



# HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI SPIDERS 2026

## HKBA 2026 Competition Rules and Regulations

FIBA rules apply unless otherwise stated. Click here to view the [FIBA Basketball Rules](#).

### No Zone Defence Policy

To support player development and promote fair competition, zone defence is not permitted in designated junior age groups.

The No Zone Defence Policy applies to: U8's - U14's (inclusive)

Man-to-man defence is required at all times in the half-court and full-court.

### Definition of Zone Defence

Zone defence is defined as:

- Defenders guarding an area of the court rather than an identified opposing player.
- Defenders remaining in the key or paint without actively guarding a player.
- Defensive setups that resemble 2-3, 3-2, 1-3-1, box-and-one, or similar zone structures.

Help defence and switching are permitted, provided defenders quickly recover to their assigned player.

### Defensive Expectations

Each defender must be clearly matched to an offensive player.

- Defenders may provide help defence but must not remain in a guarding position away from their player.
- Coaches are responsible for teaching and maintaining compliant defensive structures.

### Enforcement

Referees will not enforce this rule unless instructed by the court supervisor. Concerns of a Zone being played must be brought to the Court



Supervisors attention DURING the game and only by the teams registered coach or manager.

Court Supervisors may issue a verbal warning to the coach if a team is observed playing zone defence. Continued or deliberate zone defence after a warning may result in a technical foul.

### Purpose of the Policy

This policy exists to:

- Encourage skill development in on-ball defence.
- Promote spacing, movement, and decision-making for offensive players.
- Create a positive and development-focused environment for junior athletes.

### Coach Responsibility

Coaches are expected to:

- Educate players on man-to-man defensive principles.
- Ensure defensive strategies align with competition rules.
- Support referees and supervisors in maintaining the spirit of the policy.

### Mercy Rule

- In place at 10 points for U8's and U10's
- In place 15 points for U12's and U14's
- No Mercy Rule for U16's and U18's
- When the mercy rule is in effect, the leading team must retreat behind the three-point line on defence whenever the opposition gains possession.
- If the leading team infringes this rule, a violation will be called and the ball will be returned to the opposing team at the three-point line extended in their front court.

### Fill ins

To avoid forfeits, an eligible player may be used as a fill in. The player must be borrowed into the team list on the iPad for the game. Please contact the office 24 hours prior to your game so that this can be accommodated. Anyone player not on the iPad will not be allowed to play.

Any fill-in player must have a current BNSW player registration.

Teams are not allowed to borrow players from the **same division as their own**, a violation of this rule may result in forfeiture of the game. Players cannot play a lower division for the same age group however, lower division players can play for higher divisions.



Players are not permitted to play (or fill-in) in any team more than 1 competition age group above their age (i.e. an U10's player can play in U12's, but not in U14's or an U16's player can play in U18's but not seniors).

Rep players can fill-in, so long as the overall points on the day are not exceeded and they are filling in to a division 1 team.

## Forfeits

Teams must be ready to play at the time specified. Forfeits are officially declared after 10 minutes if a team is unable to provide the required number of players. The opposition will gain two points for each minute late. Note all no-show forfeits are DOUBLE the court fee.

Forfeits must be submitted via the [link](#) on our website.

## Forfeit costs

Scenario	Outcome
Before draws are released (or released under a week's notice)	NO CHARGE
All other forfeits require us to pay for court fees, and pay for referees and court staff.	REGULAR court fee

Refund Policy – Enquiries about refunds should be directed to [info@hkbaspiders.com.au](mailto:info@hkbaspiders.com.au)

## Withdrawal

When a team registers for a season, it occupies a position that could otherwise be allocated to another team. Teams are therefore expected to commit to and complete the full season.

In the event that a team seeks to withdraw from the competition, HKBA will make reasonable efforts to identify a suitable replacement team. The withdrawing team will remain responsible for all applicable game fees up to and including the round in which a replacement team assumes their position in the competition.

## Semi-Finals and Grand Finals

### Qualifications

Players must play and be on the team roster 40% of the rostered season games to qualify.



Players absent due to injury may qualify if either the office has a recorded injury report on file and/or a medical certificate is provided 48h prior to the office.

Fill-in players for finals are not allowed.