



## 2023/2024 Summer Domestic Competition Information sheet for parents

Dear Perth Basketball Association Domestic parents

The March 2023 participant survey of our Domestic families revealed that many of you are unaware of changes made to our competition in recent seasons and how this would affect your child/their team. With more new measures being introduced for Summer Domestic, we wanted to summarise all recent and new changes to ensure our Domestic families are across the 'what' and 'why'.

Before we get into the changes, it's worth highlighting that basketball continues to boom nationally. While this is a wonderful thing for our sport, exploding participation rates have put a significant strain on facilities, officials, volunteers and administrators at the association level.

Perth Basketball Association (PBA) is committed to ensuring our Domestic competition can meet our program objectives and deliver a great experience for all involved while managing the impact of the challenges noted above.

To that end, we are in constant consultation with all key stakeholders. Out of that consultation comes new measures - big and small - that continually elevate our domestic competition.

A key previous change was the switch from WABL age groups to school year age groups (i.e. Year 5/6, Year 7/8 etc., instead of U12, U14 etc). This change was driven by our domestic clubs who continually highlighted that, at domestic basketball, players want to be able to play with their friends from school. This change came into effect last Summer and will remain in place for the foreseeable future. This means the competition divisions for Summer Domestic are:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Eligible Date of Birth</b>	<b>Ball size</b>	<b>Ring height</b>
Year 3/4	Date of birth between 1/7/2013 and 30/6/2015	5 for girls and boys	Lowered
Year 5/6	Date of birth between 1/7/2011 and 30/6/2013	5 for girls and boys	Normal
Year 7/8	Date of birth between 1/7/2009 and 30/6/2011	6 for girls and boys	Normal
Year 9/10	Date of birth between 1/7/2007 and 30/6/2009	6 for girls, 7 for boys	Normal
Year 11/12	Date of birth between 1/7/2005 and 30/6/2007	6 for girls, 7 for boys	Normal

Following the March domestic participant survey and in-depth discussions with domestic clubs, the following measures are being put in place for Summer Domestic to prioritise the participant experience, ensure our competition is balanced and provide an opportunity for our domestic clubs to grow sustainably:

- The size of the domestic summer competition (the number of teams competing) will be reduced this season. This will improve the participant experience by decreasing byes and increasing the changeover time between games (this gives more time for the finishing game's players to clear the court area and for the next game's teams to be on the court and ready for tip-off when the clock hits 20.00)
- Clubs will be permitted to enter a maximum of 40 teams in our Domestic competition. This acknowledges the fact that fewer teams are being accepted for summer while also addressing sustainability, parity, opportunity for clubs to grow and participant experience.
- The minimum team size will be increased to 8 players. With fewer teams being accepted for summer, we must provide maximum opportunities for participants to register. This measure also helps avoid forfeits.
- No dual registrations will be permitted (i.e. players can only play for 1 team). With fewer teams being accepted for summer, we must provide maximum opportunities for participants to register (dual registrations take away a playing position).
- Clubs will be permitted to enter a maximum of two Division 1 teams per age group, per gender. This will ensure a better spread of Division 1 players across our clubs, promote a stronger Division 1 competition, and aids individual player development and club sustainability.
- All players (except train-ons) registered for a WABL team in 2023, regardless of association, are considered restricted players in the summer domestic season. Teams nominating for Division 1 can register up to five (5) restricted players, three (3) from WABL Division 1 2023. Teams nominating for Division 2 and below can register up to two (2) restricted players.

#### **What does the above mean for my child?**

- If your child is currently playing in two teams (for example, a Year 3/4 team and a Year 5/6 team), they can only play in one of those teams in Summer Domestic.
- If your child's team is at a club approaching the 40-team cap in the competition or currently over the 2-teams-in-Division-1 cap, that team or some players in that team may be required to move clubs. (Please let us know if this affects you - we are working closely with clubs and players to facilitate smooth movement.)
- If your child is a WABL player and wishes to play in Division 2 or 3 with their friends, you must liaise with your club to ensure there is no more than one other WABL player in their team.
- If your child is a WABL player who wishes to play in Division 1, you must make that expectation clear to your club now. We have asked clubs to let WABL players know as quickly as possible whether they can accommodate them within the 2-teams-in-Division-1 cap. If your club can't accommodate your child, please let us know so we can facilitate smooth movement to another club.)
- If your child is a WABL player who wishes to play with a normal ring height and/or with the size ball they will be using at 2023 State Champs/2024 WABL, they may need to play up in the next Division. (For example, a boy or girl who is in Year 4, but who will be U11 for State

Champs/U12 for WABL would likely wish to play up in the Year 5/6 Division to ensure they are playing at the same ring height as State Champs/WABL)

### **How you can help our clubs**

- If your child/child's team intends to move clubs for Summer Domestic, you can help your outgoing club greatly by making those intentions known now (it will help with their planning around team numbers and composition).
- If you are forming a team - you must liaise closely with your club to ensure they can accommodate your team within the total competition and Division 1 team caps. If they cannot accommodate you, we will connect you with a club who can.
- If you are forming a team - you must ensure the team meets the WABL cap rules.

### **Key dates for 2023/2024 Summer Domestic**

- **14 August 2023:** Registrations open for participants/clubs
- **25 September 2023:** Team registration period closes
- **6 October 2023:** Pre-grading fixture release
- **21 October 2023:** Round 1 Summer Domestic begins

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions about our 2023/24 Summer Domestic competition, please contact [harrison@perthredbacks.asn.au](mailto:harrison@perthredbacks.asn.au). This is a busy time of year for our Domestic competition, with the Winter competition finishing and registration opening for Summer. So please give Harry at least three full working days to respond before following up with him.