

Home Nations Cup Rules and Regulations 2026

General Regulations (All Categories)

1 Affiliation and Entry

- 1.1 All Home Nations must be the official designated partner of BWB in order to enter teams within the competition.
- 1.2 All teams must be entered via the official BWB entry process, late entries may be accepted at BWB's discretion.
- 1.3 BWB reserves the right to approve or refuse entry to any organisation.
- 1.4 If a team withdraws after the competition begins, all their results will be void and removed from standings.

2 Membership and Eligibility

- 2.1 All athletes must hold a valid BWB membership and Player Licence for the relevant season.
- 2.2 All coaches and team staff must hold full BWB membership and the appropriate licence. Failure to provide evidence to the Officials on the day will result in not being permitted on the bench.
- 2.3 It is the responsibility of athletes, parents, carers, and team staff to ensure all athletes are medically fit to play.
- 2.4 Teams fielding ineligible or unlicensed athletes will forfeit games 20–0.

3 Team Staff

- 3.1 All coaches must be registered and licensed with BWB for the current season.
- 3.2 All team staff must hold a valid Team Staff Licence with BWB. This includes any personnel wishing to sit on the bench.
- 3.3 Each Home Nation must identify a designated Welfare Officer for the duration of the event. The Welfare Officer must hold the appropriate licence with BWB.
- 3.4 Licence eligibility is as laid out in the National League Regulations for the current season.

4 Competition Format

- 4.1 Competitions will typically use a pool/group format; however, BWB reserves the right to amend formats depending on entries.
- 4.2 Two points are awarded for a win and one point for a loss.
- 4.3 Tie-breaking criteria (in order):
 - Head-to-head record
 - Points difference between tied teams
 - Points scored between tied teams
 - Overall points difference
 - Overall points scored
 - If still tied, a draw or shared ranking (as appropriate)

5 Tournament Rankings

- 5.1 Each category will crown a winning team.
- 5.2 Overall Home Nations cup rankings will be calculated by adding points together across the categories in accordance with the following:
 - 🥇 **Gold (1st Place)** = 3 points
 - 🥈 **Silver (2nd Place)** = 2 points
 - 🥉 **Bronze (3rd Place)** = 1 point
- 5.3 Where a Home Nation enters more than one team in a category only its highest-ranked team will count towards the overall rankings.
- 5.4 Ties will be calculated according to:
 - Head-to-head record
 - Points difference between tied teams
 - Points scored between tied teams
 - Overall points difference
 - Overall points scored

- If still tied, a draw or shared ranking (as appropriate)

5.5 The Celtic Cup will be awarded to the highest-ranking Celtic Nation in the Senior Category only.

6 Teams

6.1 Home Nations are responsible for designating teams for their jurisdiction Teams can be considered based on regional geography or ability where appropriate. (e.g. North and South, A and B Team). BWB will accept team entries within the best interests of the competition and may consult the Home Nations Working Group where required.

7 Team Rosters

7.1 Athletes must be registered to one team for the duration of the competition.

7.2 Only BWB registered athletes are permitted to participate.

7.3 A Coach, Assistant Coach, and up to 7 team staff may sit on the bench.

7.4 All bench personnel must be licensed with BWB.

8 Match Day Management

8.1 Team lists must be submitted prior to the competition.

8.2 Teams must be able to provide valid licences and an accurate team sheet before tip-off. Coaches must verify and sign the scoresheet to confirm eligibility.

8.3 Licence cards must be valid and date-stamped appropriately.

9 Results Management

9.1 BWB is responsible for all official competition results.

10 Uniform and Equipment

10.1 All uniform and equipment regulations follow Sections 58–59 of the BWB National League Regulations for the current season.

11 Discipline

11.1 Competitions are governed by BWB Policies and Procedures.

11.2 Discipline is managed in line with Section 79 of the BWB National League Regulations for the current season.

11.3 All competitors must uphold fair play, participation, and respect in line with BWB's Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy.

12 Classification

12.1 The competition will be classified in line with the BWB Eligibility and Classification Policy Points limit.

13 Selection Policy and Eligibility

13.1 An athlete is permitted to represent a Home Nation if they have a current season Membership and fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

13.2 Has permanent residency within the Home Nation country (e.g. home address).

13.3 Attends a school / college / university that is situated within the Home Nation Country.

13.4 Was born in the Home Nation Country.

13.5 Has one or more parents who were born in the Home Nation Country (including adoptive parents).

13.6 Is a registered Athlete in a team that is situated within the Home Nation Country (e.g. National League; Women's Premier League, Women's League; Junior League) during the current season.

- 13.7 An athlete who has previously represented a UK Home Nation at a Senior level shall remain eligible to represent another UK Home Nation, subject to the prior approval of both BWB and the Home Nations Working Group. Where such approval is granted, the athlete shall not be permitted to represent a different Home Nation within the immediately following year. A minimum period of one (1) full year must elapse between representing one Home Nation and representing another.
- 13.8 Home Nations are responsible for the development of a Selection Policy and criteria for their own squads; such selection policies should be shared with BWB for display on the BWB Website.
- 13.9 Athletes may be asked to produce 'evidence of authenticity' e.g. Birth certificates or current address if staying away from home.
- 13.10 Athletes that are formally named in the GBR team or reserves for an upcoming Major Event are not eligible to represent Home Nations within the Home Nations Cup.

14 Guidance and Policies

- 14.1 All teams are required to follow BWB's Away Trips and Hosting Guidance.
- 14.2 All teams are responsible for their own Insurances.
- 14.3 All teams are required to abide by all other published BWB Policies and Guidance.
- 14.4 BWB refers to the BWB National League Regulations, Official Wheelchair Basketball Rules and Handbook for all matters not identified within this document.

Under 14 Category Regulations

16 Competition Format

- 16.1 Format: 4v4.
- 16.2 Played in pool groups (subject to change).
- 16.3 Random group allocation.

17 Team Composition

- 17.1 Squad size: minimum 6, maximum 10 athletes.
- 17.2 Final squad submission deadline applies.
- 17.3 Athletes cannot be registered in both U14 and U18.

18 Classification

- 18.1 No formal classification applies.
- 18.2 Minimum of 3 self-declared disabled athletes must be on court. This must be declared via a BWB Declaration form.
- 18.3 Observation by classifiers may occur but no classification will be assigned.

19 Match Rules

- 19.1 Matches will be played under BWB National Junior League rules with the following modifications:
 - a. 8ft hoops
 - b. Size 5 ball
- 19.2 Match format:
 - Two 12-minute halves (running clock)
 - b. Final minute clock stops after a made basket
 - c. 4-minute half-time
 - d. 1 timeout per game
 - e. 5-minute warm-up (if time allows)
 - f. Late teams forfeit 20-0
- 19.3 Overtime:
 - a. 2 minutes, running clock.

20 Age Eligibility

20.1 Athletes must be aged 14 or under at midnight 31 August of the current season.

20.2 Minimum age is 10 at time of competition.

20.3 No exceptions permitted.

Under 18 Category Regulations

21 Competition Format

21.1 Format: 5v5.

21.2 Pool group structure (subject to change).

22 Team Composition

22.1 Squad size: minimum 7, maximum 12 athletes.

22.2 One non-disabled (5.0) athlete allowed on court at any time.

23 Classification

23.1 All athletes must hold a current valid BWB classification.

23.2 The U18 competition will be played to 16 classification points. An additional 1.0 will be added to the team classification for every female athlete on court, to a maximum of 18 points. In the event that a team cannot start the game to the points criteria, the following procedure will apply:

- The team will forfeit the fixture 20-0.
- After starting a game with 5 athletes, a team who during the game cannot comply with the classification points system relative to their age specific competition because of lack of athletes due to legitimate injury, athlete fouling out or disqualification **MUST NOT** field 5 athletes over their respective division points.
- They may play with 4 or less athletes for the remainder of the game.

24 Match Rules

24.1 Match format:

- Four 8-minute quarters (stop clock)
- 5-minute halftime
- *2-minute quarter breaks*
- *1 timeout per half*
- *5-minute warm-up (if time allows)*
- *Late teams forfeit 20-0*

- *Overtime:*
 - 4 minutes (stop clock)

24.2 24-second clock used where available.

25 Age Eligibility

25.1 Athletes must be a maximum age of 17 or under on 31 August of the current season.

25.2 Athletes must be a minimum age of 13 at the time of the event (approval required if under 14).

25.3 Athletes cannot compete in both U14 and U18.

Senior Category Regulations

26 Competition Format

26.1 Format: 5v5.

26.2 One pool, followed by a crossover format as follows:

- 1 v 4
- 2 v 3

26.3 Squad size aligned with competition standards.

27 Classification

27.1 All athletes must hold a current valid BWB classification.

27.2 The competition will be played to 14.5 points.

27.3 An additional 1.5 will be added to the team classification for every female athlete on court.

27.4 An additional 1.0 will be added to the team classification for every junior athlete on court.

27.5 Junior athletes are not permitted to compete in both the U18 and Senior categories.

27.6 Maximum total points permitted on court is 17.

27.7 If a team cannot start the game to the points criteria, the following procedure will apply:

- The team will forfeit the fixture 20-0.
- After starting a game with 5 athletes, a team who during the game cannot comply with the classification points system relative to their age specific competition because of lack of athletes due to legitimate injury, athlete fouling out or disqualification **MUST NOT** field 5 athletes over their respective division points.
- They may play with 4 or less athletes for the remainder of the game.

28 Match Rules

- 28.1 All games shall be played in accordance with the BWB National League Rules, IWBF Official Wheelchair Basketball Rules and the Official Wheelchair Basketball Rules Interpretations.
- 28.2 Minimum warm-up time: 20 minutes before the game.
- 28.3 Half-time interval: Maximum 10 minutes.
- 28.4 Overtime: Five (5)-minute periods as per Article 8.7 of the IWBF Official Wheelchair Basketball Rules.
- 28.5 Time-outs: two (2) time-outs in the first half, three (3) in the second half as per Article 18.2.5 of the IWBF Official Wheelchair Basketball Rules.

29 Final Authority

- 29.1 BWB reserves the right to amend, interpret, or adapt these regulations where necessary.
- 29.2 All decisions made by BWB are final.