



BASKETBALL WA

WABL Application Procedure – New & Re-Applying Associations

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WABL Application Procedure – New & Re-Applying Associations



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1 Overview

Basketball WA (BWA) acknowledges the significant growth of basketball in Western Australia, which presents opportunities for non-WA Basketball League (WABL) affiliated associations to develop to a 'WABL-ready' level.

Certain geographical areas are prioritised where participation needs are currently unmet. Additionally, associations may need to reapply for WABL entry if they fail to meet required standards and expectations.

This procedure outlines how BWA evaluates new and re-applying associations for WABL entry.

It is essential that any **new (have never previously participated at WABL level) or re-applying Association (those not participating in the previous year)** has a robust support structure to ensure sustainable growth. This enables the league to operate effectively, sustainably, and continuously improve. BWA believes strong off-court structures contribute to sustained on-court success.

2 Scope

This document applies to entry into the **WABL Grading and Season, Winter Classic, State Titles**, and any other BWA-affiliated competition as determined by the CEO or delegate. State Championships do not currently require an association to be playing in the WABL season, only the State Titles do.

Only **Affiliated Associations** that meet Basketball WA's constitutional membership requirements are eligible to apply as a new WABL association or for re-application.

Existing WABL Associations must also comply with all eligibility requirements, as outlined in the **WABL Standards, Expectations and Expansion Guidelines** document, and any appropriate **Rules of Operation**.

3 Aim

This procedure aims to provide clarity on application and approval for **New Associations and Re-Applying Associations** seeking to enter **WABL**. A complementary document (**WABL Standards, Expectations and Expansion Guidelines**) will outline the requirements for ongoing participation and future team expansion for current WABL associations.

4 Document Author and Approving Authority

The BWA Chief Basketball Officer (CBO) is the approver of this procedure. Suggestions for updates or improvements must be submitted to the General Manager of Competitions (GMC), who will consult with the appropriate stakeholders and present to the CBO for review and approval.

5 Expression of Interest Submission

Associations must submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** to **Basketball WA (BWA)** by *31 August* of the calendar year for State Titles (same calendar year) or **WABL Grading and Season** (next calendar year) consideration.

This must be sent as a formal letter to the Chief Basketball Officer (CBO) and include the following details (eligibility criteria):

- **Association details**
 - Contact information, governance structure, audited financial statements (last three years), and organisational history.
- **Strategic plan** (most current, three or five years)
 - Including growth strategy and sustainability measures for **WABL** and **Domestic Competition**.
- **Business model (WABL – year round)**
 - Outlining (but not limited to) fees structure, court hire arrangements, and the budget for at least the first season.
- **Venue availability**
 - Including compliance with **WABL Minimum Facility Standards (Appendix One)**.
- **Key program staff**
 - EG venue duty officers, coaching support, or as defined in the **Rules of Operation**.
 - Associations require an employee who has a primary responsibility for WABL (this may be a full-time competitions staff member).
- **Development pathways**
 - Including **Domestic Competition** structure, coach/player development programs, and staffing or key volunteers. Must also include overview of coaching model used to support coaches.
- **Referee development programs**
 - Including training, staffing, and growth plans. Must also include current referee numbers and structured plan for courses and on-going development.
- **Projected team entries (year one)**
 - Including expected age groups & divisions.
- **Key policies and procedures**
 - Including (but not limited to) for players and coaches (selection policy etc), including induction programs for families.

- **Communication methods**
 - Used by the association to distribute information to members.

6 Association Evaluation and Preliminary Approval

Basketball WA (BWA) will conduct an initial assessment based on:

- Compliance with **Expression of Interest (EOI)** eligibility criteria.
- Ability to field competitive teams across multiple age groups.

The GMC and the **Junior Competitions Working Group** will review initial applications and may request additional information or modifications.

Existing **WABL** associations will be informed of submitted **EOIs** and provided an opportunity to submit feedback. However, final approval of all applications rests with **BWA**.

Advice is submitted to the Chief Basketball Officer (CBO) via the GMC for consideration (inclusive of potential amendments and requests for more information), and successful applicants will receive **provisional approval** before proceeding to the next stage.

7 Domestic Competition Review and Sustainability Assessment

Following provisional approval, applicants must provide a detailed report on their Domestic Competition, including:

- Number of teams per age group and gender, compared to the required **Domestic Team Ratio**.
- Coaching structures and accreditation levels.
- Referee development programs, ability to deliver **Minimum Referee Number Requirements** and official pathways.

The **Minimum Referee Number Requirements** for the first season of approval is as follows:

- Associations must provide at least the same number of referees as number of teams nominated for WABL plus two more. This must be demonstrated at the point of application.
- Of the nominated referees, at least 50% must be level one accredited.
- All future seasons (after the first) will be governed by the **WABL Standards, Expectations and Expansion Guidelines**, which will account for **Minimum Referee Number Requirements**.
- Associations must provide at least 25% of their total WABL team numbers in referee coaches. For example, if an association had 10 teams, this would mean 3 referee coaches (2.5 rounded up). This must be demonstrated at the point of application.

The **Domestic Team Ratio** is defined below to assist with initial team entry and on-going growth:

- **ALL WABL BOYS AGE GROUPS & U14 GIRLS**
 - A minimum of six junior domestic teams (per gender per age group) is required to enter a single **WABL** team in the same age group and gender.

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- Additional **WABL** teams can be added for every four extra domestic teams (per gender per age group).
- If the association has 'mixed' domestic teams, a team will be counted for every '7 athletes' across all mixed teams of a particular gender and age group.
- **WABL GIRLS U12, U16 & U18**
 - A minimum of six junior domestic teams (per gender per age group) is required to enter a single **WABL** team in the same age group and gender.
 - Additional WABL teams can be added for every four extra domestic teams (per gender per age group).
 - For clarity, in the U12 WABL (girls) age group, domestic teams will be counted from U8-U12 girls (or equivalent age groups) collectively.
 - For clarity, in the U16 & U18 WABL age group, domestic teams will be counted from all domestic competitions aged U16 up until (but not including) seniors towards these age groups.

For example:

- To enter a **12/1 Boys team**, an association must have at least six domestic teams.
- To enter a **12/2 Boys team**, at least 10 domestic teams are required.
- To enter a **12/3 Boys team**, at least 14 domestic teams are required.
- To enter a **12/4 Boys team**, at least 18 domestic teams are required.

NOTE: Should this clause apply to the South-West Slammers (as it is currently structured), they will be exempt from the **Domestic Team Ratio**.

Associations must demonstrate consistent 12-months of growth before final approval is granted.

Following submission of the report on their Domestic Competition, the Chief Basketball Officer will seek final input from the General Manager of Competitions, the Head of Junior Competitions, and Junior Competition Advisory Group, before making a final determination and advising the applicant. Relevant stakeholders, existing WABL associations, and the community will be informed following the applicant being notified of the outcome.

8 Team Entry and Compliance with WABL Rules

Upon final approval, associations must continue to ensure they:

- Conduct WABL trials in line with **State Championships/Titles** timelines. Associations may conduct trials following their own selection policies and procedures.
- Submit official team nominations by the nominated deadline as required by **BWA** of the competition year. A minimum of four teams must be entered in the first year of **WABL Grading and Season**.
- Meet all **Rules of Operation** requirements.
- Ensure compliance with **referee/domestic ratios** and game-day operational requirements.
- Attend all required **WABL operational meetings**, including online monthly CEO/GM meetings with the Chief Basketball Officer (CBO). For clarity, an association that misses more than one meeting in a row would be considered non-compliant with this clause.

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Associations are subject to an *annual review* to maintain compliance. Failure to meet required standards may result in reassessment of their **WABL** participation. Future team expansion beyond the first year is governed by the **WABL Standards, Expectations, and Expansion Guidelines**.

9 Appendix One – Minimum Venue Expectations

Venue requirement	Minimum	Desirable or Future Additions
Minimum Courts	3 (in one venue).	6 (in one venue).
Court Access	8am-6pm Sunday access (March to September) for competition if required – letter of endorsement from venue owner. In lieu of 8am-6pm access, multiple venues with the same total time access is acceptable.	7am-7pm Sunday access (March to September) for competition if required – letter of endorsement from venue owner. At least the first four timeslots are access to all six courts.
Court Markings, Backboards and Flooring	Court size meets minimum FIBA requirements, markings meet FIBA standards (outside 3-point line at least), flooring is wooden and sprung, backboards are fiberglass (not wooden).	Court size meets standard FIBA requirements, markings meet FIBA standards (inside and outside 3-point line), flooring is wooden and sprung, backboards are fiberglass (not wooden) and FIBA standard.
Scoreboards	One per court.	One per court; One advanced scoreboard on show court (FIBA standard).
Shot clocks	One court with a shot clock at both ends – can be reset to 14 or 24 seconds	All courts with a shot clock at both ends (FIBA standard) – backboard mounted and can be reset to 14 or 24 seconds.
Score bench	Room for three people.	Room for four people; room for five people on show court
Team seating	Room for 13 people – three coaches, one manager, seven players, and train-on athletes. Seating is moveable on at least some of the courts.	Room for 15 people – four coaches, one manager, seven players, and train-on players. Seating is moveable on at least some of the courts.
Spectator seating (includes standing space)	Room for approximately 50 spectators per court (not including participants or coaches); Seating is moveable on at least some of the courts (unless it is a show-court).	Multiple rows of seating per court. Seating is moveable on at least some of the courts (unless it is a show-court).
Internet access	WIFI available on all courts for live scoring and immediate upload.	WIFI available on all courts for live scoring and immediate upload.
Parking	Enough parking bays to meet capacity at any one timeslot. Available overflow parking	Enough parking bays to meet capacity at any one timeslot. Available overflow parking

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First aid room	First aid station at a clearly defined area.	Dedicated first aid room.
Office Space / Duty Manager Room	Access to a secure space for Duty Manager administration.	Access to a secure space for Duty Manager administration.
Drink Fountains & General Amenities (cafe, breakout space, etc.)	At least one drink fountain suitable to drink from and fill-up drink-bottles. Accessible cafe (minimum, having drinks to purchase).	At least two drink fountains suitable to drink from and fill-up drink-bottles. Accessible cafe (with food and drink).
Toilets & Changerooms	Fulfils statutory building requirements for toilets.	Fulfils statutory building requirements for toilets, at least one changeroom for each gender is accessible.

10 Glossary of Terms

“Affiliated Association”

A basketball association that has met all membership and constitutional requirements set by **Basketball WA (BWA)**. Only **Affiliated Associations** are eligible to apply for **WABL** entry.

“Basketball WA (BWA)”

The governing body for basketball in Western Australia, responsible for overseeing basketball development, competitions, and regulations, including the **Western Australian Basketball League (WABL)**, **State Championships / Titles**, **WABL Grading**, and the **Winter Classic**

“Domestic Competition”

A local basketball competition managed by an association, designed to provide a foundation for player development/participation. A strong **Domestic Competition** is a key requirement for **WABL** entry.

“Domestic Team Ratio”

A minimum domestic team requirement that determines an association's eligibility to enter teams (and how many) into **WABL**.

“Expression of Interest (EOI)”

A formal submission made by an association to indicate their intent to enter **WABL**. The **EOI** must be submitted to **Basketball WA (BWA)** by 31 August prior to the proposed entry into State Titles or **WABL Grading and Season** and must satisfy all eligibility criteria outlined in this document.

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“Junior Competitions Working Group”

A **BWA**-appointed group that evaluates BWA-run junior basketball competition structures and provides advice to the Chief Basketball Officer on association applications for **WABL** entry.

“Minimum Referee Number Requirements”

The minimum referee requirements in order to be eligible for consideration of **WABL** entry.

“New Association”

An association seeking entry into **WABL** for the first time. **New Associations** must meet all entry criteria and demonstrate a sustainable pathway for continued participation. Any regional requests will be subject to an assessment of travel distance, which is a key hurdle to overcome that overrides all other eligibility criteria.

“Re-Applying Association”

An association that has previously participated in **WABL** but did not compete in the previous **WABL** season and is seeking re-entry. **Re-Applying Associations** must meet the same eligibility criteria as **New Associations**.

“Rules of Operation”

An official Basketball WA document governing the operational rules of the **WABL Grading, WABL competition (season), Winter Classic** and **State Championships/Titles**. Each competition has a separate set of **Rules of Operation** that associations must adhere to.

“State Championships/Titles”

A **BWA**-sanctioned tournament where teams from across the state compete for championships and titles. Participation in **State Championships/Titles** is required for **WABL** eligibility.

“Venue Availability”

The ability of an association to secure access to a suitable facility that meets **WABL** standards. Associations must provide a letter from the venue operator confirming unencumbered access to the facility on Sundays between **7:00 AM and 7:00 PM**, from **March to September**.

“WABL (Western Australian Basketball League)”

The premier junior representative basketball competition in Western Australia, managed by **Basketball WA (BWA)**. **WABL** provides a competitive pathway for developing players, coaches, and referees.

“WABL Grading and Season”

The **WABL** grading phase (February/March) determines the competitive level of teams before the regular **WABL** season begins. The season runs from April to September each year.

“WABL Operational Meetings”

Mandatory meetings held by **Basketball WA (BWA)** for participating associations. These meetings cover league updates, compliance requirements, and competition-related matters. Attendance by an association representative is compulsory.

“WABL Standards, Expectations, and Expansion Guidelines”

A document governing the standards, expectations and opportunity for future growth of WABL associations that are already existing participants of the WABL competition. These are linked directly to the Rules of Operation.

11 Terms and Conditions

- a) Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance into WABL. BWA reserves the right to approve or reject applications at its discretion.
- b) BWA reserves the right to impose additional conditions for approval or ongoing participation.
- c) Associations must comply with all WABL Rules of Operation, Official Documents (as determined by the BWA CBO), and Operational Guidelines.
- d) Non-compliance with WABL regulations may result in suspension or removal from the league.
- e) Affiliated associations acknowledge that entry into WABL is subject to ongoing review.
- f) BWA reserves the right to amend this process at any time.
- g) Applicants must ensure all information provided is accurate and complete. Misrepresentation may result in disqualification of an application.