



**BASKETBALL WA**

# **NBL1 Fixture Review Process**

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## 1 Overview and Purpose

Basketball WA (BWA) is responsible for the management and operation of the NBL1 West (NBL1) competition – inclusive of the provision of the season fixture. The NBL1, and broadly at the national level, continues to evolve in an ever-changing sporting landscape, and it is critical the creation of each season's fixtures is established in a manner reflective of current and potential future contexts.

This process provides an overview of the steps taken annually by BWA to review the NBL1 season schedule which considers:

- Alignment to the NBL1 West's strategic objectives;
- Refinement or modification to the guiding principles (*still to be established*) of NBL1 fixture creation;
- Methodology (*current and alternate options*) used to put together the NBL1 fixture; and
- The enhancement of the aims of the NBL1 West.

Basketball WA is committed to continuous improvement, which means review processes of items widely impacting the sport are critical.

## 2 Scope

This process only applies to:

- The review of the NBL1's most recent season fixtures; and
- The specific methodology used to generate the upcoming season's fixtures.

It does not apply to other BWA-controlled and -run competitions.

For the avoidance of doubt, the first annual review (*commenced January 2025*) will only consider the methodology used to generate the upcoming season's fixtures, given the 2024 fixtures should inform the upcoming season and is already finalised at the time of writing.

## 3 Document Author and Approving Authority

The BWA Chief Executive Officer is the approver of this process. Suggestions for changes or process improvements should be communicated to the BWA Chief Basketball Officer (CBO).

## 4 BWA Responsibilities

### 4.1. Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

- Consider (and potentially approve) recommendations resulting from an NBL1 fixture review.
- Ensure the CBO has adequate support, such as legal or third-party resources, to evaluate data, information or recommendations.

### 4.2. Chief Basketball Officer (CBO)

- Consider (and potentially approve) recommendations resulting from an NBL1 fixture review.

- Assist the General Manager Basketball Operations in critically evaluating the report and forming recommendations from it.
- Inform the CEO of any endorsed recommendations and resulting implementation plan.
- In the absence of the CBO, they may approve a delegate to undertake the responsibilities of 4.2

## 4.3. General Manager of Basketball Operations (GMBO)

- Finalise the review report.
- Review proposed recommendations from an NBL1 fixture review and present findings to the CBO.
- Ensure NBL1 fixture reviews are conducted in a timely manner in accordance with this process.

## 4.4. League Manager

- Undertake the data and information collection process as directed by the GMBO or CBO.
- Assist the GMBO in compiling the review report for consideration.

## 4.5. NBL1 Commission / Working Groups (as applicable)

- Provide data, information and advice as needed via the outlined process below.

## 5 Guiding Principles for NBL1 Fixture Review

1. Recommendations should align to the strategic objectives (inclusive of commercialisation) and aims of the NBL1 West.
2. Recommendations should align to relevant BWA & Basketball Australia governance, applicable league licenses/agreements, and the BWA Constitution.
3. Recommendations should, on balance, be in the best interests of the advancement of the NBL1 West.
4. The review should include an element of data collection to ensure well-informed evidence-based decisions are made.
5. Recommendations do not need to equally impact (positively or negatively) all associations to be considered, however, must align to guiding principle three.
6. Recommendations should be presented having considered potential unintended consequences, or material future impacts; and
7. The 3+ principle: explore at least three possible solutions to a problem (where possible) before considering a decision.

## 6 Process

### 6.1. Feedback/Consultation

- BWA to develop 'areas of focus' for the feedback/consultation to be centred around. These will be provided to engaged stakeholders in the process.
- BWA to establish core objectives of the review – which may change annually.

- BWA to solicit association feedback from NBL1 West associations via the association-nominated person
  - The specific format of the feedback will be determined by BWA and may take a digital, written, phone or in-person form. It may be one or more (but not limited to) of these formats.
  - Feedback may consider some or all elements of the fixture review or creation process.
  - Feedback may require the views of multiple stakeholders inside an association (IE CEO, coach, player, etc).
- BWA staff to assess potential opportunity of each 'area of focus' by;  
Engagement with at least one other NBL1 conference for alternate methodology or in-season fixture initiatives.
  - Scanning at least one other sport for alternate methodology or in-season fixture initiatives.
  - Evaluating most recently completed season live-streaming and attendance data.
- BWA staff to critically evaluate 'areas of focus' by;
  - Utilising any applicable benchmarking or market analysis tool (if applicable).
  - Analysing collected data and information using a SWOT and TOWS analysis.
- Provide report recommendations to the NBL1 Commission for advice regarding alignment to NBL1 strategic objectives.
- CBO to approve or recommend changes to final report, before presenting to NBL1 associations for feedback.
- BWA staff (GMBO and League Manager) to consider any further feedback for integration (or not) into final recommendations for final CBO approval.
- Recommendations come into effect for the next fixture process.

## 6.2. Consideration

Feedback will always be considered and reviewed from all relevant parties, however, it does not guarantee it will be reflected in the final recommendations. BWA will endeavour to provide its rationale when feedback has not been actioned in the final recommendations to relevant parties where feasible. The areas of focus presented to stakeholders will form the basis of review for the current year, as a review may not constitute a complete assessment of every detail or overhaul of the process on an annual basis.

## 7 Timeline

### 7.1. Review of Previous Year's Fixture

1. Feedback from appropriate stakeholders regarding fixtures of the most recent (or current) season will be collated in July each year. Parties are provided a two-week window to provide feedback via the designated method.
2. Data collection is as a live process across the current season itself, inclusive of analysis, further analysis may occur post-season.

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3. Draft report and recommendations are presented to the CBO in mid-September. Final feedback from associations following provision of draft recommendations is requested no later than one-week following the CBO's tentative draft approval.
  4. Final recommendations approved and circulated to relevant stakeholders ideally by no later than September 30 of the relevant year in time for the completion of the next year's fixture.

## 7.2. Review of Fixture Methodology

1. Feedback from appropriate stakeholders regarding fixtures creation methodology will be collated in November of each year at the conclusion of the fixture finalisation. Parties are provided a two-week window to provide feedback via the designated method.
2. Data collection is collated and integrated into the following August's information collection process and ultimately a single report by September 30 of each year.

## 8 Implementation

The League Manager/Administrator is responsible for the implementation of any recommendations and adapted fixture process – inclusive of communication to appropriate NBL1 administrators and executives. In the event of wholesale material change (as determined by the CBO), the communication may come from the CBO.