



## Competition Regulations BeNe League

1. Participation in the BeNe League is open to members (associations, foundations) of the KBIJF (Royal Belgian Ice Hockey Federation), the IJNL (Ice Hockey Netherlands) and DEB (Deutscher Eishockey Bund). Clubs from other countries can also register, subject to the approval of the relevant Federation.
2. Clubs that want to participate in the BeNe League are also obliged to play in their National Cup competition. *(if applicable)* They must inform the Board of BeNe League of their desired participation via the appropriate registration form no later than June 16 prior to the season to be registered. The definitive registration for the BeNe League expires on July 1, prior to the season to be registered. To make the registration final, an amount of € 1250 must be transferred to BeNe League account (SGIJ) before that date.
3. IJNL, KBIJF and DEB decide separately whether a member of their respective federation or association will be nominated to the Board of the BeNe League for participation in the relevant competitions. Each of the unions/federations sets its own criteria for validation with regard to this nomination.
4. The Board of the BeNe League then decides at all times about participation in the BeNe League. Nominated teams must at least meet the conditions set out in the appendix to these Competition Rules. Not (any longer) meeting the conditions can lead to exclusion from participation.
5. The Board of the BeNe League decides on adjustments and/or additions to the regulations applying to the BeNe League. Before the registration period of the clubs, the provisional regulations for the new season will be published on the closed site under regulations for the participants of the BeNe League. Well before the start of the season, the provisional regulations will become final after adjustment of the adjustments discussed and agreed with the clubs.
6. The battles for the BeNe League cup, the championship of the BeNe League and the Belgian Cup are under the jurisdiction of the BeNe League. The elaboration of the cup competition hereof is stated in the [Appendix Competition BeNe League](#).  
The Dutch cup competition, other cup finals and games/tournaments in the context of the national championship are played under the auspices of the national associations.
7. In addition to these competition regulations, the following documents apply:
  - a. Statutes BeNe League
  - b. Disciplinary Regulations BeNe League

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8. Where the regulations mentioned under 7. do not provide, the Board of the BeNe League decides.
9. By participating in the BeNe League and the Belgian Cup Competition, a participating member (foundation or association) conforms to the regulations of the BeNe League and the National Cup Competitions.

#### 10. Import Regulation

- a. An import is a player who, according to IIHF regulations, is not entitled to play for the national team of Belgium, the Netherlands (*concerns Belgian/Dutch clubs*) or Germany (*concerns German clubs*).
- b. The number of imports for the participating BeNe League teams is set at a maximum of 3 per registered team.
- c. Belgians are not regarded as imports for Dutch teams, Dutchmen are not regarded as imports for Belgian teams.
- d. In Germany, clubs can use players with a so-called Förderlizenz. These players can be exchanged between 2 clubs several times during the season.  
See for the description of these regulations in Article 1.2.5 of [https://www.deb-online.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/DF\\_OLS\\_2022\\_2023\\_Presse.pdf](https://www.deb-online.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/DF_OLS_2022_2023_Presse.pdf)
- e. However, according to the IIHF regulations, an ITC is required when transferring from a Belgian team to a Dutch team or vice versa. In such a situation, IJNL and/or KBIJF will not charge any additional administration costs, except for costs to be paid to the IIHF.

#### 11. Status Players

An import player with the status of “status player” is not to be counted as import.

Definition “Status player”: An import player, younger than 19 years old, is a status player if he has played at least 4 full and consecutive seasons in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany until he is 19 years old.

#### 12. National Championships

The way in which the champion of Belgium, the Netherlands or Germany is determined is decided by the respective countries themselves.

#### 13. National Cup Competitions

In addition to the BeNe League Cup and BeNe League competition, the Belgian Cup competition is also played under the auspices of the BeNe League. The clubs in question oblige to participate in this competition after registration in accordance with Article 2. The way in which the cup competition will take place is described in the appendix to these Rules of Play: under Cup competitions.

In the Netherlands, the cup competition is not part of the BeNe League.

#### 14. Game Rules

Matches are played in accordance with the applicable IIHF Rulebook. Any deviations are recorded as an appendix to the playing rules.

#### 15. Points for the rankings

- a. During competition games, the following scoring applies:
  - 3 points for the team that wins the game after the regular playing time of 60 minutes;
  - 2 points for the team that wins the game after a (sudden death) overtime.

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- 1 point for the team that loses the game after a (sudden death) overtime.
- b. In case of a draw after regular playing time, in all games under the BeNe League and Belgian Cup competition, a sudden victory overtime will be played that lasts a maximum of five minutes. Overtime is played with 3 field *players* (if there are no penalties on the clock at the end of regular game time).  
If the score is still undecided after sudden victory overtime, an all-deciding series of 5 penalty shots will follow. When this series of 5 does not bring a decision, additional single penalty shots will be taken until there is a winner.  
The Referee will call the two Captains to the On-ice Officials' Crease and flip a coin to determine which Team takes the first shot. The winner of the coin toss will have the choice whether their Team will shoot first or second.
- c. If the remaining ice time proves to be insufficient, the Referee may, prior to the all-deciding penalty shots, decide not to allow the ice to be planed.

### 16. Ranking

- a. The teams in a competition are ranked according to the number of game points achieved, with the team with the most game points being ranked highest, the team with the second most game points being ranked as second, and so on.
- b. In the event of an equal number of game points between two or more teams, the final ranking in a competition is determined by the following rules:
  1. If two or more teams finish with an equal number of game points, the order of the ranking is determined by the game points obtained in the matches that these teams played against each other.
  2. If a tie still exists between those teams, the mutual goal difference determines the order of the ranking. In this case, the number of goals against in head-to-head matches will be deducted from the number of goals scored in head-to-head matches. The team with a larger positive balance or a smaller negative balance will be ranked higher.
  3. If a tie still exists between those teams, the goal difference of all games played determines the order of the ranking. In this case, the number of goals against in all games played will be deducted from the number of goals scored in all games played. The team with a larger positive balance or a smaller negative balance will be ranked higher. If a tie still remains between those teams, the team with the most goals scored in all matches will be ranked higher.
  4. If a tie still remains between two teams and the ranking is important for a championship, a tiebreaker game will be played, preferably on neutral ice. The League Manager may also decide to schedule this match at the home rink of one of the teams involved.

### 17. Best of three/five/seven series

- a. In a best-of-three, best-of-five, or best-of-seven series, two teams play for the most number of games won over three, five, or seven games, respectively.
- b. The team with the highest ranking prior to the series has home field advantage and plays the first game in the series at home. If the ranking is inconclusive or if this is necessary on the basis of the available 'match ice times', the League Manager will decide otherwise.
- c. During a best-of-three, best-of-five, or best-of-seven series, every game is a tiebreaker.
- d. The teams will play alternately home and away or home and away, or in any other order if necessary based on the available 'game ice times'.
- e. If a team has won a number of games such that the other team can no longer win the series, the remaining game(s) will not be played.

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- f. If, at the discretion of the BeNe League Board, a team in a best-of-three, best-of-five, or best-of-seven series deliberately fails to appear before a game, that team loses the series.

### 18. Change competition calendar

- a. Only the competition planner can make changes to the competition calendar.
- b. A change will be made when it is important for the orderly conduct of the relevant competition or another competition. A change at the request of one of the participants may be honoured.
- c. A request to deviate from a fixed competition calendar must be submitted, with reasons, in writing or by email to the competition planner. Such a request must include a proposal for an alternative date of play agreed by the other party.
- d. Mutual agreements between the clubs involved to deviate from a fixed competition calendar are not allowed without approval of the planner.
- e. The competition planner will review the request. If the request is granted, an administration fee of €50 will be charged to the club that submitted the request. If the request is submitted by both parties, € 25 administration costs will be charged to each.

### 19. Measures

- a. If, for whatever reason, setting a date for a competition game is not possible or necessary, the Board may decide that the result of the next match to be played between the two teams in the relevant competition should be counted double. If the two teams no longer meet, the Board, after weighing the circumstances, determines the result of the match that cannot be played at 0-0, 5-0 or 0-5.
- b. In the event of a violation of these regulations, the Board may take the following sanctions with regard to a game whether or not it has been played:
  - setting the score of a game at 5-0 or 0-5, or in case the goal difference of the game in question is greater than five at the time of abandonment, with the goal difference for and zero goals against or with zero goals scored for and goal difference against.
  - or setting the result of a game at 0-0;
  - and/or deducting 1, 2 or 3 up to 10 ranking points from one or both teams.
- c. In the event of a violation of any article of these regulations, the Board may also impose as punitive measures:
  - a fine of up to €500 (not applicable to a natural person); - and/or a competition ban (withdrawal from the competition) with automatic degradation;
  - and/or a playing ban for all games (withdrawal from the competition) for the current season;
- d. A request for review of the imposed measure can be submitted to the Board against the imposition of a fine and/or measures as stipulated under paragraph c, except in the event that a fine of €250 or less has been imposed.
- e. A decision of the Board is binding. Revision of the imposed measure is only possible after payment of the administrative costs of € 150.00. If the complainant is found to be in the right, € 125 of this amount will be refunded.
- f. An application for revision of a decision must be made within 5 days after publication of the measure on the website directly to the Chairman of the Board.
- g. In the event of a violation of the statutes or regulations against a member, a member's Board member, a player, a team supervisor or a bench official, the Board can (also) submit a complaint to the Disciplinary Committee at any time, or the Board itself can impose a sanction.
- h. If a game starts more than 15 minutes later than stated on the fixture list, the home team will receive a 2-minute penalty, unless this is due to circumstances caused by the visiting team. If this

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occurs more than once at the same club, the Board of the BNL can determine additional sanctions if necessary.

#### 20. Cancellation or ending of a game

- a. Only the League Manager or the referee/RIC designated for the relevant game can cancel a scheduled game.
- b. The reasons for cancelling or ending a game can be:
  - i. weather conditions during competitions on an open ice rink;
  - ii. the condition of the ice;
  - iii. technical malfunctions on the ice rink;
  - iv. the lack of the necessary facilities on and around the playing field;
  - v. lack of organization by the home playing team or club in relation to bench officials;
  - vi. failure to appear at the rink of one or both teams;
  - vii. a dangerous situation (slipperiness/very dense fog/heavy storm) on the roads:  
Teams have an obligation to perform to the best of their ability, even in case of less good weather conditions, to do all what is necessary to avoid that a game must be cancelled. If a weather alarm (code red or orange) is issued by the KNMI, KMI or DWD for an area through which a visiting team must travel, for the period of 6 hours prior to the match and/or a period of up to 3 hours after match, the visiting team is entitled, in consultation with the League Manager, not to travel.
  - viii. "sad" circumstances.
- c. With regard to paragraph b under i, ii, iii, iv, v and vi, the decision regarding the cancellation of a game is taken by the referee. If the reasons referred to in paragraph b under i, ii, iii, iv and v occur during the match, the referee may call an end to the game.
- d. With regard to paragraph b sub vii and viii, the team that is confronted with these circumstances must immediately contact the League Manager by telephone and then the match secretary of the club concerned.
- e. With regard to paragraph b sub vi, if a team is not present on the playing field thirty minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, the referee will cancel the game.
- f. With regard to any game that has been cancelled or ended for reasons referred to in paragraph b or for other compelling reasons not mentioned, the League Manager will subsequently review or assess the underlying reasons and circumstances primarily on the basis of the referee's report. Also in the event that the referee has stopped the match for a serious reason other than those mentioned in paragraph b, the League Manager will try to determine which team is to blame for the fact that the referee felt compelled to abandon the match.
- g. Debt in case of cancellation or strike match:  
If League Manager determines that the reason for the cancellation or ending of a game is due to one or both teams, he will submit this to the Board and the Board can penalize this team or these teams on the basis of article 19 paragraph b. and c. of these regulations.
- h. No blame of cancellation a game  
If the League Manager determines that there is no fault for the cancellation of a game:
  - i. the match will be rescheduled on a date and place to be determined by the competition planner;
  - ii. or action is taken on the basis of Article 19 paragraph a.
- i. No fault game ending by the referee:  
If the League Manager determines that there is no fault for the ending a game:

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- i. if at least two periods have been played, the score in the game at the time of ending is determined as the final result;
  - ii. or, if less than two periods have been played, the game will be played again in its entirety on a date and place to be determined by the competition planner;
  - iii. whether it is possible to act in accordance with Article 19 paragraph a.
- j. A game cannot be played
- i. If a game cannot take place, the member who first becomes aware of this fact is obliged to inform the opponent and the person responsible for the allocation of referees and the League Manager as soon as possible.
  - ii. The fact that a club complies with this obligation does not expressly mean that this club is exempt from possible blame for the cancellation of a game.
  - iii. Failure to comply with the obligation to inform the opponent and the person responsible for the allocation of referees will be punished with a fine of up to €500.

### 21. Arbitration

- a. All games in the BeNe League are played by default according to the three-man system.
- b. The semi-finals and finals in the BeNe League are conducted according to the four-man system.
- c. Fees and expenses for referees, linesmen and supervisors are determined by the Board of the BeNe League.

### 22. Transfers

- a. During the season transfers of players within the BeNe League are not allowed as soon as a player has been listed on the game sheet of an official competition game of the current season under the auspices of the BeNe League.
- b. International transfers are possible if they are requested no later than January 31 of the current season.

### 23. Marketing

Participants in the BeNe League have the obligation to:

- a. relinquish two sleeve positions for the benefit of a competition sponsor. The dimensions of these positions are 22 x 8 cm.
- b. relinquish a boarding position for the benefit of a competition sponsor;
- c. participate in promotional activities for a competition sponsor;
- d. facilitating competition sponsorship.

Conditions and obligations are discussed in advance with the participants in the BeNe League and cup competition.

### 24. Access Regulations

- a. Board members of the BeNe League are entitled to VIP seats with VIP access with guests, provided that they arrive at the same time and they register in advance. They are entitled to a good, safe and reserved place in the top row. They also have the right to access any VIP facilities. Board members are entitled to access the neutral zone, the invitees are not.
- b. Board members have the right, if announced well before the start of the relevant competition, to invite guests to competitions. They are entitled to a good, safe and reserved place of the highest rank. They also have the right to access any VIP facilities.
- c. - League Manager  
- Referee in Chief of the BeNe League

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- Referees/linesmen, who are active in the BeNe League that season
- Employees who have a Bene-League pass

The officials mentioned above are entitled to admission tickets with 1 invitee and will be able to identify themselves with their BeNe League pass upon request. If capacity allows, VIP seats and access to VIP will be made available.

- Supervisors on duty have a right of a seat on the top row at the level of the centre line (or similar position) with 1 invitee and will be able to identify themselves with their BeNe League card if requested. They have access to any VIP area.
- d. Each club will have 5 passe-partouts with which drivers and/or players can access their team's away games.
- e. For the partners of players of the visiting club, the receiving club makes 10 tickets available.

### 25. Competition uniforms

- a. Teams playing in the BeNe-League and cup competition must have 2 sets of shirts and socks. The set for home games must have a dark colour setting; the other a light one. With regard to competitions in the BeNe-League, the league management determines per season, after consultation with the clubs involved, the colours or colour scheme of the shirts and socks of the home and away team. However, if, in the opinion of the referee in a match, the colours of shirts and socks of both teams are still too similar, the IIHF Rulebook will continue to apply.
- b. Notwithstanding IIHF regulations, teams may wear jerseys other than their match jerseys during warm-up and practicing games, provided they meet the following requirements: All jerseys must be uniform (same size and colour) and must have a back number.
- c. During the warm-up, each player must have the same jersey number with which he is stated on the game sheet.
- d. For the other competitions, the referee will act in accordance with the IIHF Rulebook.
- e. During games in the BeNe League and cup competition, each player must wear his name legibly on the back of his shirt, in capital letters, preferably 8 centimeters high. (except friendlies)
- f. If a team does not comply with the provisions of this article, this will be penalized on the basis of article 4 paragraphs b and c of these regulations.

## **APPENDIX COMPETITION RULES BENE LEAGUE**

### A. Championship BeNe League

In the 2023-2024 season, the competition for the BNL championship will be preceded by the BNL Cup. Results from the BNL Cup are not included in the competition for the BNL Championship.

The teams play a competition and play as many away games as they do at home.

The regular season is followed by a quarterfinal in a best-of-three series according to this schedule: A: 1-8, B: 2-7, C: 3-6, D: 4-5 (1= first placed etc.). The winners of these competitions are A, B, C or D respectively.

The semi-finals for the BeNe League then go into a best-of-three series between A and D.; the second semi-final is played between B and C. The home field advantage is for the teams with the highest ranking in the regular season.

The final is then played in a best-of-five series between the winners of the semi-finals. The home field advantage in the final is determined by the ranking in the regular season.

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## B. Obligations of Participating Teams

- a. Each team is required to play a game with 2 goalkeepers and a minimum of 13 field players.
- b. A player must reach the age of 16 in the current season to participate in competitions organized by the BeNe League. For a player who is not yet 16 years old, an underage waiver must be drawn up by the club. (underage waiver has been added In the “Report” section of MYBENE)
- c. Each participating team must have entered the player list (a longlist) with at least 15 players and 2 goalkeepers who can participate in the competition in the BeNe League system no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>, prior to the competition.
- d. Before the start of the competition(s) organized by the BeNe League, the player lists must be completed to a minimum of 22 field players and 2 goalies.
- e. Players are entitled to participate in league games organized by the BeNe League after approval from the League Manager.

For not entering the list of players in time as mentioned under points c. and d. a fine of €250 can be imposed.

Players can also be added to the player list later by the participating team.

The club must have applied for the game passport for new players in the BeNe League system no later than the Wednesday before the first game in which the players concerned are expected to play.

Players are only eligible to play when they have been released by the League Manager in the BeNe League system.

Participants behave ethically at all times in accordance with the accepted norms, values and regulations of the BeNe League and refrain from any behaviour or statement that harms the interests of the BeNe League, the KBIJF, IJNL, DEB or the sport.

## C. National Championships

The national champions of Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany are determined separately.

## D. Cup competitions

### BeNe League Cup

For the BeNe League Cup, the teams play a double competition, so against every opponent at home and away.

After the regular season, the semi-final of the BeNe League Cup follows, which is a best-of-three series between the numbers 1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3 respectively of the final ranking in the regular season. The home field advantage is for the teams with the highest ranking.

The winners will play in a final game for the BeNe League Cup at a time and location to be determined by the BNL Board.

### Cup of the Netherlands

It is not organized under the jurisdiction of the BeNe League.

### Belgian Cup

In Belgium, for the teams participating in the BeNe League for the national cup, the games are integrated into the BNL Cup. Games between Belgium teams count for the BNL Cup and also for the Belgian Cup.

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They play a double competition (against every Belgium team home and away) after which the no. 1 and 4 and the no. 2 and 3 of the final ranking, respectively, compete against each other in a semi-final in a best-of-three. The winners of the semi-finals play the cup final in one all-deciding match.

For Belgium, teams can submit an application to also participate in the cup competition. The Board of the BeNe League will make a decision about this and any consequences.

### E Funding

The foundation's funding consists for the most part of competition fees that are invoiced monthly in advance. The last part is charged on when the costs occur.

- Coverage for general costs: for season 2023-2024 it is €100 for the BNL led league and cup matches and €50 for the practice and friendly games.
- Coverage for Referee Travel Expenses: *To be determined*
- Costs that were not provided for in the funding will be charged separately to the clubs that cause them.

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