration fee of £10. If the transfer is permitted, a re-registration fee of £5 must be paid to the BWB Office who will issue a new playing Licence Card. Players will not be permitted to play for their new club until this licence and a new Team Summary Sheet has been received by the club.

- 2.19 Foreign female players registering with clubs must have a letter of release from their National Governing Body, together with a certificate stating their classification, if they were registered with a club in that country.
- 2.20 It is the responsibility of all playing clubs to ensure that every member is physically able and medically fit to participate when they sign a contract/registration form for the club.
- 2.21 The Status of Able-bodied players shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Committee.
- 2.22 Penalties relating to registration are as follows:
 - 2.23.1 *Clubs who fail to enter a team by the set date will be refused entry unless there is capacity to include them and sufficient time to schedule games. Late entry may incur a surcharge up to 50% of the registration fee.*
 - 2.23.2 *Clubs who register a team/s to enter the Women's League and then withdraw it/them up to 4 weeks prior to the start of the first round of matches will be subject to a fine up to a maximum of £250. Clubs withdrawing a team/s within 4 weeks of the first round of matches will be subject to a fine up to a maximum of £500. Failure to pay the fine by the date required will result in an additional penalty.*
 - 2.23.3 *Failure to produce Team Summary Sheet at a round - fine up to a maximum of £25.*
 - 2.23.4 *Failure to produce player Licence Card at a round - fine of £5 per card up to a maximum fine of £50.*
 - 2.23.5 *Loss of playing cards - £5.00 per card replacement cost.*
 - 2.23.6 *Loss of team summary sheet - £10.00 replacement cost.*
 - 2.23.7 *Playing a previous registered player who failed to serve the first two games suspension for registering after the stated deadline - £100, plus forfeiture of game 0 – 20.*
 - 2.23.8 *Playing a foreign female player without obtaining a letter or release from their NOWB or informing the BWB Office the player is currently registered with a foreign NOWB will incur a fine up to a maximum of £150 plus forfeiture of all games in which they have played and game/s awarded to opponent 20 – 0.*

3. Competitions

- 3.1 The administration and organisation of the Women's League will be undertaken by BWB staff. A game schedule for clubs for each round of matches during season will be provided

General Eligibility and Priority

- 3.2 Teams are expected to return all perpetual trophies in the condition in which they were presented to the BWB Office one month prior to the date set for the current season's AGM.
- 3.3 Penalties relating to breach of General Eligibility and Priority:
 - 3.5.1 *Failure to return perpetual trophy at the final women' league fixture prior to the National Championship Final - £20 fine.*
 - 3.5.2 *Returning trophy in damaged condition - Cost of repair or replacement of trophy.*

4. The Classification and Constitution of Players and Teams in the Women's League

- 4.1. The classification of teams and status of Female senior and junior players is as follows:
 - 4.1.2 Players in the Women's League must be classified in accordance with Article 51 of the IWBF Official Wheelchair Basketball Rules (effective July 2014), with the exception of able-bodied players who will be classified at a mandatory 5 points.
 - 4.1.3 A junior player must be u19 at Midnight on 31st December of the current season. The youngest age a player can register in the Women's League is 14 at Midnight on 31st December of the current season. No exception will be made to this rule.
 - 4.1.4 Any player who has their classification changed during the season by a classification panel or Head Classifier must play to their old classification until such time as a new club team

sheet and player permit has been received. Emails notifying of a change of classification must not be used as evidence to change classification of that player prior to the amended team sheet and player permit being received.

- 4.1.5 All new players classified by their club at class 3.5, 4.0 or 4.5 must have their medical details approved by the Head Classifier before being permitted to play at that class. Medical details must be included on the player's registration form when this is sent to the BWB League Administrator. Further medical evidence may be required prior to the player being registered. If approval is not received before the first round of games, the player must play as a 5.0 point player.
- 4.1.6 When each junior player goes on court, 1.0 is added to the team classification total up to the maximum team point cap, including able bodied players.
- 4.1.7 Able-bodied players are permitted to play in the Women's League. Only one able-bodied player may be on court at any one time.
- 4.1.8 All games in the Women's League will be played to a maximum team player classification on court as follows:

1 st Division	-	14.5 Points
All other divisions	-	16 Points

- 4.1.9 The number of classification team points allowed on court is capped as follows:

1 st Division	-	16.5 Points
All other divisions	-	18.0 Points

Note: The above is the maximum number adding of points allowable for the 5 players on court at any time including concessions for female junior players.

- 4.1.10 In the event that a team cannot start the game to the points criteria, the following procedure will apply:
- Teams will start the game with 5 players
 - If after the tip off, the team with the correct classification points wins possession, play will continue until the team which exceeds classification points, gains possession, then as below:
 - When the team which is over classification points gains possession (either from the tip or in open play), play will be immediately stopped and that team coach will be charged with a technical foul and that team will then continue with 4 players only, after 1 free throws and possession have been taken.

4.1.11 Teams who have 5 players available allowing them to play within the points for their respective division must play with full compliment of players on court at all times.

4.1.12 After starting a game with 5 players, clubs with a team who during the game cannot comply with the point system because of lack of players due to legitimate injury or disqualification MUST NOT field 5 players over team classification. They may play with 4 or less players for the remainder of the game within maximum team points, i.e. the cap increase is suspended.

4.1.13 Penalties relating to Classification and Constitution of teams:

4.1.14.1 *Failing to provide medical evidence for new 4.0 or 4.5 players to the Head Classifier for approval playing one or more new players of this class in a game - Maximum £50 fine, plus forfeiture of game 0 - 20 unless game won by opponents, in which case score will stand..*

4.1.14.2 *Playing with less than 5 players on court when players are available to allow them to play within the classification - Maximum £50 fine 2 point deduction plus forfeiture of*

game 0 - 20 unless game won by opponents, in which case score will stand.

5. Player Rosters

- 5.1 Clubs who wish to enter a team in the Women's League must have a minimum of 7 registered players for each team entered.
- 5.2 Clubs who enter more than one team into the Women's League must nominate their best 7 players for their 1st team. The nominated players must be able to play within the classification system for the division in which they are playing. Subject to the above, clubs wishing to enter three or more teams must nominate their next best 6 players for each of their teams, with the exception of their lowest placed team.
- 5.2.1 Stats will be used to determine any player who is deemed to be influential in a game but is not named as one of the clubs best 7 players.
- 5.3 *Players who are registered for a club with a team only in the 1st Division and who are not a nominated player may also register for a different club in the lower divisions and be eligible to play for that club in the lower division/s. These players may not play for this second club's 1st team if this has a team in the 1st Division.*
- 5.4 Penalties relating to breaches of Player Roster rules are as follows:
- 5.3.1 *Playing a non registered player - Maximum £50 fine 2 point deduction per game in which the player played, plus forfeiture of game 0 - 20 unless game won by opponent, in which case game score will stand.*

6. Fixtures

- 6.1 Weekends will be allocated by BWB for the Women's League during the National League season.
- 6.2 Women's League game rules:
- 6.2.1 Games will be played in accordance with the current IWBFB rules of Wheelchair Basketball subject to the following local competition rules.
- 6.2.2 The League will be played on 10ft hoops. Size 6 ball will be used.
- 6.2.3 Games must be completed in the time slot allotted.
- 6.2.4 Failure to be on court ready at the beginning of the time slot will result in a team forfeiting the game with a result of 20-0.
- 6.2.5 Dependent upon time there should be a 15 minute warm-up period.
- 6.2.6 The duration of games will consist of four quarters of 10 minutes, stopping clock.
- 6.2.7 There will be a 10 minute break at half time.
- 6.2.8 Visual 24 second clocks will be used if available in Division 1.
- 6.2.9 Players must be registered and participate in at least one of the league rounds to be eligible to play in the Finals.
- 6.4 General Rules for Women's League
- 6.4.1 Two points will be awarded for a win, one point will be awarded for a defeat.
- 6.4.2 All Women's League games will be played on the dates confirmed and listed on the BWB website.

- 6.4.3 The Molten GG6X composite basketball is the official game ball in the Women's League.
- 6.4.4 BWB will provide the game ball only, clubs should provide their own warm up balls for each round of competition.
- 6.4.5 Table Equipment will be provided by BWB at each round of the Women's League.

BWB will inform clubs of any postponement of rounds in the Women's League due to exceptionally inclement weather.

- 6.6. In all Women's League games players must wear matching kit. This comprises of matching coloured vests of a single dominant colour with a legal playing number (numbers 0, 00 and 1 to 99). All players must wear tracksuit bottoms, trousers or shorts of a uniform colour. Players wearing jeans will not be allowed to play.
- 6.7. Playing clubs must bring a BWB Level 2 qualified Table Official to each round of the Women's League. Clubs who have entered more than one team into the Women's League must bring a separate Table Official for each team.
- 6.8. Table Officials will be allocated games in the playing schedule by the competition organiser on the day..
- 6.9. General Penalties and Fines relating to fixtures are as follows:
 - 6.9.1. *Clubs who have a team in the Women's League who fail to attend - £150 fine and any further sanctions imposed by the League Sub-committee.*
 - 6.9.2. *Failure to provide qualified Table Official for all appointed games, up to a maximum of £100 per official.*

7. Officials

- 7.1 Referees. In all Women's League games two qualified referees will be appointed by the BWB Referee Appointment's Officer.
- 7.2 Payment of officials. Referees will be paid by BWB a set agreed fee for each round of the Women's League

8. Protests

- 8.1 If a team believes its interests have been adversely affected by a decision of a game official, or any event whatsoever that took place during a game, it must proceed in the following manner;
 - 8.1.1 At the moment the incident takes place, the next time the ball becomes dead and the game clock is stopped, the captain of the team shall make their observations to the referee in a calm and courteous manner. The referee may explain the decision, or if necessary may examine the score sheet and check the score and playing time. If the interruption exceeds 30 seconds, it shall be charged as a time out to the team in question, unless the referee decides otherwise.
 - 8.1.2 In all Official fixtures, at the end of a game if a team considers that it has suffered unreasonable harm by virtue of any occurrence concerned with the game, with the exception of decisions made by the game officials, the captain of the team may sign the score sheet "under protest". This must be done within ten minutes of the end of the game. The referee shall ensure that he does not close the score sheet by signing it until the ten-minute period has elapsed. All game officials, and table officials, should remain at the disposal of the referee until he has signed the score sheet. If a team signs "under protest" it must adopt the following procedure to ensure that the protest is valid.

- 8.1.3 A written report must be received by the League Secretary within seven days of the game and include the fee of £50 (refundable if protest is upheld).
- 8.1.4 All officials must send a report to the League Secretary within seven days of the game.
- 8.1.5 The written reports should be factual. The matter will be judged by the Disciplinary Sub-committee. (See following section).
- 8.2 Appeals. On any decision made by the League Secretary or Disciplinary Sub-committee; this must be made to the League Secretary within seven days of notification of the decision. The appeal fee is £150 (returnable if upheld). This sum comprises £50 fee, plus £100 to cover the travel expenses of the Jury D'appel. Should the total for travel be less than £100 then the difference will be refunded. The appeal must be written and will be judged by an independent panel (minimum of 3 persons) considered qualified to adjudicate who will be appointed by the Executive Committee. The result is final, and shall be notified to the appellant within seven days by the League Secretary.
- 8.3 Disqualifying Foul (this does not include players disqualified for 2 technical or unsportsmanlike fouls).
 - 8.3.1 Any licensed player, coach, assistant coach or team staff member disqualified from a game, as a result of a disqualifying foul, shall be subject to an automatic 1 game suspension. This ban must be served in the next game due to be played by their club. If during a round of the Women's League the club has completed its fixtures, the ban must be served in first game of the next round of the competition. There is no appeal procedure.
 - 8.3.2 A second disqualification in the same season will carry an automatic 3 game ban. This ban must be served in the next 3 games due to be played by their club. There is no appeal procedure.
 - 8.3.3 Any player, coach, assistant coach or team staff member banned from a game cannot sit on the team bench nor take any active role from elsewhere on the court surround. If the club has a team entered into a lower division, the ban applies also to any game/s played by this team. Any breach of this rule will result in further sanctions being imposed.
 - 8.3.4 Any unserved ban from a previous season shall be carried forward to the following season.
 - 8.3.5 All reports from game officials regarding disqualifying fouls will be reported to the disciplinary committee. The disciplinary committee has the jurisdiction to impose additional penalties if considered necessary.

9. League Fees

- 9.1 The following fees become payable to the BWB Office (League Administrator) by the due date each year: -

Registration per club for Women's League..... £30.00

This fee includes registration and is inclusive of £5 million Public Liability Insurance cover for the club.

The following fees become payable to the BWB Office (League Administrator) by the due date each year; -

Affiliation to the Association - Women's League: -

Senior Player already registered for a club in the National League £20.00
 Senior Player £30.00

Junior Player already registered for a club in the National League £10.00
Junior Player £15.00

The above fee includes limited personal insurance cover for each playing member. All players in employment are recommended to increase the limited insurance cover provided in the above fee to a level which equals their current weekly salary. Further details are available from the Membership Officer.

Non playing BWB qualified Coach or Assistant Coach £30.00
Qualified Coaches already registered with BWB in the National League.....No additional charge

The above fee includes personal indemnity cover for the qualified Coach or Assistant Coach.

General Membership of Association

This membership entitles the member to voting rights at the AGM and is covered by BWB's public liability insurance.

Individual Membership of the Association £30.00

Associate Membership is available to all non-league clubs, organisations, schools etc. The fee includes registration and is inclusive of £5 million Public Liability Insurance cover for the club. These groups have no voting rights at the Annual General Meeting of the Association: -

Associate Club Membership £75.00
Individual Membership if member of Associate Club..... N/C

10. General

10.1 All matters not covered by these rules, National Rules, or the Association's Constitution, or the IWBF/FIBA rules and comments shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Association.

ADDENDUM TO WOMEN'S LEAGUE RULES

- A. To play wheelchair basketball in accordance with the rules, players are required to play in a sitting position. In the IWBF rules, sitting is not clearly defined and is therefore open to misinterpretation. The BWB has therefore decided to implement its own definition of sitting which players will have to comply with in all sanctioned events in Great Britain.

Definition of sitting

- B. Sitting should be defined as weight bearing on one's buttocks and having one's knees and pelvis bent in such a way that brings one's knees towards one's chest and one's heels towards one's trunk. Normally, these angles will be close to 90 degrees.
- C. A player who wishes to sit in a straight leg position will be permitted to do so only on medical grounds by Classification. Short seating arrangements that raise the player into an upright position will only be allowed only on medical grounds corroborated by a qualified medical practitioner and should be consistent with the normal approved sitting height by extending the length of the wheelchair. Normally, the length of the cushion will finish close to the back of the knees.
- D. Player's granted dispensation to have a straight leg position are not allowed to play in a wheelchair that allows them to alter their leg/pelvis position i.e. the height and positioning of the footrest must be fixed and there should be only one possible place to position the feet with no possibilities of changing/straightening the pelvis or knee angle.
- E. Players unable to comply fully with the above definition may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee/Technical Committee, be awarded a Special Licence allowing them to play in the 3rd and 4th Divisions only.

BWB Classification Rules

- F. The BWB uses the IWBF functional classification system.
- G. All clubs and players should have some knowledge of the classification system and all new players should register with their points prepared by the club. This is accepted by the Association and ratified by classification officials as soon as possible.
- H. If a club is found to be consistently abusing the system by under-classifying players then the privilege will be removed and no new players will be eligible to play until seen by a classification official.
- I. All clubs must have a nominated classifier who has attended a BWB national classification course. This classifier does not have to be a member of the club, but must be responsible for classifying all new players the club wishes to register.
- J. A fee of £20 is to accompany a protest in writing to the Classification Co-ordinator. The letter should state why the protest has been made, and propose a classification for the player. Reasons given should refer to the IWBF handbook for classification and be specific. Two classification officials will normally view the player in a game at the earliest opportunity. The protesting club is responsible for the travel expenses of the classifiers. £15 will be returned to the club if the protest is upheld.
- K. If the protesting club is still not satisfied, for a further £100 fee they can appeal to the Classification Co-ordinator, who will set up a "jury d'appel" consisting of the most experienced classification officers available. Again the protesting club is responsible for the travel expenses of the officers. If this jury uphold the appeal £115 will be returned to the club.
- L. Any player, classified only by their club, can have their classification changed at any time, with the agreement of 2 classification officials. Any new player registering as 4.0 or 4.5 must submit evidence of permanent lower limb disability. Any player who at time of registration is unable to provide indisputable evidence of a lower limb disability i.e. lower limb amputation, will be classified as a 5.0 player until such time as their classification can be ratified by an authorised

classification officer. Players who have had their classification confirmed can only be re-classified by protest.

- M. Any player seeking classification as a Minimal Disability player will be classified as an able bodied player (5.0) until such time as a permanent physical disability can be objectively verified by acknowledged medical and/or paramedical investigations such as measurement, x-ray, CT, MRI, etc. All costs for obtaining this evidence must be met by the player or his club. A fee of £50 is payable at time of application, £30 of which will be returned if the application is approved.
- N. If a player is intending to seek international status as a Minimal Disability player, the objective verification must be carried out by the President of the IWBF Classification Commission. Supporting medical and/or paramedical evidence must be provided, together with the appropriate IWBF fee. Please note that this procedure can take up to 6 months.
- O. Clubs and players need to be actively involved in classification and at least one person in each club should have a sound understanding of the classification system. Each club should have a copy of the IWBF handbook. Classification officials are available for clarification and help. Each club is well-advised to send a member on classification courses run by BWB.

Classification Officers

IWBF World

Kenny Mackay
(Classification Co-ordinator)

Malcolm Tarkenter
Victoria Kingstone
Sue Peel

IWBF Zone

Charlie Bethel
Steve Spilka
Ian Brown
Brett Nagata

The IWBF now has a DVD available explaining fully about player classification. Copies of the video are available from the BWB Office at £10 plus p & p.