



Perth Redbacks WABL Player development pathways

The PBA WABL Program is a high-performance program with the following two goals for its players:

1. Provide players with an avenue that facilitates them reaching their **basketball potential**
2. Provide players with an avenue that facilitates them reaching their **potential as people**

The PBA WABL Program aspires to the following and uses these aspirations in conjunction with the above goals of the program as a guide for making decisions around coach and player selections within the program:

1. Have our 'Team 1' for each age group/gender:
 - a. Qualify into Championship Division
 - b. Finish top 6 (make finals)
2. Have Perth Redbacks WABL players achieve selection in State Development Programs, State teams and our NBL1 teams.

To that end, we have two main player development pathways within the Perth Redbacks WABL program. It's important to note:

- These two pathways reflect the fact that the depth of talent we have in each gender/age group is not the same.
- The pathway each gender/age group falls into each season can change depending on the depth of talent in each age group.

The following birth years equate to the following WABL age groups for 2023

- U12 (players born in 2012/2013/2014)
- U14 (players born in 2010/2011)
- U16 (players born in 2008/2009)
- U18 (players born in 2006/2007)
- U20 (boys only - players born in 2004/2005)

Based on current depth charts, the following Perth Redbacks age groups fall into the pathways below for 2023:

- **2023 Pathway 1** - U12, U14, U16 boys
- **2023 Pathway 2** - U12, U14, U16, U18 girls, U18 boys, U20 boys

Pathway 1 (U12, U14, U16 Boys)

Within Pathway 1 we have a strong depth of talent across both top and bottom ages. Thus we are able to run four streams of development:

Stream 1: Team 1/Championship Division

“Team 1” is our strongest possible team. In Pathway 1, it is typically made up of top-agers only. Our goals for “Team 1s” are that they:

- Qualify into Championship Division (Champs)
- Are a top-six team (make finals)

Development notes:

Representing Perth Redbacks in a Champs team is the highest level of representation a player can achieve within our WABL program. But it’s important to understand that playing minutes must be earned in a Champs team. Players who are struggling for WABL playing minutes in a Champs team will still develop, but their development will occur by training against the strongest group of players in their age group every week, and by applying what they learn in domestic competition. Players who are initially struggling for minutes can often work their way into more minutes as the season progresses or if injuries occur to other players.

If a player accepts a spot in a Champs team, it must be with an understanding of the above. If a player’s happiness in being selected into our highest possible team for their age/gender would be overridden by an inability to earn minutes in that team, this needs to be made clear to us at selection time.

Player goals within the PBA WABL program:

The players in this team will be looking to gain selection in the ‘Best of bottom age’ team when they move up to a new age group the following season.

Stream 2: Team 2/Second best top-age team

In Pathway 1, Team 2 will be made up of top-age players only. This team is effectively our ‘second-best top-age team’.

Development notes:

In this team, we ask coaches to get all players on the court in a meaningful way in Quarters 1 to 3. This does not mean equal minutes. It means the coach should be aiming to get all players on the court for a minimum of 2 minutes in each of those quarters. If the game is there to be won in the fourth quarter, we give coaches permission to go for the win, even if this means some players don’t hit the court in the fourth quarter.

Players in this team will achieve development of their game via good attention and application at training, meaningful playing minutes in WABL, and using their Domestic games to apply what they’ve learned in the WABL environment.

Player goals within the PBA WABL program:

The players in this team will be looking to gain selection in the 'Best of bottom age' team when they move up to a new age group the following season.

Stream 3: Team 3/Best of bottom age

As the name suggests, in Pathway 1, 'Team 3' is made up of our best bottom-age players (bar any who have been selected into Team 1). When we appoint a coach to this team, it is with the intent that the same coach takes Team 1 the following season.

Development notes:

Regardless of which division our 'Best of bottom age' teams grade into, they will find themselves playing teams containing top-agers. For this reason, they tend to start their seasons slowly as they are all adjusting to a new, higher age group, but finish the season strong.

In this team, we ask coaches to get all players on the court in a meaningful way in Quarters 1 to 3. This does not mean equal minutes. It means the coach should be aiming to get all players on the court for a minimum of 2 minutes in each of those quarters. If the game is there to be won in the fourth quarter, we give coaches permission to go for the win, even if this means some players don't hit the court in the fourth quarter.

Players in this team will achieve the development of their game via good attention and application at training, meaningful playing minutes in WABL, and using their Domestic games to apply what they've learned in the WABL environment.

Player goals within the PBA WABL program:

The players in this team will be looking to gain selection in Team 1 for this age group in the following season. Typically, 6-7 of the players from the best of bottom age team in a given season go on to be selected in our Team 1 the following season with 3-4 players coming in from Team 4 or from outside the program (i.e. new to Redbacks players).

Stream 4: Team 4/Second-best of bottom age

In Pathway 1, Team 4 is made up of bottom-age players only. This team is effectively our 'second-best bottom-age team'.

Development notes:

Regardless of which division our 'Second-best of bottom age' teams grade into, they will find themselves playing teams containing top-agers. For this reason, they tend to start their seasons slowly as they are all adjusting to a new, higher age group, but finish the season strong.

In this team, we ask coaches to get all players on the court in a meaningful way in Quarters 1 to 3. This does not mean equal minutes. It means the coach should be aiming to get all players on the court for a minimum of 2 minutes in each of those quarters. If the game is

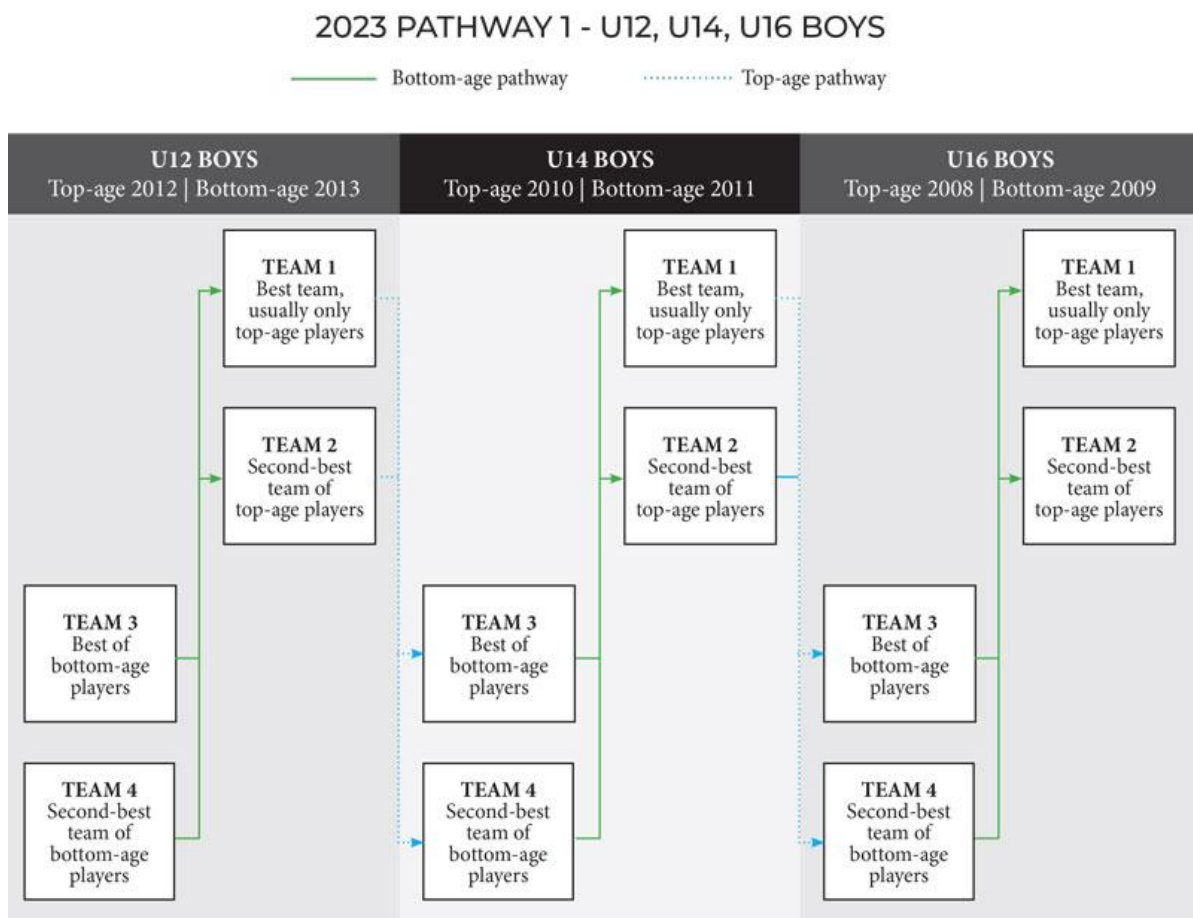
there to be won in the fourth quarter, we give coaches permission to go for the win, even if this means some players don't hit the court in the fourth quarter.

Players in this team will achieve the development of their game via good attention and application at training, meaningful playing minutes in WABL, and using their Domestic games to apply what they've learned in the WABL environment.

Player goals within the PBA WABL program:

The players in this team will be looking to gain selection in Team 1 for this age group in the following season.

Pathway 1 - Visual representation



Pathway 2 (U12, U14, U16, U18 Girls/U18, U20 Boys)

Within Pathway 2, we don't have quite the same depth of talent across top and bottom age as we do in Pathway 1. Thus we have to run things slightly differently here with three streams of development:

Stream 1: Team 1/Championship Division

"Team 1" is our strongest possible team. In Pathway 2, it is typically made up of both top and bottom agers. Our goals for "Team 1s" are that they:

- Qualify into Championship Division (Champs)
- Are a top-six team (make finals)

Development notes:

Representing Perth Redbacks in a Champs team is the highest level of representation a player can achieve within our WABL program. But it's important to understand that playing minutes must be earned in a Champs team. Players who are struggling for WABL playing minutes in a Champs team will still develop, but their development will occur by training against the strongest group of players in their age group every week, and by applying what they learn in domestic competition. Players who are initially struggling for minutes can often work their way into more minutes as the season progresses or if injuries occur to other players.

If a player accepts a spot in a Champs team, it must be with an understanding of the above. If a player's happiness in being selected into our highest possible team for their age/gender would be overridden by an inability to earn minutes in that team, this needs to be made clear to us at selection time.

Player goals within the PBA WABL program:

The top-age players in this team will move up to a new age group the following season. Some of these players could realistically push for selection in Team 1 of the next age group up. The rest will be looking to gain selection in the team that will give them the most development opportunities.

The bottom-age players in this team will be looking to again gain selection in Team 1 for this age group the following season.

Stream 2: Top-age players in Team 2/3/4

In Pathway 2, top-age players will be selected in all of Teams 2, 3 and 4.

Development notes:

In these teams, we ask coaches to get all players on the court in a meaningful way in Quarters 1 to 3. This does not mean equal minutes. It means the coach should be aiming to get all players on the court for a minimum of 2 minutes in each of those quarters. If the game

is there to be won in the fourth quarter, we give coaches permission to go for the win, even if this means some players don't hit the court in the fourth quarter.

Players in this team will achieve development of their game via good attention and application at training, meaningful playing minutes in WABL, and using their Domestic games to apply what they've learned in the WABL environment.

Player goals within the PBA WABL program:

Team 2/3/4 top-age players in this age group will move up to a new age group the following season and will be looking to gain selection in the team that will give them the most development opportunities.

Stream 3: Bottom-age players in Team 2/3/4

In Pathway 2, bottom-age players will be selected in all of Teams 2, 3 and 4.

Development notes:

In these teams, we ask coaches to get all players on the court in a meaningful way in Quarters 1 to 3. This does not mean equal minutes. It means the coach should be aiming to get all players on the court for a minimum of 2 minutes in each of those quarters. If the game is there to be won in the fourth quarter, we give coaches permission to go for the win, even if this means some players don't hit the court in the fourth quarter.

Players in this team will achieve development of their game via good attention and application at training, meaningful playing minutes in WABL, and using their Domestic games to apply what they've learned in the WABL environment.

Player goals within the PBA WABL program:

Team 2/3/4 bottom-age players in this age group will be looking to gain selection in Team 1 for this age group in the following season.

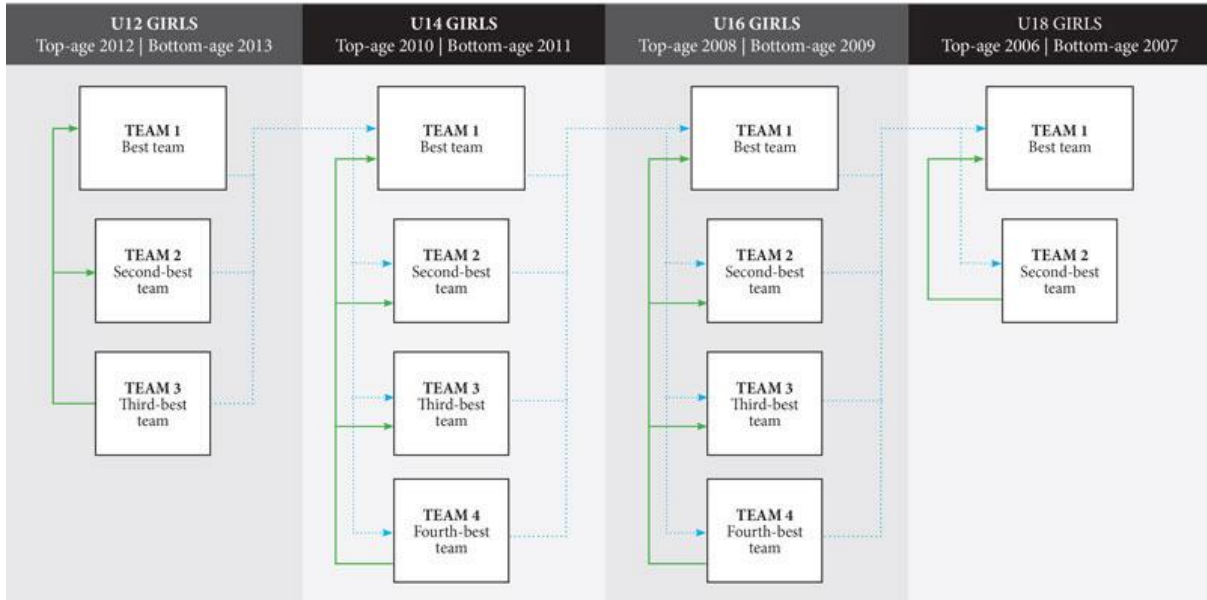
Important note for parents:

Pathway 2 is the pathway where parents and players get very stressed about their child being selected in a team that does not meet their expectations. It's so important to understand that this is short-term thinking. If a child goes on to play NBL1 or higher as an adult, they will not remember they missed selection in the U14-2 team 6-7 years earlier. In Pathway 2, it is almost always better, from a development point of view, to be a key player in a lower team than to be a deep bench player in a higher team.

Pathway 2 - Visual representation

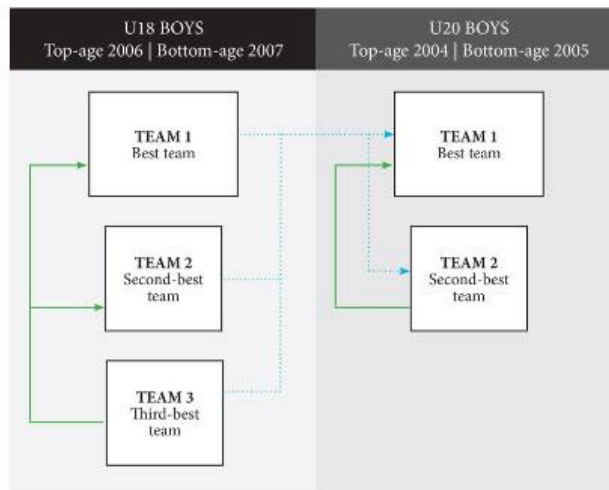
2023 PATHWAY 2 - U12, U14, U16, U18 GIRLS

— Bottom-age pathway Top-age pathway



2023 PATHWAY 2 - U18, U20 BOYS

— Bottom-age pathway Top-age pathway



NBL1 Pathway

There are varying ways in which talented juniors can make their way into our NBL1 program.

The most likely pathway for girls is:

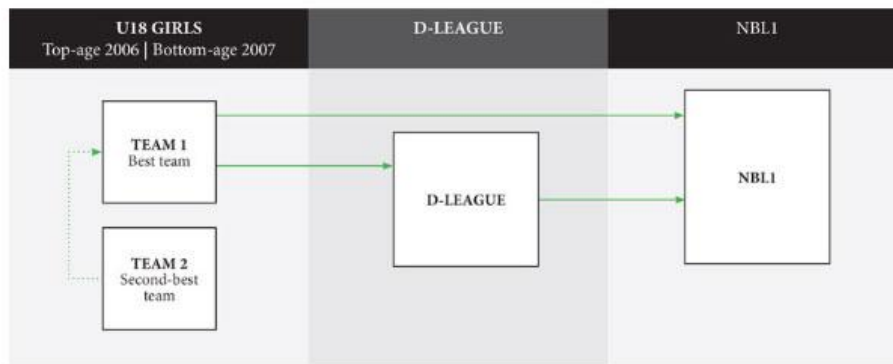
U18 WABL > D-League > NBL1

The most likely pathway for boys is:

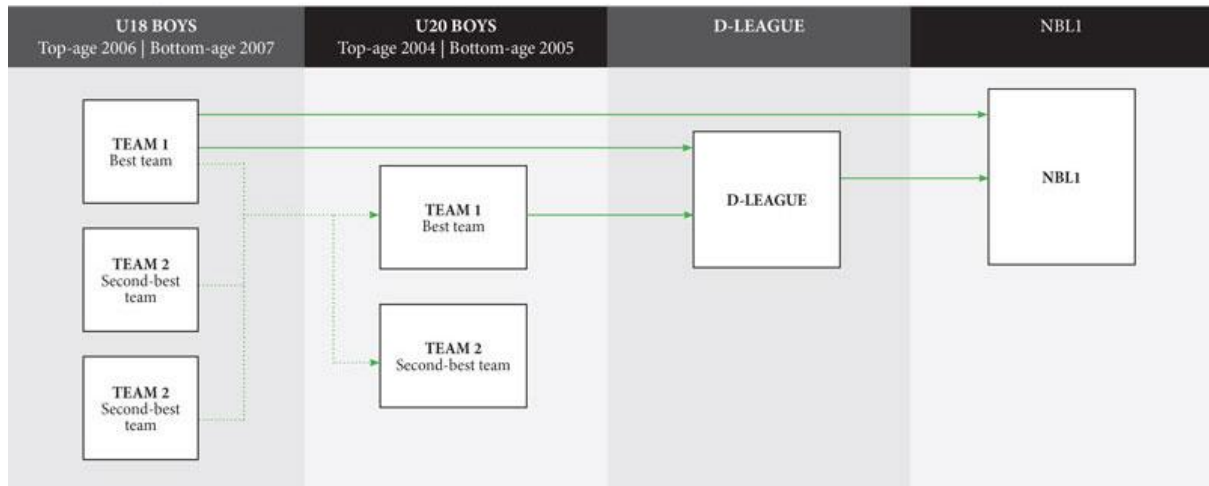
U18/U20 WABL > D-League > NBL1

NBL1 Pathway - Visual representation

D-LEAGUE/NBL1 PATHWAY - GIRLS



D-LEAGUE/NBL1 PATHWAY - BOYS



Two more very important notes for parents

Player development over time

Players develop at different speeds and times. Standout players in U12 seldom go all the way through the ranks to be the best senior players. Players who mature early or start playing basketball at an early age can dominate U12 and U14, but struggle to make an impact in U16 and U18 because other players have 'caught up'.

In order to have a long, enjoyable and successful WABL career, a player needs to:

1. Love basketball
2. Have long-term goals

It is these two things that will help them surmount the short-term disappointments of (for example) missing a team they wanted to be selected in, not getting the court time they desire or playing in a team that is struggling to win games.

The list of players who have gone on to have long and successful SBL/NBL1/NBL careers without ever having starred in WABL or made a state team is long. The list of players who were superstar juniors but never went on to have senior careers is also long.

'Top age' vs 'Bottom age'

WABL age groups are two-year age groups. This means that if you are (for example) a bottom-age U14 born in December 2011, you could be playing with and/or against someone who is almost two years older than you (a top-age U14 born in January 2010).

Two years of physical, mental and basketball development is A LOT.

The two-year age group can hugely skew the perception of how strong/weak players are. For example:

- A bottom-ager playing with/against mostly top-agers will feel like they are struggling when, in fact, they are developing at a hard and fast rate, placing them in a good position to have a big impact the following season when they are top-age.
- A top-ager playing with/against mostly bottom-agers might look like they are dominating but might struggle hugely when they move up to the next age group the following season.

It's essential to understand the challenges inherent in the two-year age groups that WABL is built around and use this knowledge to manage your child's expectations of where they are at compared to the people they are playing with and against.

FYI - State level representative and development program trials held in 2023

Year Born	2023 WABL Age group	Program	Trials held	Competition held/program runs
2012	U12 top age	2023 School Sport WA (SSWA) U12 State Basketball Team (touring)	~ March/ April 2023	Team competes at tournament in Melbourne, August 2023
2012	U12 top age	2024 Basketball WA (BWA) U13 Emerging Talent Program (ETP)	~September/ October 2023	Development program sessions held during 2024 school holidays
2012	U12 top age	2024 BWA U14 Future Development Program (FDP)	~September/ October 2023	Development program sessions held during 2024 school holidays
2011	U14 bottom age	2023 SSWA U12 State Basketball Team (touring)	~ March/April 2023	Team competes at tournament in Melbourne, August 2023
2011	U14 bottom age	2024 BWA U14 FDP	~September/ October 2023	Development program sessions held during 2024 school holidays
2011	U14 bottom age	2024 BWA U14 Southern Cross Challenge (SCC)	~September/ October 2023	Touring team - competes in a tournament in Victoria held in January 2024
2010	U14 top age	2024 BWA U15 SCC	~September/ October 2023	Touring team - competes in a tournament in Victoria held in January 2024
2009	U16 bottom age	2023 BWA U16 SPP	~March 2023	Development program from which the U16 State Team is chosen. The State Team attends the U16 Australian Junior Championships.
2008	U16 top age	2023 BWA U16 SPP	~March 2023	Development program from which the U16 State Team is chosen. This State Team attends the 2023 U16 Australian Junior Championships.
2008	U16 top age	2024 BWA U18 SPP	~September/ October/ November 2023	Development program from which the U18 State Team is chosen. This State Team attends the 2024 U18 Australian Junior Championships.

2007	U18 bottom age	2024 BWA U18 SPP	~September/ October/ November 2023	Development program from which the U18 State Team is chosen. This State Team attends the 2024 U18 Australian Junior Championships.
2007	U18 bottom age	2023 SSWA U18 State Basketball Team (touring)	~ March/April 2023	Team competes at a tournament in Melbourne, August 2023
2006	U18 top age	2024 BWA U20 SPP	~September/ October/ November 2023	Development program from which the U20 State Team is chosen. This State Team attends the 2024 U20 Australian Junior Championships.
2006	U18 bottom age	2023 SSWA U18 State Basketball Team (touring)	~ March/April 2023	Team competes at a tournament in Melbourne, August 2023
2005	U20 bottom age	2024 BWA U20 SPP	~September/ October/ November 2023	Development program from which the U20 State Team is chosen. This State Team attends the 2024 U20 Australian Junior Championships.
2005	U20 bottom age	2023 SSWA U18 State Basketball Team (touring)	~ March/April 2023	Team competes at a tournament in Melbourne, August 2023