



# Country Championships Rules

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**1. ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY**

1.1. The Belt Up Basketball WA Country Championships shall be open to all affiliated Country Associations provided the Association is financial with Basketball WA and conducts a local competition.

**2. RULES**

2.1. The Belt Up Basketball WA Country Championships will be conducted under the current FIBA Official Rules of Basketball, unless otherwise stated by the Basketball WA Country Championships Rules.

**3. NOMINATIONS AND FEE CHARGES**

3.1. Nominations for inclusion in the Belt Up Basketball WA Country Championships shall close at 5pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Late nominations will be placed on a waiting list and may be included at the Basketball WA Competitions Officer's discretion.

3.2. The nomination form for both Senior and Junior competitions is to be completed and returned to the Competitions Officer by the closing date mentioned above:

3.2.1. The nomination fees are determined below:

3.2.1.1. The nomination fee for each U12 – U15 team will be \$405 plus \$195 for associated referee costs equalised.

3.2.1.2. The nomination fee for each U16 – U18 team will be \$405 plus \$225 for associated referee costs equalised.

3.2.1.3. The nomination fee for each Senior or Masters team will be \$580 plus \$265 for associated referee costs equalised.

3.2.1.4. Spectators will have free entry each day of the Country Championships.

3.2.2. Working with Children Card information, including number and expiry date (see also Rule 10).

3.2.3. Referee details for each nominated team, sent to [mark.grist@basketballwa.asn.au](mailto:mark.grist@basketballwa.asn.au) or via the Referee Nomination Form

3.2.3.1. Further information on referee requirements will be provided in the Referee Information document.

3.3. By entering the Belt Up Basketball WA Country Championships, all participants agree to abide by the Basketball WA Code of Conduct.

3.4. Basketball WA will invoice each Association upon acceptance of nominations.

#### **4. NUMBER OF TEAMS**

- 4.1. Major Regional Associations are required to place a team in Division One (Championship Division) of the Country Championships prior to entering any additional teams. Associations affected by this are:
  - Albany
  - Bunbury
  - Busselton
  - Geraldton
  - Mandurah
- 4.2. Senior team nominations shall be restricted to divisions. Each Association shall be entitled to nominate one (1) team per division plus one (1) Masters team (Rule 12).
- 4.3. Junior team nominations will be restricted to one (1) team per division from any one Association.
- 4.4. In special cases, the Competitions Officer has the power to procure additional teams in the best interests of the Country Championships. Such invitations can only occur after all nominated teams have been allocated to a division and provided there is a need for an extra team.

#### **5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- 5.1. To be eligible to represent an Association in the Country Championships, all players must fulfill all the following criteria:
  - 5.1.1. Be under the prescribed age as at 31 December of the year of the Championships i.e. if a player turns 18 at any point in 2025, they are ineligible for Under 18s.
  - 5.1.2. Similarly, a player needs to be turning 18 in 2025 to participate in a Senior team i.e. born in 2007 or earlier.
  - 5.1.3. Be fully financial with their Association and Basketball WA.
  - 5.1.4. Have permanently resided in a Country area since mid-December of the year prior to the Championships i.e. December 2024.
  - 5.1.5. Be a regular playing member of that Association's competition, having played a minimum of four (4) games in that Association's most recent competition. For rare exemptions of this rule, please contact the Competitions Officer.
  - 5.1.6. For players that also play in a Metro competition, you must have played more Country games than Metro games in the current Country season.
- 5.2. For WABL players to be eligible to play for their WABL Association, they must still meet the requirements of Rule 5.1.5. They will otherwise be required to play for their local Association.

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- 5.3. Associations who have secured the services of players for the purpose of participation in the NBL1 West, and who were not regular playing members of that Association's competition prior to 1 January in the year of the Championships, shall not be eligible to compete in the Championships.
- 5.4. Where an Association is not entering a team for a particular age group and is willing to provide a clearance for a player who wishes to play for another Association, approval must be lodged with and granted by the Competitions Officer at least two (2) weeks prior to the Championships.
- 5.5. A special category of eligibility will apply for Senior/Masters Country players who wish to participate but are not aligned to an affiliated Country Association because the place where they reside meets the following criteria:
  - 5.5.1. Only has an affiliated Junior Association conducting a Junior competition and does not conduct a Senior competition.
  - 5.5.2. Has a local Council indoor centre that conducts a senior domestic competition.
- 5.6. If a player plays for multiple Associations during the Country Season, they are to nominate one (1) Association they wish to play for per age group i.e. an eligible U16 player can play for Eaton in U16s and Bunbury in U18s subject to Rule 5.1.5 but cannot play for multiple teams in the same age group.
- 5.7. Any team that is found to have played an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited that game. Additionally, a fine as determined by Basketball WA, not to exceed **\$300**, may be levied against that team.
- 5.8. Any requests for exemptions to these rules must be submitted in writing to the Competitions Officer at least two (2) weeks prior to the Country Championships. This includes but is not limited to:
  - 5.8.1. Players who have relocated over the Christmas/New Year period and wish to compete for their previous Association.
  - 5.8.2. Players who wish to participate in a Senior team but do not meet Rule 5.1.2.

### **6. NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

- 6.1. Teams shall be restricted to a maximum of twelve (12) players, of which only ten (10) can play in any one game.

### **7. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS**

- 7.1. To be eligible to compete in Grand Finals, players must physically participate for a team in at least fifty per cent (50%) of Country Championship games in the division nominated.
- 7.2. The Competitions Officer has the authority to review and allow exemptions for special circumstances.
- 7.3. A bye does not count as a qualifying game.

- 7.4. Any team that is found to have fielded a player that is ineligible to play in a Grand Final game will be deemed to have forfeited that game. Additionally, a fine as determined by Basketball WA, not to exceed **\$300**, may be levied against that team.

## **8. GRADING**

- 8.1. Grading shall relate to results from the previous year's Country Championships. Where excess nominations are received, the Competitions Officer shall determine the placement of these teams, having regard to that Association's standard of play.
- 8.2. Decisions by the Competitions Officer will be final as to the grading of any team(s). As a general principle, teams from larger Associations will be allocated to higher divisions.

## **9. ADVANCEMENT & RELEGATION**

- 9.1. Where practical and having regard to Rule 8, the winning Grand Final team will be promoted and the last team in each division will be relegated for the following year's Country Championships. i.e. An association that wins the Division 3 Grand Final in Under 14's will have to nominate that team for Division 2 in Under 15's. a team that wins Division 2 in Under 13's will have to nominate for Championship in Under 14's.
- 9.2. Teams not nominating shall, on future participation, maintain where possible, the position held when they last competed.

## **10. WORKING WITH CHILDREN CARDS**

- 10.1. A current Working With Children Card (WWCC) will be required of Team Coaches and Managers over the age of eighteen (18) involved with the Basketball WA Junior Country Championships who do not have a child participating in the team of the relevant Basketball Association.
- 10.2. All referees over the age of eighteen (18) involved with the Basketball WA Junior Country Championships are required to have a current WWCC.
- 10.3. If the team is staying together overnight during the Championships, then a WWCC is required by those Team Officials with a child in the team (refer to the guidelines <https://workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au/applicants-card-holders/applying-for-a-wwc-check/do-i-need-a-wwc-check>).
- 10.4. The current WWCC number and expiry date must be recorded on the Team nomination form or emailed to the Competitions Officer prior to the Country Championships commencing. A photocopy of each WWCC may be requested.
- 10.5. Basketball WA reserves the right to perform on-the-spot checks on any personnel, at any time, during the Country Championships.

## 11. MOUTH GUARDS

- 11.1. All players up to and including under eighteen (18) grades are required each game to wear a mouth guard whilst participating. Mouthguards **MUST** be worn properly inside the mouth. Players seen wearing their mouthguards incorrectly whilst playing will be substituted at the next dead ball or stoppage. Repeat offences may result in the player no longer being allowed on the court for that game.
- 11.2. Those players under the age of eighteen (18) who do not wear a mouth guard, will be ineligible to play.
- 11.3. All players over the age of eighteen (18) are encouraged to wear a mouth guard when participating.
- 11.4. An exception will only be granted to those who notify the Competitions Officer in writing of any medical condition which prevents a mouth guard being worn, no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the event, accompanied with a copy of the medical certificate.

## 12. MASTERS

- 12.1. Depending on the number of team nominations, two divisions of Master's may be allowed. These will be Division 1 and Division 2.
- 12.2. Grading of teams will be determined as per Rule 8.
- 12.3. Master's players need to be turning 35 in 2025 to participate i.e. born in 1990 or earlier.

## 13. MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS

- 13.1. Players are restricted to representing their Association once per weekend in the Junior State Championships (applies to all divisions and age groups).
- 13.2. Players are permitted to play 'up' one (1) age group in the Junior State Championships i.e. an eligible U14 player can play in U15's.
- 13.3. All other player movements are subject to Rules 5.1.5 and 5.6.
- 13.4. For eligible Master's players who wish to play in Senior Divisions:
  - 13.4.1. Players 35 years or older are permitted to play in Senior Divisions.
  - 13.4.2. They can play for a Senior team and a Master's team on the same weekend and for the same Association.
  - 13.4.3. There is no guarantee that Senior and Masters games will not be scheduled to be played at the same time.
- 13.5. All Associations must register their team lists online three (3) days prior to the respective Country Championships weekend. This ensures all players names are recorded for the first game of the Championships. **This action is the responsibility of the Associations.** Under no circumstance is a player to be added as a "Fill-in" on the tablets without prior consent from the Competition Officer. Any team found to have done so, will result in that game being declared a forfeit.

#### **14. METHOD OF PLAY**

- 14.1. The competition shall be run according to the Official FIBA Rules.
- 14.2. Basketball WA shall determine the Country Championships format subject to the number of teams participating.
- 14.3. Where practical, there shall be a full round robin of games, with teams finishing in positions one (1) and two (2) at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds, contesting a Grand Final.
- 14.4. **Basketball WA will aim to provide six games to the teams participating in the Country Championships. This, however, is completely dependent on the number of team nomination received for each division.**
- 14.5. In Junior under fourteen (U14) competitions and below, the official Basketball Australia 'No Zone' rule applies. This means all teams must play a man-to-man defence all the time whilst in the defensive half.
- 14.6. If a team is found to be in violation of the 'No Zone' rules, a technical foul may be issued to the team's coach.
- 14.7. If subsequent incidents occur by the same team, then this team may be disqualified from the Country Championships.

#### **15. GAME TIMINGS**

- 15.1. All Junior and Senior games, where possible, shall consist of two (2) halves of twenty (20) minutes where the clock will not be stopped.
- 15.2. A half time interval of three (3) minutes shall apply to all games. A maximum of two (2) time outs per half are permitted.
  - 15.2.1. In qualifying games, time outs will not be allowed during the last three (3) minutes of the second half.
  - 15.2.2. If a time out is called during the last three (3) minutes, play will resume immediately.
- 15.3. Play is to resume as soon as practicable on a player receiving an injury, being fouled out or issued a disqualifying foul.
- 15.4. Grand Final games will be fully timed for the last three (3) minutes of the second half. This will also include the three (3) minutes of any extra time played in the event of a drawn game.
  - 15.4.1. If the score is tied at the end of the second half, the game shall continue with as many extra time periods of three (3) minutes duration each as necessary to break the tie. Each team has one (1) time out per extra time period.



## 16. FORFEIT

- 16.1. Teams who are not prepared to commence play with a minimum of five (5) players within ten (10) minutes after the starting time, shall forfeit the game.
- 16.2. Any team which participates but fails to complete the rostered game schedule may be excluded the following year.

*Additionally, a fine as determined by Basketball WA not to exceed \$500, shall be levied against the team.*

## 17. UNIFORMS

- 17.1. Team uniforms for all players must be of the approved pattern and colour as registered by the Association concerned.
- 17.2. Permitted numbers are 0 – 99.
- 17.3. Where a colour clash occurs, the first named team on the fixtures shall use an alternate uniform.
- 17.4. Playing singlets must be tucked into playing shorts throughout the period of the entire game.
- 17.5. All playing shorts MUST not have any pockets in them. Any player wearing shorts with pockets will not be able to take the court.

## 18. BASKETBALLS

- 18.1. All games must be played with a **Spalding** basketball. Ball sizes and types for the Championships will be based on the following:

18.1.1.	U12 Girls and Boys	70cm (28")	Size 5	Elite
18.1.2.	U13 & U14 Girls and Boys	73cm (29")	Size 6	TF-1000
18.1.3.	U15, U16 & U18 Girls and Women	73cm (29")	Size 6	TF-1000
18.1.4.	U15, U16 & U18 Boys and Men	75cm (30")	Size 7	TF-1000

## 19. OFFICIALS

- 19.1. All teams are required to advise the Competitions Officer prior to first fixture:
  - 19.1.1. Name of team manager and contact number(s).
- 19.2. All officials are to abide by the Basketball WA Code of Conduct for the position that they hold.
- 19.3. **All queries and complaints are to be directed to the team manager of each team. The team manager may then bring these to the Competitions Officer or Games Controller for clarification.**

## 20. REFEREES

- 20.1. All referees officiating during Country Championships must:
  - 20.1.1. Have been actively officiating in an eligible Country Association
  - 20.1.2. Be competent for the game(s) they have been nominated to referee
  - 20.1.3. Wear a BWA black and white or green shirt for the Country Championships
    - 20.1.3.1. If a referee requires one, they must purchase one prior to their first game. Limited stock may be available to purchase on the weekend.
    - 20.1.3.2. Black trousers/slacks and black footwear are the preferred dress.
  - 20.1.4. Provide a mobile number at which they can be contacted by during the Championships.
  - 20.1.5. Make themselves familiar with the Championship rules and to ensure that the rules are abided by.
  - 20.1.6. Must report to the Referee Coordinator upon arrival at the stadium.
  - 20.1.7. Check in at the reception desk before each game.
- 20.2. Referee appointments for Grand Finals will be advised at a meeting of Referees approximately three (3) time slots prior to the commencement of the Grand Finals.
- 20.3. Failure of a nominated referee to attend a fixtured game - **\$100** per referee, per game.
- 20.4. Failure to provide/use a Country Referee will result in a fine to the Association not exceeding **\$500 (Juniors) or \$1000 (Seniors)** as determined by Basketball WA.

## 21. SCORERS

- 21.1. Each Association will be required to provide one (1) scorer per team.
- 21.2. The scorer should be able to perform all the following duties competently:
  - 21.2.1. Operate the PlayHQ eScoring device.
  - 21.2.2. Operate the visual equipment.
  - 21.2.3. Have a good understanding of the game clock rules for the last three (3) minutes of operation in Grand Final games.
- 21.3. A player is not to perform the duties of a scorer and play in the same game.
- 21.4. Failure to provide a score table official - **\$50** per game.

## 22. PHOTOGRAPHY

- 22.1. Basketball WA is mindful of the importance of recording of basketball contests to parents, coaches and relatives.
- 22.2. The following guidelines are designed to assist Associations and Games Controllers:
  - 22.2.1. Photographs/Video recordings may be made of games unless the venue Games Controller is notified of an issue with this taking place.
  - 22.2.2. If a complaint or privacy notice is received by the Games Controller, they are to approach the photographer/video operate in a non-threatening manner, ask what the purpose of their recording is and ascertain the person's name and contact details.

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- 22.2.3. The Games Controller is then to explain to the photographer/video operate of the notice that has been received and that another person has requested that their child not be recorded. The Games Controller should then request the person's cooperation in not making any further recordings of the relevant game.
- 22.2.4. If the photographer/video operate refuses to cooperate, only the stadium manager is to then enforce any venue policies. The refusal should then be reported to the complainant and the detail noted on the Games Controller's report form. If the complainant wishes to take a matter further, then this is up to them.
- 22.2.5. At no stage should the Games Controller threaten to throw the photographer/video operator out of the stadium or report them to the police as this could possibly amplify the situation.
- 22.2.6. Basketball WA may endorse a business to take photographs of players or teams during a Championships for monetary gain. This business will require the written permission of the player(s) concerned.
- 22.2.7. Video equipment must be handheld, and the user must not encroach onto the area used by referees to officiate a game.

### **23. STANDINGS**

- 23.1. Points tables for each division shall be maintained as per below:
  - 23.1.1. Win, 3 points
  - 23.1.2. Draw, 2 points
  - 23.1.3. Loss, 1 point
  - 23.1.4. Bye, 3 points
  - 23.1.5. Forfeit, -3 points
- 23.2. Should two (2) teams be level on competition points at the conclusion of the qualifying games, eligibility to compete in the Finals, shall be based on previous results between the tied teams (Head to Head)
- 23.3. Should three (3) or more teams be level on competition points at the conclusion of the qualifying games, eligibility to compete in the Finals, shall be determined by a mini ladder, only considering the results between the tied teams.
- 23.4. If the teams are still tied, then the average points will be used to determine placings, only considering the results between the tied teams.
- 23.5. In the event of two (2) teams finishing equal on points due to a draw against each other in the qualifying games, the overall percentage shall determine the higher position.

## **24. STATE JUNIOR TEAM SQUADS**

- 24.1. State Junior teams will only be permitted to enter the Country Championships at the discretion of the Competitions Officer.
- 24.2. These teams will be guest teams and therefore are ineligible to participate in the Finals.
- 24.3. Results of games involving State teams are counted towards final placing in the competition.

## **25. PROTESTS**

- 25.1. Any protest arising during the Belt Up Basketball WA Country Championships shall be in writing and duly signed by the team captain or manager of the Association lodging the protest.
- 25.2. The team captain or manager must advise the Competitions Officer that they plan to submit a protest immediately.
- 25.3. Such a protest shall be lodged within ten (10) minutes of the completion of the game with the Competitions Officer or Games Controller.
- 25.4. A fee of **\$100** shall accompany the written protest. If the protest is upheld the fee shall be refunded.
- 25.5. Any protest shall be referred to the Judiciary Committee (Rule 27) and be determined as soon as practical.
- 25.6. All decisions made by the Judiciary Committee in regard to protests are final.

## **26. TRIBUNALS**

- 26.1. Any alleged charges as a result of a report lodged by an official at the Country Championships will be dealt with by the Judiciary Committee (Rule 27). The Judiciary Committee will follow the Basketball WA Tribunal By-Law procedures for an Administrative Tribunal.
- 26.2. A tribunal decision may be appealed by following the Basketball WA Tribunal By-Law procedures.

## **27. JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

- 27.1. The Judiciary Committee will be comprised of any two of the following: The Competitions Officer; Association Development Officer; Head of Technical Officials; Technical Officials Operations Officer or the Referee Supervisor (appointed by BWA). The Judiciary Committee will convene as soon as practicable following any protest or report form lodged.

## **28. PENALTIES**

- 28.1. Standard penalties will be applied for non-compliance with the Belt Up Basketball WA Country Championship Rules, and these appear after their corresponding rule.
- 28.2. Fines as detailed shall be charged to the Association concerned and must be paid within fourteen (14) days.
- 28.3. Teams incurring penalties shall be reported to Basketball WA, who may apply additional penalties up to and including non-eligibility to compete in future Championships for a specified period.

## **29. APPEALS**

- 29.1. Associations shall have the right to appeal within five (5) days any penalties prescribed under Rule 28.
- 29.2. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the Basketball WA Association Development Officer and shall detail in full, the circumstances relating to the appeal.
- 29.3. The appeal shall be dealt with by Basketball WA.

## **30. WITHDRAWALS**

- 30.1. In the event of a withdrawal of any team accepted in the Country Championship list, an immediate replacement will be named from teams on the waiting list (If applicable).
- 30.2. If an Association withdraws a team once the nomination due date has lapsed, they will forfeit their nomination fee and associated referee costs paid.
  - 30.2.1. The Association concerned may be declared ineligible to nominate a team for the same Division the following year.
- 30.3. Should any team withdraw after the Country Championship fixtures have been released then:
  - 30.3.1. The Association concerned may be declared ineligible to nominate a team for the same division the following year.
  - 30.3.2. Any nomination fee and associated referee costs paid shall be forfeited.
  - 30.3.3. A fine of **\$300** per team shall be incurred.

## **31. DOOR CHARGES**

- 31.1. Door charges for each Basketball WA Country Championships shall be fixed by Basketball WA with discretion to include a component for development and are included in the team nomination fee.

## **32. AMENDMENTS**

- 32.1. Basketball WA shall have the power to alter and/or amend these rules from time to time as required.

## **33. ITEMS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

- 33.1. The Basketball WA Competitions Officer shall deal with any matter not covered in the rules.