

4NCL Rules 2026-2027: Summary of Changes

Note: Some rules have been re-numbered as a result of re-writing and introduction of new rules – the below numbers refer to the new 2026-2027 set of rules. Any rule re-numbering is not included below.

Changes

- 1.2:** Allowing for an all junior team to play in Division 2 if the team is mixed-gendered, as was already allowed in every other division.
- 2.2:** Requiring teams in a combined squad to be named in a way that clearly shows the order of teams within the squad.
- 7.2:** Some changes in how teams in triangular pairings are treated.
- 8.2:** Allowing the Chief Arbiter to use a different rating list month to the one that is automatically used; also moved out of 8.1 to make clearer which lists are chosen for a weekend.
- 8.9:** Where a proposed 100-point rule breach is between two teams in a combined squad, only the agreement of the lower opposing captain is required.
- 11.2:** Allowing a player from a higher team in a combined squad to drop down to a lower team to claim a default win (a player cannot be moved up to a higher team to claim the win).
- 12.9:** Allowing greater flexibility to the start time and time control used for rated friendlies. This rule has also been moved from section 11.

Clarifications

- 6.8:** A player who has been voluntarily de-registered can play as a wildcard for another squad.
- 10.7:** Clarifying the use of reserves in a split weekend, including that an unused wildcard in a split weekend can be included in a team list on a later date.
- 11.7:** Clarifying the penalty for teams withdrawing after the deadline, and more clearly stating the withdrawal deadline.
- 13.2:** Minor re-wording of the rule for clarity.
- 14.3:** Clarifying that the Management Board have scope to extend the payment deadline in some cases where fees are owed (e.g. where the fees are small).
- 15.1:** Clarifying that if a team wishes to appeal an arbiter's decision, the appeal must first be made to the sector arbiter before it can be referred further.