



2024 Basketball WA Annual Report

Rev No. 0

2024 Basketball WA Annual Report



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1 The Chair's Report

Kaya mort Basketball WA community

As Chair of Basketball WA, I am honoured to present the 2024 Basketball WA Annual Report. This past year has been one of remarkable achievements and growth for our sport, cementing basketball as the fastest-growing sport in Western Australia for children under 15 years of age. With over 67,000 registered participants across our programs, including schools, entry-level initiatives, and Aussie Hoops, basketball continues to thrive.

Basketball WA had a remarkable year, marked by significant achievements and community celebrations. The 2024 Basketball WA's "night of nights" the Gala Awards Night highlighted the accomplishments of players, coaches, and volunteers. Ricky Grace was inducted into the WA Basketball Hall of Fame, while Marcus Langshaw received Life Membership recognition to a standing ovation from the 700 strong attendees. The Black Ducks earned the High-Performance Team of the Year award, showcasing the depth of talent in Western Australian basketball. Basketball WA saw continued unprecedented growth in participation across State Championships, Country Championships and NAIDOC Carnivals and we welcomed the new Winter Carnival to our calendar. These successes underscore Basketball WA's commitment to fostering excellence and community engagement within the sport.

The 2024 NBL1 West Grand Finals was held at RAC Arena for the first time. This historic double-header, showcased why "the west is best," attracting a record-breaking crowd of 6,460 fans. This marked the first time both the men's and women's finals were played on the same night at this world-class venue, elevating the stature of basketball in Western Australia and setting a benchmark for other conferences nationwide. The Mandurah Magic men secured their first-ever championship with a dramatic victory over the Willetton Tigers. On the women's side, the Rockingham Flames defeated the Cockburn Cougars to claim the title.

The Perth Lynx had a remarkable 2023/24 WNBL season, finishing fourth on the ladder with a record of 11 wins and 10 losses, and advancing to the Grand Final series. Although they fell short in the Grand Final, losing 2-1 to Southside Flyers, their performance highlighted their competitive spirit and ability to overcome adversity. After 4 years under Basketball WA's management the Perth Lynx WNBL license was transferred to Christian Hauff and Jodi Millhahn. This change represents an exciting new chapter for the Lynx as they aim to build on their strong legacy and elevate their presence in women's basketball.

Basketball WA has continued to work proactively with affiliated associations, local, state, and federal governments to tackle the most pressing challenge in the sport—addressing the shortage of facilities. This issue remains a priority as Basketball WA strives to ensure that the thousands of people on waiting lists across the state can actively participate in basketball. In 2024, this mission was significantly bolstered by the Cook Government's \$2 million commitment to commence planning for a new indoor sporting facility in Perth's inner southern suburbs. This funding represents a vital step toward alleviating facility shortages and creating a dedicated home for the Perth Redbacks, one of WA's oldest basketball clubs. Additionally, \$30,000 was allocated to the Albany Basketball Association to host an NBL1 West fixture in Albany, which included skill-building opportunities for coaches and referees and promoted inclusivity for youth and all-abilities players.

In 2024, Basketball WA implemented several initiatives to enhance inclusiveness and foster a positive culture within the sport. Basketball WA participated in this State Government pilot Respectful Relationships Sport and Recreation Program, which focuses on promoting healthy

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relationships in sport as part of efforts to prevent gender-based violence. We supported the All-Abilities Hoops WA program, which offers individuals aged 16+ with varying abilities a welcoming space for skill development, social connection, and pathways to local competitions and state representation opportunities. Basketball WA received \$22,500 through the Regional Athlete Support Program in 2023/24 to deliver regionally tailored sport programs, including skill development sessions and initiatives that support the social, emotional, and physical growth of local athletes. This funding allows training and development to take place within regional communities, minimizing the need for travel to Perth. These initiatives reflect Basketball WA's commitment to fostering inclusiveness across diverse communities and addressing barriers to participation in basketball.

Basketball WA extends its sincere gratitude to the retiring Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Honourable David Templeman, MLA, along with his office and supporting advisors. Minister Templeman has demonstrated exceptional passion and dedication to advancing basketball in Western Australia, with a strong emphasis on fostering participation, promoting inclusion, and supporting the vital contributions of volunteers. We express our gratitude to the Labor Government for their continued support and acknowledgment of the importance of investing in basketball, a sport that is having positive impact on the lives of Western Australians. We would also like to thank the Parliamentary Friends of Basketball, Ms Hannah Beazley MLA, Mr Peter Rundle MLA, Ms Jessica Stojkovski MLA and Ms Emily Hamilton MLA for their advocacy of our sport.

Thank you to our long-term partners, stakeholders and sponsors who continue to support us in making basketball an accessible and well-organised game: The Western Australian State Government's Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WA Insurance Commission, Healthway, Northern Star and CSBP, in particular, as they make a valuable contribution to basketball through various funding schemes and a range of advisory services.

The Board continues to work with Basketball Australia and the other State and Territory Associations to ensure our game is governed appropriately. In 2024, Basketball Australia introduced the Game Development Levy in collaboration with state and territory associations, including Basketball WA, to support the sport's growth and sustainability. The levy focuses on critical areas such as officiating and coaching pathways, digital transformation, and behaviour management campaigns to address abuse towards officials. This initiative aligns with Basketball Australia's broader strategic vision, including the "Whole of Sport Basketball 2040 Vision," and aims to enhance grassroots participation, improve pathways for players and officials, and modernise basketball systems nationwide.

Basketball WA bid farewell to Jonelle Morley, who served as Chief Operating Officer from July 2021 to July 2024. During her tenure, Jonelle played a pivotal role in driving participation growth, enhancing community engagement, and implementing governance and management reforms to strengthen the organisation. Jonelle's extensive experience in sport and recreation, combined with her passion for people development and inclusivity, helped Basketball WA navigate significant challenges and achieve key milestones. Basketball WA acknowledges Jonelle's contributions and wishes her continued success in shaping the future of sport in Western Australia.

The Board would like to sincerely thank the team at Basketball WA including Chief Executive Officer – Nathan Cave, Chief Basketball Officer – Tyrone Thwaites, and Company Secretary – Anthony Tornatora for their commitment, ongoing dedication and passion to the sport ensuring basketball is thriving in Western Australia.

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I would personally like to thank my fellow Board colleagues, Deputy Chair - Sandra Riches, Cassandra Wright, Lorraine Driscoll, Michael Quirk and Travis Moore as well as Finance, Risk and Audit Committee members Geoff Searle and Trudi Chesterton and NBL1 Commissioners Karl Hombergen, Andy Stewart, Kelly Exeter and Paula Purcher for supporting me as Chair and providing passion, commitment and leadership to Basketball in Western Australia.

And finally, I would like to extend our gratitude to all affiliated associations for their unwavering commitment and support throughout the past year. Your dedication to the growth and development of basketball in Western Australia has been instrumental in fostering a thriving basketball community across the state. From grassroots programs to elite competitions, your efforts have ensured that players, coaches, officials, and volunteers are provided with opportunities to excel and enjoy the sport we all love. The collaboration and shared vision between Basketball WA and its affiliated associations continue to strengthen the foundation of basketball in WA, and we look forward to building on this success together in the coming year. Thank you for your invaluable contributions and partnership.

As I step down from my role as Chair of Basketball WA, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the basketball community for their unwavering support during my tenure. It has been an incredible privilege to work alongside such passionate and dedicated individuals who share a vision for growing our great sport across Western Australia. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together, from securing vital government support to addressing the challenges of facility shortages and fostering inclusivity within our basketball community.

As I hand over the reins, I am delighted to welcome Dr. Kyle Hoath as the new Chair of Basketball WA. Kyle brings a wealth of professional expertise, a deep passion for basketball, and a strong connection to grassroots development. I have every confidence that under his leadership, Basketball WA will continue to thrive and build on the foundations we have laid.

While this chapter comes to a close, my commitment to basketball remains steadfast. I look forward to supporting Basketball WA in new ways and continuing to be part of this vibrant community. Thank you all for your trust, support, and belief in our shared vision for basketball in Western Australia. It has been an extraordinary privilege, and I am deeply grateful for every moment.

Boordawan.

Fiona Notley

Chair, Basketball WA

2 CEO's Report

The last twelve months has been a landmark year for Basketball WA. From record-breaking participation numbers to national recognition of our programs and people, the sport continues to thrive across Western Australia.

We surpassed 67,000 registered players, with AusPlay estimating over 160,000 Western Australians are now playing basketball. While demand continues to outpace venue availability, we have again prioritised advocacy and led conversations with government stakeholders to secure new basketball facilities.

Our Parliamentary Friends of Basketball have played a significant role this year in advancing conversations with government about the urgent need for basketball facilities. Thank you to Jessica Stojkovski MLA, Peter Rundle MLA, Emily Hamilton MLA, and Hannah Beazley MLA — your support has been invaluable.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the Honourable Minister David Templeman MLA. Your support throughout 2024 has meant a great deal to our sport, and we wish you all the very best in your retirement.

Our junior competitions — including WABL, State Championships, and Country Championships — continue to set national benchmarks. The WABL restructure and the launch of the Winter Classic injected new energy into the calendar, while the State Champs hosted over 600 teams, and the Country Champs broke records with more teams from over 40 participating associations.

Our High-Performance pathway continues to evolve and deliver results, including a gold medal in the Kevin Coombs Cup, athletes invited to Basketball Australia development camps, and ongoing representation at national and international levels. Congratulations to all our athletes, coaches, and support staff for their commitment to excellence.

We also expanded our inclusion and participation programs through initiatives like Aussie Hoops, Everyone's Game, 3x3 events, and our Inclusive Participation Program targeting female and Aboriginal engagement. These efforts are creating more accessible, visible, and welcoming spaces for everyone to enjoy the game.

The Perth Lynx provided a thrilling ride in the WNBL, qualifying for the finals and taking the Grand Final Series to a third game. The team's performance — backed by passionate fans, volunteers, and staff — was a proud moment for Basketball WA. As ownership has now transitioned to SEN, we look forward to watching the Lynx's continued success.

The NBL1 West season was another standout, capped off by a Grand Final double-header at RAC Arena and over 10 million minutes streamed worldwide. The league's success — and the stories of our clubs, officials, and athletes — highlights the incredible evolution of state league basketball in WA.

Operationally, Basketball WA introduced key structural enhancements, including the appointment of Tyrone Thwaites as Chief Basketball Officer. Tyrone has made an immediate impact, driving revised systems and governance improvements to keep pace with the game's growth.

Basketball WA also farewelled Jonelle Morely - COO, Alex Ciabattoni – RDO, Dan Hunt - RDO, Anita Reca – RDO, Tony Amoroso – Association Development Manager, Kelly Loakes – Member Protection Officer, Danielle Ramsay Executive Assistant, and Dan Coffey – Technical Officials Operations Officer. Thank you for all of your work with Basketball WA!

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We remain grateful for the support of our Associations, members, and key partners — including the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Healthway, the Insurance Commission of WA, and VenuesWest. Without your ongoing support, the work we do would not be possible.

To our Board, staff, volunteers, referees, officials, partners, associations and members — thank you. Your dedication continues to elevate basketball across the state.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain focused on securing long-term facilities for the sport, strengthening our performance pathways, and ensuring basketball remains a sport for everyone in WA. We've established new working groups, improved operational transparency, and committed resources to ensure our game is safer, better governed, and enjoyed by more participants than ever before.

3 Parliamentary Friends

In 2024, the Parliamentary Friends of Basketball continued to strengthen the connection between the basketball community and government, helping to champion the needs of our sport at the highest levels.

A key highlight this year was Basketball WA's invitation to present at a Parliamentary "Lunch and Learn" session, hosted by Jessica Stojkovski MLA. This important opportunity provided Basketball WA with a platform to showcase how the sport positively impacts the lives of Western Australians — from grassroots participation to elite pathways — and to highlight the critical need for facility investment to meet the growing demand across the State.

Basketball WA extends its sincere thanks to Jessica Stojkovski MLA, Peter Rundle MLA, Emily Hamilton MLA, and Hannah Beazley MLA for their ongoing support and advocacy. Their engagement with our community has helped ensure that the voice of basketball is heard and understood within Parliament.

As we look ahead, the Parliamentary Friends of Basketball remain an important vehicle to strengthen communication between Members of Parliament and our diverse basketball community — promoting participation, inclusion, and access for all.

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4 Hall of Fame & BWA Awards

Basketball WA held its 2024 Annual Awards Night on Saturday 20 July at the Crown Grand Ballroom with over 730 people attending. The evening celebrated the Basketball Community, the Sport and Achievements of the members, NBL1 West MVP as well as Hall of Fame Inductee Ricky Grace and Life Member Marcus Langshaw. Congratulations to everyone who took part on the awards night. A full list of winners is outlined below.

Special Acknowledgement goes out to – Dr Richard Walley AOM for Welcome to Country. Special Thanks to – Presenting Partner Brightside Live, DJ Dyson, MC Ross Wallman and Crown Perth, for helping make the night run so smoothly.

HALL OF FAME AWARDS	
WA BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME	Ricky Grace AM
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	Marcus Langshaw
BWA HIGH PERFORMANCE AWARDS	
HP TEAM OF THE YEAR	Black Ducks
HP MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR	Billy McRae
HP FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR	Monique Williams
HP LEGACY AWARD	Aaron Edwards
HP COACH OF THE YEAR	Keely O'Brien
BWA VOLUNTEER AWARDS	
HP VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	Brent Alexander
METRO VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	Anthony Nixon (Perth Basketball Association)
REGIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	Peter Brown (Geraldton Basketball Association)
YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	Emmerson Rothe (Karratha Basketball Assn)
NBL1 WEST VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	Brendon Jones (Geraldton Buccaneers)
ARTHUR MCROBBIE – COUNTRY SERVICE AWARD	Kristy Brown (Wickham Basketball Association)
BWA ASSOCIATION AWARDS	
Participation Program of the Year	Cockburn's Referee Development Program
Fuel to Go and Play Association of the Year (Regional)	Busselton Basketball Association
Fuel to Go and Play Association of the Year (Metropolitan)	Wanneroo Basketball Association
BWA On-line Fuelling Champions Healthy Award	Cockburn Basketball Association
BWA Fuelling Champions Healthy Award	MacKenzie Stewart (Cockburn Basketball Assn)
NBL1 WEST COMMUNITY AWARDS	
NBL1 WEST PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR	Madeleine Clark

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NBL1 WEST MOST OUTSTANDING MEDIA	Kevin Tupaz (Bay Studios)
NBL1 WEST PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR	The Peppins – Dyson and Paula Peppin
NBL1 WEST COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR	Eric McFarland
NBL1 WEST JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR	Chris Pike
NBL1 WEST ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR	Jackie Keepa (Willemton Basketball Association)
NBL1 WEST EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR	Ryan Lenegan (CEO – Perth Redbacks)
NBL1 WEST STATISTICAL AWARDS	
MEN'S NBL1 WEST LEADING REBOUNDER	Michael Durr (Mandurah Magic)
WOMEN'S NBL1 WEST LEADING REBOUNDER	Anneli Maley (Perth Redbacks)
MEN'S NBL1 WEST GOLDEN HANDS AWARD	Joel Murray (Mandurah Magic)
WOMEN'S NBL1 WEST GOLDEN HANDS AWARD	Chloe Forster (Warwick Senators)
MEN'S NBL1 WEST LEADING SCORER	Anneli Maley (Perth Redbacks)
WOMEN'S NBL1 WEST LEADING SCORER	Joel Murray (Mandurah Magic)
TOTAL CONNECTIONS NBL1 WEST OFFICIALS AWARDS	
NBL1 WEST STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR	Amy Cocodis
NBL1 WEST SCORETABLE OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR	Annabelle Kellenberger
NBL1 WEST MOST IMPROVED REFEREE OF THE YEAR	Asher Cowie
NBL1 WEST REFEREE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR	Geoff Schulz
NBL1 WEST GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARD	Adrian Diconza
NBL1 WEST REFEREE OF THE YEAR	Mark Grist
NBL1 WEST PLAYER AWARDS	
WOMEN'S NBL1 WEST DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR	Emma Gandini (Rockingham Flames)
MEN'S NBL1 WEST DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR	Michael Durr (Mandurah Magic)
WOMEN'S NBL1 WEST YOUTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR	Steph Gorman (Cockburn Cougars)
MEN'S NBL1 WEST YOUTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR	Lachlan Bertram (Mandurah Magic)
WOMEN'S NBL1 WEST SIXTH-WOMAN OF THE YEAR	Mikayla Pirini (Perth Redbacks)
MEN'S NBL1 WEST SIXTH-MAN OF THE YEAR	Roosevelt Williams Jr (Willemton Tigers)
WOMEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	Teige Morrell (Lakeside Lighting)
WOMEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	Chloe Forster (Warwick Senators)

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WOMEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	Alex Ciabattoni (Cockburn Cougars)
WOMEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	Anneli Maley (Perth Redbacks)
WOMEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	Natalie Chou (Perth Redbacks)
MEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	Joel Murray (Mandurah Magic)
MEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	Michael Harris (Warwick Senators)
MEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	Gorjok Gak (Rockingham Flames)
MEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	CJ Turnage (Joondalup Wolves)
MEN'S ALL-NBL1 WEST 1ST TEAM	De'Sean Parsons (Goldfields Giants)
NBL1 MAJOR AWARDS	
NBL1 WEST CLUB OF THE YEAR	Warwick Senators
JOHN GARDINER MEN'S NBL1 WEST COACH OF THE YEAR	Dayle Joseph (Geraldton Buccaneers)
WOMEN'S NBL1 WEST COACH OF THE YEAR	Brad Robbins (Warwick Senators)
NBL1 WEST MEN'S MOST VALUABLE PLAYER	Joel Murray (Mandurah Magic)
CASEY MIHOVILOVICH WOMEN'S NBL1 WEST MOST VALUABLE PLAYER	Teige Morrell (Lakeside Lightning)
YEARS OF SERVICE – REFEREES	
20 Years	Steve Diconza
20 Years	Mark Grist
20 Years	Geoff Schulz
15 Years	Michael Romero
15 Years	Daniel Coffey
10 Years	Aaron Easter
10 Years	Scott Campbell
10 Years	Aaron Heels

5 Perth Lynx

Samantha MacPherson

Jumping out of the blocks and racing to an 8-3 start to the season and making it to Christmas sitting in second place on the ladder. A cruel injury to star import Aari McDonald strongly impacted the Lynx performance in the second half of the year only winning one of the remaining eight games. Strong performances and the return of McDonald for the last two games of the season returned wins in these do or die games and the team's strong start allowed them to qualify for finals.

The finals provided stand out performance after stand out performance for the Perth Lynx. The Grand Final Series went down to the wire and requiring a game three decider against the Southside Flyers. While the Lynx fell short at the final hurdle it was an exciting season which proves this young group has an exciting future.

The season was punctuated with some fantastic individual performances. Aari McDonald finished the season with 20.7 ppg and Amy Atwell reaching 18.8ppg which led them both being named in the All-WNBL second team. Captain Anneli Maley was also back to close to her best averaging 12.2 rebounds per game.

The Perth Lynx was once again led by Head Coach Ryan Petrik and his assistants Bradley Robbins and Natalie Burton and could not have had the season of success without a huge group of hardworking volunteers.

We can't thank our fans, members and supporters enough for the continual support that they have shown across season 2023/24, a season punctuated by a sellout crowd at Bendat Basketball Stadium, we couldn't do it without you.

Basketball WA has been honoured to own the Perth Lynx for the last four seasons and are looking forward to their success in the future.

Perth Lynx Players

#1 Miela Goodchild
#2 Stephanie Gorman
#3 Aari McDonald
#5 Ashlee Hannan
#6 Chloe Forster
#8 Alexandra Ciabattoni
#10 Emily Potter
#12 Mackenzie Clinch Hoycard
#24 Anneli Maley
#25 Amy Atwell

Development Players

#7 Teige Morrell
#9 Sarah Allen
#15 Grace Foster
#34 Amy Jacobs

Training Players

Kyana Weir

Coaches

Ryan Petrik - Head Coach
Brad Robbins - Assistant Coach
Nat Burton - Assistant Coach

Perth Lynx Season Award Winners

MVP - Aari McDonald
Runner Up MVP - Amy Atwell
Rookie of the Year - Stephanie Gorman
Lynx on the Rise - Miela Goodchild
Placing - 4th

6 Competitions

NBL1 West 2024

Brighton Pass – NBL1 West League Manager

The hype for the 2024 season kicked off early with some of the biggest off-season signings the league has ever seen. Among them was a wave of West Australian talent fresh off their respective WNBL and NBL seasons, including Emma Clarke, Alex Ciabattoni, Chloe Forster, Sunday Dech, Rhys Vague, and David Okwera – just to name a few.

The 2024 season featured 302 NBL1 West games, all live-streamed via the NBL1 website and app with live commentary, graphics, and statistical overlays. One game per week was also broadcast on Kayo Freebies, resulting in a 58% increase in viewership from the 2023 season on the Kayo platform alone.

More than 10 million minutes of NBL1 West basketball were streamed around the world. The Joondalup Wolves claimed the number one spot nationally for regular season viewership with 1.6 million minutes watched. Including finals, the Rockingham Flames retained their title as the most-watched team in the country for the third consecutive year, with over 2 million minutes viewed for the season.

Following sell-out Grand Finals in 2023, Basketball WA launched a bold new initiative in 2024 – hosting both NBL1 West Grand Finals on a single night at the heart of WA basketball: RAC Arena. After months of preparation, 6,460 fans packed RAC Arena for a blockbuster double-header showdown, breaking the national attendance record for state-level basketball.

In the Women's competition, the Rockingham Flames triumphed over the Cockburn Cougars. In the Men's competition, the Mandurah Magic overcame the Willetton Tigers in what became the most-watched game in the country across all NBL1 conferences for the third year in a row!

Our conference champions, the Rockingham Flames (Women) and Magic Mandurah (Men), proudly represented WA at the 2024 Mitsubishi Motors NBL1 National Finals held at the University of the Sunshine Coast and Caloundra Indoor Stadiums from 16–18 August. Against a tough field of opponents, the Knox Raiders (Men) went back-to-back, while the Waverley Falcons (Women) charged ahead to claim the national title.

We extend our sincere thanks to our league naming rights partner, Mitsubishi Motors, along with our 2024 major partners Foot Locker and Kayo Sports, and our West Referee sponsor, Total Connections. Your continued support powers the growth and success of NBL1 West as we head into an even bigger 2025.

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2024 NBL1 West Achievements:

302 Games, 14 clubs, 27 teams, 461 Players

Champions

Women: Rockingham Flames

Men: Mandurah Magic

Most Valuable Players

Women: Teige Morrell (Lightning)

Men: Joel Murray (Magic)

Streaming

Minutes Watched: 10,161,180

Total Sessions: 440,647

Women's GF viewers: 4,810

Men's GF viewers: 9,651

Most Watched Game Nationwide

Women's Standings 2024							
#	Team Name	PLAYED	W	L	FOR	AGAINST	%
1	Rockingham Flames	20	18	2	1873	1274	147
2	Warwick Senators	20	17	3	1823	1445	126.2
3	Cockburn Cougars	20	16	4	1857	1367	135.8
4	Perry Lakes Hawks	20	14	6	1699	1420	119.6
5	Willetton Tigers	20	12	8	1649	1512	109.1
6	Perth Redbacks	20	11	9	1696	1557	108.9
7	Lakeside Lightning	20	10	10	1691	1580	107
8	Joondalup Wolves	20	9	11	1600	1574	101.7
9	Mandurah Magic	20	8	12	1482	1524	97.2
10	Eastern Suns	20	6	14	1545	1951	79.2
11	East Perth Eagles	20	6	14	1487	1702	87.4
12	Goldfields Giants	20	3	17	1234	1811	68.1
13	South West Slammers	20	0	20	1089	2008	54.2

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Men's Standings 2024							
#	Team Name	PLAYED	W	L	FOR	AGAINS T	%
1	Geraldton Buccaneers	22	20	2	2145	1890	113.5
2	Joondalup Wolves	22	16	6	2061	1800	114.5
3	Willetton Tigers	22	15	7	2136	2039	104.8
4	Mandurah Magic	22	13	9	2217	2108	105.2
5	Goldfields Giants	22	13	9	2013	1958	102.8
6	East Perth Eagles	22	13	9	2021	1999	101.1
7	Rockingham Flames	22	13	9	2021	2005	100.8
8	Warwick Senators	22	11	11	2150	2043	105.2
9	Perry Lakes Hawks	22	9	13	2003	2079	96.3
10	Lakeside Lightning	22	8	14	1981	2043	97
11	Eastern Suns	22	7	15	1850	2023	91.4
12	South West Slammers	22	6	16	1824	1993	91.5
13	Cockburn Cougars	22	5	17	1961	2165	90.6
14	Perth Redbacks	22	5	17	1892	2130	88.8

Competitions - WABL 2024

Hugh McAuliffe - Head of Junior Competitions

WABL's Brand and Reach Continues to Grow in Our Community!

The 2024 WABL season saw several exciting changes to the structure and calendar, most notably a shift in division sizes and the introduction of a mid-season tournament. With 392 teams competing across 46 divisions – plus our two Open Championship divisions – the league continued to focus on enhancing the overall quality and experience of the competition.

The grading structure was revised to achieve 8-team divisions, evolving from several successful years of 10-team divisions. This change was driven by a desire to offer more competitive games, increase finals opportunities, and create greater flexibility within the season calendar.

With the move to 8-team divisions and a 16-week regular season, the league introduced a more inclusive finals structure and created space for the Winter Classic tournament. Expanding from a 6-team to an 8-team finals format meant the majority of teams enjoyed the thrill of playoff basketball – a fantastic outcome that required multiple host venues and an increase in officials. The Winter Classic added another layer of opportunity, particularly for our Country Associations, offering more chances for tournament play and valuable matchups against metro WABL teams.

Another highlight of the 2024 season was the inaugural Under 21 Girls competition – a milestone achievement celebrated by the entire WABL community and a clear reflection of our commitment to increasing female participation.

WABL's brand and reach continues to grow across Western Australia, and we are excited about what lies ahead in 2025 and beyond.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Association WABL Administrators for their dedication in delivering another successful season. We also acknowledge and appreciate the vital roles played by our athletes, coaches, team managers, referees, scoretable officials, and shot clock operators – as well as the unwavering support of parents and spectators who make it all possible.

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2024 WABL Grand Final Results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up
12CHB	Joondalup Wolves	78–69	Willetton Tigers
12CHG	Willetton Tigers	44–38	Joondalup Wolves
12-2B	Willetton Tigers	82–52	Lakeside Lightning
12-2G	Perth Redbacks	57–40	Eastern Suns Black
12-3B	Rockingham Flames	76–71	Eastern Suns Black
12-3G	Lakeside Lightning	43–37	Cockburn Cougars Blue
12-4B	Perry Lakes Hawks Blue	73–47	Willetton Tigers White
12-4G	Rockingham Flames	57–53 (OT)	Willetton Tigers
12-5B	Lakeside Lightning	78–72	Eastern Suns Orange
12-5G	Cockburn Cougars	24–19	East Perth Eagles Red
12-6B	East Perth Eagles	62–54	Lakeside Lightning
14CHB	Perry Lakes Hawks	65–62	Willetton Tigers
14CHG	Willetton Tigers	53–35	Cockburn Cougars Blue
14-2B	Perth Redbacks	78–66	Willetton Tigers Blue
14-2G	Willetton Tigers	42–41	Rockingham Flames
14-3B	Perry Lakes Hawks	73–49	Warwick Senators
14-3G	Perry Lakes Hawks	44–29	Warwick Senators Blue
14-4B	Eastern Suns White	67–47	Perth Redbacks Black
14-4G	Perry Lakes Hawks	69–34	Eastern Suns Orange
14-5B	Cockburn Cougars	78–69	East Perth Eagles Blue
14-5G	East Perth Eagles	39–37	South West Slammers
14-6B	Eastern Suns Blue	45–39	Lakeside Lightning
14-6G	Lakeside Lightning	43–33	Perry Lakes Hawks
16CHB	Willetton Tigers	105–86	East Perth Eagles
16CHG	Cockburn Cougars	77–52	Warwick Senators
16-2B	Lakeside Lightning	110–71	Warwick Senators
16-2G	Eastern Suns Black	65–54	Perry Lakes Hawks
16-3B	Perth Redbacks	91–82	Lakeside Lightning Purple
16-3G	Mandurah Magic Red	61–44	Cockburn Cougars
16-4B	Joondalup Wolves	77–62	Warwick Senators Green
16-4G	Perry Lakes Hawks	85–51	Warwick Senators Blue
16-5B	East Perth Eagles	90–78	Rockingham Flames Red
16-5G	Mandurah Magic Gold	64–56	Perry Lakes Hawks
16-6B	Hills Raiders Green	73–70	Cockburn Cougars
18CHB	Willetton Tigers	106–89	Perry Lakes Hawks
18CHG	Perry Lakes Hawks	77–58	Warwick Senators
18-2B	Perry Lakes Hawks	66–55	Perth Redbacks
18-2G	East Perth Eagles Blue	73–60	Willetton Tigers
18-3B	Warwick Senators Blue	100–79	Perth Redbacks Red
18-3G	Perry Lakes Hawks	68–58	Eastern Suns Black
18-4B	East Perth Eagles	94–85	Perry Lakes Hawks
18-5B	Willetton Tigers	90–80	Lakeside Lightning
18-6B	Joondalup Wolves	85–70	Warwick Senators
20CHB	Cockburn Cougars	80–79	Perry Lakes Hawks
20-2B	Rockingham Flames	106–99	Warwick Senators
21CHG	Joondalup Wolves	103–58	South West Slammers
Champ Men	Perry Lakes Hawks	77–74	Willetton Tigers

2024 Basketball WA Annual Report



Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up
Champ Women	Perry Lakes Hawks	49-47	Mandurah Magic

2024 Winter Classic Grand Final Results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up
12-1B	East Perth Eagles 1	34-28	Perry Lakes Hawks 1
12-2B	Lakeside Lightning 2	25-21	Rockingham Flames 2
12-3B	Perry Lakes Hawks 2	40-30	Busselton Blazers
12-4B	Perth Redbacks 3	24-23	East Perth Eagles 3
12-1G	Lakeside Lightning 2	19-18	Mandurah Magic 2
12-2G	Karratha Cyclones	24-2	Warwick Senators 3
14-2B	Joondalup Wolves 3	33-30	Perth Redbacks 3
14-3B	Esperance Breakers	39-22	Karratha Cyclones
14-1G	Warwick Senators 1	35-27	Mandurah Magic 1
14-2G	Lakeside Lightning 2	16-13	Warwick Senators 2
14-3G	Karratha Cyclones	20-19	Kalgoorlie
14-4G	Perth Redbacks 3	23-17	Joondalup Wolves 4
16-1B	Warwick Senators 2	33-31	Perth Redbacks 1
16-2B	Perth Redbacks 2	34-23	East Perth Eagles 3
16-3B	Karratha Cyclones	35-30	Joondalup Wolves 4
16-4B	Eastern Suns Orange	39-24	Cockburn Cougars 4
16G	Mandurah Magic 1	24-22	Karratha Cyclones

Competitions – Basketball WA Officials

Mark Grist – Head of Technical Officials

Campaigns Driving Positive Change

The Green Lanyard initiative continued into 2024, maintaining strong momentum and delivering a positive impact across the basketball community. The initiative reinforces respect for our referees, particularly those in training, by making them easily identifiable and reminding spectators to support – not criticise – their development journey.

In 2024, Basketball WA also launched the “Don’t Be That Parent” campaign to complement the Green Lanyard initiative. This campaign focused on promoting a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all participants by calling out poor sideline behaviour that can negatively affect players, referees, and the game experience.

Together, these initiatives sent a clear message about the values we want to uphold in our sport. The “Don’t Be That Parent” campaign was especially impactful during the WABL Finals and State Championships, where increased visibility and awareness helped set a more positive tone from the stands.

Creating a safe and welcoming basketball environment for everyone – especially our youngest players and officials – remains a key priority. These campaigns are important steps in protecting the culture of the game we all love.

Australian Junior Championships – Officials

U20’s – Luke Mclaughlan

Ivor Burge – Robert Stanca

U18’s – Ben Allen, Chelsea Mangledorf,

Josh Mcwatters, Jaimi Stacey

U16’s – Kyle Gammidge, Kyle Hogg,

Asher Cowie, Ethan Lloyd

U14’s – Aiden Armstrong, Ashlyn Steers, Harrison McGuinness, Makaela Houghton,
Robert Stanca, Thomas Robert

School Championships – Jack Martin,

Kyle Harvey

School Championships (Non-Champion division) – Theo Stanca, Hayden Parker,
Lucy Waller, Jessica Mullins

Kevin Combs Cup – Robert Stanca

Medal Games

U18 Womens Gold Medal Chelsea Mangledorf + Ben Allen

U18 Men Gold Josh Mcwatters

Kevin Combs Cup – Gold Medal Robert Stanca

U16 Men Gold Kyle Gammidge

U16 Women Gold Asher Cowie

U14 Men Gold Harrison McGuinness

U14 Women Gold Thomas Roberts

NBL1 West Grand Final officials

Mens – Mark Grist, Craig Copes, Travis Stewart

Womens – Adrian Diconza, Kyle Easter, Cathy Hay

Referee Course Numbers

Beginners – 1099 New Referees from 49 Courses

Level 1 – 232 Referees from 17 courses

Referee Coach Courses – 54 Ref Coaches from 5 Courses. 3 courses undertaken in the Country.

Country Regional Referee HUB (8 different country locations) – 252 Referees attended the courses – 220 new referees + 26 Level 1 Referees + 6 new referee coaches.

Competitions - PMBL

Nathan Robertson – Competitions Administrator

PMBL Continues to Thrive in 2024

The PMBL enjoyed another strong year in 2024, reaching full capacity across all seasons and maintaining an impressive average of 210 teams per season. The continued demand for spots in the league is a testament to the strength of the competition and the quality experience provided for players.

A key achievement in 2024 was the increase in referee numbers, allowing the league to appoint two referees for 98% of games played throughout the year — a benchmark that few other competitions can match. This has significantly contributed to the consistency, fairness, and overall standard of play across all divisions.

The Players League also experienced growth in 2024, with an increase in the number of games played each night due to the addition of new teams. This expansion reflects the league's growing popularity and its reputation as a vibrant and competitive basketball environment.

As we look ahead, the PMBL is poised to continue its momentum, building on its strong foundations and commitment to providing a high-quality, community-focused basketball experience for all participants.

Competitions – 2024 Fuel to Go and Play State Championships

Hugh McAuliffe - Head of Junior Competitions

State Championships Continue to Grow in 2024

The 2024 State Championships marked another year of impressive growth, with record-breaking team numbers and expanded competition formats solidifying the event as a cornerstone of WA's junior basketball calendar.

For the second year running, the Championships were held across five weekends, with the continued increase in team nominations prompting the addition of a second venue alongside Bendat Basketball Centre. Warwick Stadium stepped in to provide much-needed court space during Weeks 3 and 4, allowing the event to run smoothly and efficiently at scale.

The first four weekends catered to Divisions 2–5, building excitement and momentum leading into the fifth and final weekend, which saw all Championship Divisions converge for the fifth annual State Titles – a fitting finale to a massive year of grassroots basketball.

A total of 606 teams from 30 Associations took to the courts – setting a new all-time participation record. The event featured all 13 WABL clubs, joined by a strong regional presence including Albany, Australind, Binar, Bunbury, Busselton, Dongara, Eaton, Esperance, Geraldton, Great Southern, Halls Head, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Margaret River, Merredin, Narrogin, and Pinjarra.

In partnership with Streamer.com.au, Basketball WA once again delivered free live coverage of every Court 1 game throughout the Championships. The State Titles weekend was elevated further with live commentary for all grand final games, bringing the action to life for families and fans tuning in across the state.

The 2024 State Championships reflected the strength, inclusivity, and reach of basketball in Western Australia – and we look forward to building on that success in 2025.

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2024 State Champs Week 1 Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up
11-2B	Busselton Blazers	29–27	Cockburn Cougars 2
11-3B	Lakeside Lightning 3	32–16	Perth Redbacks 3
11-4B	Warwick Senators 4	33–18	Rockingham Flames 3
11-5B	Mandurah Magic White	19–17	Bunbury Bears 2
13-2G	Joondalup Wolves 2	28–25	Willetton Tigers 2
13-3G	Kalgoorlie	18–13	Cockburn Cougars 3
13-4G	Busselton Blazers 1	31–22	Perry Lakes Hawks 4
13-5G	Eaton Eagles	29–13	Lakeside Lightning White

2024 State Champs Week 2 Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up
11-2G	Cockburn Cougars 2	24–12	Hills Raiders 1
11-3G	Karratha Cyclones	26–16	Geraldton Buccaneers
11-4G	Joondalup Wolves 4	15–9	Rockingham Flames 2
11-5G	Lakeside Lightning White	14–9	Joondalup Wolves 5
15-2B	Rockingham Flames 2	45–38	Busselton Blazers 2
15-3B	Warwick Senators 3	32–30	Karratha Cyclones 1
15-4B	Margaret River Hawks	32–26	Binar 2
15-5B	East Perth Eagles 5	40–34	Warwick Senators 5

2024 State Champs Week 3 Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up
13-2B	Cockburn Cougars 2	40–35	Joondalup Wolves 2
13-3B	Warwick Senators 3	50–8	Mandurah Magic Gold
13-4B	Warwick Senators 4	34–22	Cockburn Cougars 4
13-5B	Warwick Senators 5	29–26	Eaton Eagles
15-2G	Willetton Tigers 2	24–21	Australind All Stars 1
15-3G	Warwick Senators 3	29–11	Esperance Breakers 1
15-4G	Margaret River Hawks	33–11	Cockburn Cougars 4
15-5G	Perth Redbacks 5	19–16	Karratha Cyclones 2

2024 State Champs Week 4 Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up
17-2B	Willetton Tigers 2	42–40	Australind All Stars 1
17-3B	Warwick Senators 3	34–30	Perry Lakes Hawks 3
17-4B	Cockburn Cougars 4	35–31	East Perth Eagles 4
17-5B	Binar 2	33–30	Perth Redbacks 5
17-2G	Warwick Senators 2	38–12	Bunbury Bears
17-3G	Warwick Senators 3	23–21	Joondalup Wolves 3
17-4G	Pinjarra Power	30–21	Esperance Breakers
19-2B	Warwick Senators 2	36–27	East Perth Eagles 2
19-3B	Binar	30–24	Warwick Senators 3
20-2G	Cockburn Cougars 2	42–24	Joondalup Wolves 2

2024 Basketball WA Annual Report



2024 State Titles Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up	Grand Final MVP
11CHB	Joondalup Wolves	35–19	Willetton Tigers	Joshua Epple (Wolves)
11CHG	Cockburn Cougars	28–22	Willetton Tigers	Isabella London-Campos (Cougars)
13CHB	Willetton Tigers	38–22	Joondalup Wolves	Sam Manalang (Tigers)
13CHG	Cockburn Cougars	32–14	Perry Lakes Hawks	Imogen Jones (Cougars)
15CHB	Lakeside Lightning	32–29	Rockingham Flames	Luke Websdale jnr (Lightning)
15CHG	Willetton Tigers	39–34	Perry Lakes Hawks	Tamsin Hill (Tigers)
17CHB	Willetton Tigers	61–31	Joondalup Wolves	Shayden Weerakoon (Tigers)
17CHG	Cockburn Cougars	35–31	Warwick Senators	Brooklyn Gurbiel (Cougars)
19CHB	Cockburn Cougars	47–32	Eastern Suns	Austin Crowe-St Jack (Cougars)
20CHG	Cockburn Cougars	40–21	Perry Lakes Hawks	Kinley Paterson (Cougars)

2024 Belt Up Country Championships

Nathan Robertson – Competitions Administrator

The 2024 Country Championships once again showcased the strength and passion of regional basketball, with five action-packed weekends of competition hosted exclusively at Bendat Basketball Centre. The first four weekends featured junior teams from Under 12s through to Under 18s, while the fifth and final weekend saw our senior athletes take the stage to close out the Championships in style.

This year, a record-breaking **406 teams from 40 Associations** participated in the Championships, representing communities from as far north as Port Hedland to as far south as Esperance. The scale and reach of the event once again highlighted the incredible depth of talent and commitment across regional Western Australia.

In 2024, Basketball WA continued its valued partnership with **Streamer.com.au**, an exciting new platform dedicated to grassroots sport. Through this collaboration, every game on Court 1 was **live streamed for free**, giving family, friends, and supporters across the state and beyond the chance to follow the action. The **State Titles weekend** also featured dedicated commentary for the grand finals, enhancing the viewing experience and further elevating the profile of regional basketball.

We extend our sincere thanks to all participating associations, volunteers, referees, and supporters who made the 2024 Country Championships a memorable success. We look forward to building on this momentum in 2025 and continuing to grow the game throughout regional WA.

2024 Basketball WA Annual Report



Week 1 Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up	Grand Final MVP
U12B CH	Bunbury Bears 1	42–29	Mandurah Magic 1	Xavier Banks (Bunbury)
U12B Div 2	Bunbury Bears 2	28–21	Eaton Eagles 1	Lucas House (Bunbury)
U12B Div 3	Narrogin Nets	30–26	Australind All Stars	Oscar Hardie (Narrogin)
U13B CH	Bunbury Bears 1	37–28	Busselton Blazers 1	Flynn Mogridge (Bunbury)
U13B Div 2	Collie Cougars	29–21	Bunbury Bears 2	Billy Stewart (Collie)
U13B Div 3	Manjimup Timberwolves	45–33	Northam	Jax Don (Northam)
U15B CH	Bunbury Bears 1	57–42	Busselton Blazers 1	Liam Beauclarke (Bunbury)
U15B Div 2	Margaret River Hawks 1	54–26	Eaton Eagles 1	Harper Payne (Margaret River)
U15B Div 3	Bridgetown Firetails	51–38	Byford	Blake Giblett (Bridgetown)

Week 2 Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up	Grand Final MVP
U12G CH	Karratha Cyclones	23–19	Mandurah Magic 1	Willow Reeve (Karratha)
U12G Div 2	Margaret River Hawks	25–14	Northam	Tilly Skivinis (Margaret River)
U12G Div 3	Bunbury Bears Red	25–16	Bridgetown Firetails	Remi Savy (Bunbury)
U13G CH	Karratha Cyclones	29–20	Geraldton Buccaneers	Isabel Chambers (Karratha)
U13G Div 2	Bunbury Bears Blue	24–17	Busselton Blazers 1	Lyla Teu (Bunbury)
U13G Div 3	Eaton Eagles	29–13	Busselton Blazers 2	Abbie Hill (Eaton)
U14G CH	Australind All Stars 1	48–19	Mandurah Magic 1	Kacey Narkle (Australind)
U14G Div 2	Busselton Blazers 1	24–23	Collie Cougars	Lexi Piavanini (Collie)
U14G Div 3	Australind All Stars 2	20–12	Denmark	Haylie Stack-Wallam (Australind)

Week 3 Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up	Grand Final MVP
U14B CH	Geraldton Buccaneers 1	34–26	Bunbury Bears 1	Roy Verbe (Geraldton)
U14B Div 2	Australind All Stars 1	36–31	Kalgoorlie	Rahyn Nepe (Australind)
U14B Div 3	Margaret River Hawks	37–32	Collie Cougars	Andrew McCann (Margaret River)
U15G CH	Albany Raiders	45–31	Karratha Cyclones	Tayla Robbins (Karratha)
U15G Div 2	Margaret River Hawks 1	36–27	Australind All Stars	Jemima Anderson (Margaret River)
U15G Div 3	Harvey Heat	31–27	Dongara	Akasha Fardella (Harvey)
U18G CH	Bunbury Bears	66–43	Northam	Alexis Donovan (Bunbury)
U18G Div 2	Australind All Stars	33–24	Pinjarra Power	Kiara Lawty (Australind)
U18G Div 3	Manjimup Timberwolves	42–36	Busselton Blazers	Taizley Krispyn (Manjimup)

2024 Basketball WA Annual Report



Week 4 Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up	Grand Final MVP
U16B CH	Australind All Stars	59-47	Geraldton Buccaneers	Noah O'Dea (Australind)
U16B Div 2	Karratha Cyclones	42-37	Denmark	Kenyon Moncrieff (Karratha)
U16B Div 3	Pinjarra Power	57-23	All Hedland	Tayte Elson (Pinjarra)
U16G CH	Australind All Stars	37-17	Mandurah Magic	Caitlin Musitano (Australind)
U16G Div 2	Esperance Breakers	37-31	Collie Cougars	Stevie Lee Barlow (Esperance)
U16G Div 3	Pinjarra Power	32-15	Northam	Navaeha Hansen (Pinjarra)
U18B CH	Albany Raiders	51-49	Australind All Stars	Harry Watters (Albany)
U18B Div 2	Harvey Heat	36-24	Australind All Stars	Hans Ratilla (Harvey)
U18B Div 3	Pinjarra Power	41-38	Margaret River Hawks	Uriah Malcolm (Margaret River)

Week 5 Grand Final results

Division	Champion	Result	Runner-up	Grand Final MVP
Men's CH	Bunbury Red	54-49	Busselton	Travis Durnin (Bunbury)
Men's Div 2	Broome	48-34	Esperance	Jarman Cox (Broome)
Men's Div 3	Waroona	48-43	Geraldton	Zack Baker (Waroona)
Men's Div 4	Bunbury	59-22	Karratha	Travis Hotchin (Bunbury)
Men's Div 5	Geraldton	54-49	Jerramungup	Richard Bartlett (Geraldton)
Men's Masters	Bunbury Blue	39-21	Esperance	Todd Bennett (Bunbury)
Women's CH	Bunbury	50-34	Karratha	Tiahna Sears (Bunbury)
Women's Div 2	Denmark	47-19	Eaton	Danielle Carne (Denmark)
Women's Div 3	Busselton	25-19	Collie	Lara Lewis (Busselton)
Women's Div 4	Albany Green	32-22	Pinjarra	Rebecca Benson (Albany)

7 Development – High Performance

David Naylor – Development Manager

High Performance Program

The Basketball WA High Performance Program continues to play an important role in the State in the education and training of athletes and coaches. The Basketball WA High Performance Department undertook a review against National and State outcomes which resulted in a revamped State Performance Program (SPP). Basketball WA also continued to operate Basketball Australia's National Performance Program (NPP), with the focus to develop players who have the potential to represent Australia at the International level.

State Performance Program

The State Performance Program identifies WA's most talented junior athletes and provides them with an elite training environment designed to prepare them for selection in WA State Teams and competition at Australian Junior Championships.

In 2023/24, the program included two dedicated camps for both Country and Metro athletes, split into U16 and U18 groups to accommodate an increase in scholarship recipients. Regional athletes also took part in weekly or fortnightly sessions led by network coaches in their local areas.

The success of the SPP is supported by strong collaboration with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Regional Talent Development Programs (RTDP) and our valued Regional Academies. Basketball WA acknowledges the ongoing support provided by the Peel Regional Academy of Sport (PRAS), the Mid West Academy of Sport (MWAS), and the Great Southern Sports Talent Association (GSSTA), which play a vital role in nurturing regional talent.

National Performance Program

This program continues to cater for the top tier of athletes within WA that have been identified to have the future potential to represent Australia. The NPP continues to provide support to those athletes striving towards National Representation.

In consultation with Basketball Australia, the following athletes were awarded NPP scholarships:

- Aysha Kemp (Perry Lakes)
- Amelia Corasaniti (Narrogin)
- Alira Fotu (Bunbury)
- Max Bucknell (Perry Lakes)
- Billy McCrae (Albany)
- Lowell Jude Christopher (Willetton)
- Aaron Gashaw (Willetton)

State Teams

To all our 2024 Team Officials, your contribution to our High-Performance program was certainly appreciated, thank you. A significant thank you must also go to the State Team Assistant Coaches, Campaign Coaches, Team Managers, and the Physiotherapists who accompanied the teams for their enthusiastic efforts in liaising with Basketball WA to ensure a smooth Championship for players, coaches, and parents.

We would also like to thank the parents of our athletes for their continual sacrifices to ensure our State Teams can be as competitive as possible.

For the (14) teams Basketball WA fielded in 2024, the final placings at AJC's were the following.

- U20 Men 6th
- U20 Women 6th
- Ivor Burge Men 5th
- Kevin Coombs Cup 1st – Gold Medallists
- U18 Country Men 12th
- U18 Country Women 9th
- U18 Metro Men 5th
- U18 Metro Women 10th
- U16 Country Men 7th
- U16 Country Women 11th
- U16 Metro Men 4th
- U16 Metro Women 5th

Congratulations to all players who represented WA at the 2024 Australian Junior Championships.

State Team Head Coaches

- U20 Men - Trent Criddle
- U20 Women- Dan Donaldson
- Ivor Burge Men -Michelle Fletcher
- U18 Metro Men -Michael Van Lit
- U18 Metro Women -Alek Horenko
- U18 Country Men -Aaron Edwards
- U18 Country Women -Tanya Metcalfe
- U16 Metro Men - Adam Gunnis
- U16 Metro Women - Sue Williams
- U16 Country Men - Jason Power
- U16 Country Women - Jordan Smith

SCC Coaches

- U14 Men – Paul Rogers
- U14 Women – Sharon Barret
- U15 Men – Adam Gunnis
- U15 Women – Keely O'Brien

HPDC Head Coaches

- U14 Metro Men – Brendan Gaunson
- U14 Metro Women – Dave Naylor
- U14 Country Men – Declan Kinsella
- U14 Country Women – Mel Webb
- U15 Metro Men – Luke Notley
- U15 Metro Women – Jenni Hess
- U15 Country Men – Anthony Bertelli
- U15 Country Women – Jacqui Tibbits

Australian Representatives

Last year we had many BWA and former High-Performance Athletes selected to represent our Country at varying events and camps across the world. A great achievement by all and we hope there is more in store for their futures in the Green and Gold.

- Keanu Pinder – Boomers
- Luke Travers – Boomers
- Duop Reath - Boomers
- Ben Henshall – Boomers
- Josh Davey – 3x3
- Darcee Garbin – Opals
- Amy Atwell – Opals
- Emma Clarke – 3x3
- Amy Atwell – 3x3
- Sam Johnson – Crocs
- John Aryang – Crocs
- Luke Paul - Crocs
- Monique Williams – Sapphires
- Jacob Chance – Boomers

NBA Global/COE Scholarship Holders 2024;

- Monique Williams – Willetton
- Jongkuch Mach – East Perth

Australian Development Camps

Based on their performance in the State Performance Program and with our state teams competing at the Australian Junior Nationals throughout the year, 8 athletes from our 2024 state teams have been invited to attend Basketball Australia Camps at the Centre of Excellence in Canberra.

- Luke Paul
- John Aryang
- Sam Johnson
- Kiera Robinson
- Billy McCrae
- Lasiana Edgar
- Aysha Kemp
- Monique Williams

NBA Events

Last year saw the NBA host an event in Perth as a part of HoopsFest for upcoming and promising junior athletes across the Asia Pacific region.

Selections were made through the High-Performance pathways here in Australia and we were lucky enough to have 1 of our athletes invited to event. A great learning and life experience for those hard working a dedicated athletes selected.

The athlete selected was;

- Remy Hearn

WAIS Womens Basketball Program

In alignment with Basketball Australia and Basketball WA, WAIS operates a daily training environment for women's basketball.

The program employs a Head Coach with support from the Podium Performance Enhancement Team under the leadership of the Performance Enhancement Team Director – National.

Scholarship athletes have access to coaching and the Performance Enhancement Team covering strength and conditioning and sport science and sports medicine services – physiology, psychology, biomechanics, sports nutrition and physiotherapy and support outside of sport through athlete wellbeing and engagement.

BWA High Performance junior athletes who received a scholarship into the program were;

- Monique Williams
- Grace Foster
- Alira Fotu
- Jayda Clark
- Amelia Corasaniti
- Aysha Kemp

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U16 State Team Lists

Boys Country:

- Joel Gillett
- Max De San Miguel
- Byron Winder
- Austin Forrest
- Trent Faulkner
- Lucas Jacob
- Luke Websdale Jnr
- Riley Fong
- Will Teasdale
- Nicholas Brabazon
- Luke Riegert
- Beau Jones

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Jason Power
- Assistant Coach: Paul Rogers
- Assistant Coach: Brad Cooke
- Team Manager: Brent Alexander
- Campaign Coach: Matt Leary

Girls Country:

- Caitlin Musitano
- Cassie Ferris
- Charlotte Castle
- Jordanae Leitu
- Kenzie du Bois
- Kianna Manu
- Kiara Lawty
- Legacy Harris
- Michelle Ninyette
- Sahba Horstman
- Sienna Eade
- Sophie Kirkpatrick

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Jordan Smith
- Assistant Coach: Anita Reca
- Assistant Coach: Natalie Nichols
- Team Manager: Mel Webb
- Campaign Coach: Darren Blyth

Boys Metro:

- John Aryang
- Conor Bradley
- Andre Dweh
- Alexander Edwards
- Jaden Exeter
- Kailen Harrison
- Hunter Hearn
- Samuel Johnson
- Faitala Patu
- Luke Paul
- Everett Pavic

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Adam Gunnis
- Assistant Coach: Leo Jusuf
- Assistant Coach: Brendan Gaunson
- Team Manager: Candice Grincerri
- Campaign Coach: Cameron Redhead
- Campaign Coach: Dave Power

Girls Metro:

- Sasha Augustus
- Cameron Brown
- Rose Clinch
- Jasmine Giles
- Evelyn Hawley
- Tamsin Hill
- Sasha Nona
- Keira Robinson
- Kaia Rukuata
- Paris Spencer
- Hannah Summers
- Ayla Pizzuto

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Sue Williams
- Assistant Coach: Whitney Perret
- Assistant Coach: Keely O'Brien
- Team Manager: Jenni Andrew
- Campaign Coach: Jenni Hess

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U18 State Team Lists

Men Country:

- Charlie Andrews
- Lowell Jude Christopher
- Jake Criddle
- Gavin Deacon
- Evan Delbene
- Jack Elliott
- Noah Inman
- Tyson Jacob
- Ben Lawler
- Billy McRae
- Ryan Talira
- Harry Watters

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Aaron Edwards
- Assistant Coach: Leo Jusuf
- Assistant coach: Wayne Hayres
- Team Manager: Jacqui Tibbits

Women Country:

- Isabella Andrew
- Keely Berry
- Amelia Corasaniti
- Alexis Donovan
- Madison Dymnicki
- Elliana Forman
- Alira Fotu
- Millie Gerreyn
- Shaye Lenton
- Ashlee Monaghan
- Ava O'Neill
- Chloe Zorzi

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Tanya Metcalfe
- Assistant Coach: Paddy O'Kane
- Assistant Coach: Sharon Barrett
- Team Manager: Mel Walker Head

Men Metro:

- Max Bucknell
- Isaac Averill
- Aaron Gashaw
- Perceval Macias Fernandez
- Jack Pitt
- Jhye Stoker
- Cyril Mulot
- Jongkuch Mach
- Timothy Ibukunoluwa
- Alexander Powderly
- Marley Sam
- Harrison Fitzgerald

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Michael Van Lit
- Assistant Coach: Brad Cooke
- Assistant Coach: Nicholas Vlahov
- Team Manager: Brent Alexander

Women Metro:

- Reece Anticevic
- Ella Barmmentloo
- Emilie Beggs
- Lara Bussell
- Emma Clark
- Sienna Gerardi
- Remy Hearn
- Aysha Kemp
- Nicola Moore
- Kinley Paterson
- Ashlin Ramsay
- Skye Thomas

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Alek Horenko Assistant
- Coach: Russell Hann Assistant
- Coach: Nicole Roberts Team
- Manager: Vanessa Chamberlain

2024 Basketball WA Annual Report



U20/IB State Team Lists

Men:

- Aidan Fitzgerald
- Austin Crowe-St Jack
- Blake Fido
- Robert Griechen
- Charles Dimmock
- Harry Evans
- Joshua Ibukunoluwa
- Pharell Keats
- Riley Leach
- Roman Lutton
- Ryan Hunt
- Thomas Snelgrove

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Trent Criddle
- Assistant Coach: Jeremy Fletcher
- Assistant Coach: Dave Moreschi
- Team Manager: Vanessa Chamberlain

Women:

- Emily Steven
- Grace Foster
- Harriet Ford
- Jordi Perry
- Katie Duncan
- Kiara Waite
- Kyah Nichols
- Kyana Weir
- Libby Hutton
- Monique Williams
- Sydney Meares
- Ty Bolland

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Dan Donaldson
- Assistant Coach: Shane McDonald
- Assistant Coach: Courtney Beavis
- Team Manager: Iri Hughes

Ivor Burge Men:

- Ben Tran
- Brion Ainsworth
- Callum Bull
- Christopher Bell
- Henry Mippy
- Isaia Fanene
- Kyle Carbone
- Kyron Timms
- Lochlan Fennell
- Rhys Leahy
- Ricky Chittleborough
- Tristan Cornwall-Arpin

Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Michelle Fletcher
- Assistant Coach: Luke Simonette
- Team Manager: Maryanne Marr

SCC Team Lists

Under 14 SCC Girls:

- Ava Zempilas
- Emily Epple
- Hope Latu
- Indiana Thompson
- Jade Timoko
- Magdalene Gregorevic
- Molly Lawrence
- Olivia York
- Sydney Henehan
- Tully Pepper

Under 14 SCC Boys:

- Carta Tawhiao
- Hugh Tan
- Jackson Tassell
- Jesse Owen
- Kelby Taurayi
- Mason Nugent
- Mason West
- Oliver Horton
- Zak Stevenson
- Zayden Clements

Under 15 SCC Girls:

- Ava Ramsay
- Charlotte Castle
- Ella Welsh
- Evelyn Hawley
- Hannah Summers
- Kianna Manu
- Legacy Harris
- Sansa Tatam
- Sasha Nona
- Tamsin Hill

Under 15 SCC Boys:

- Adam New
- Beau Jones
- Caleb Croxson
- Everett Pavic
- Harrison Connolly
- Jaelan Toby
- Jake Lobik
- Luke Websdale Jnr
- Riley Barmentloo
- Xavier Donald

HPDC Team Lists

U15 Boys Metro:

- Bailey Ryan
- Callum Johnston
- James Appleby
- Levael Van Zyl
- Lucas Johnston
- Nathaniel Lindstrom
- Richard Gerovich
- Sam Gooch
- Tyson Portwine
- Zachary Allen

U15 Girls Metro:

- Addison Lynch
- Bethany Georgiu
- Charlotte Lee
- Gabrielle Van Maanen
- Grace Tomazin
- Jalyn Newton-Taito
- Maddie Upoko
- Olivia Berg
- Scarlett Grilfiths
- Victoria Nathan

U14 Boys Metro:

- Aden Mirza
- Angus Sallie
- Brodie Davey
- Dylan Brinklow
- Ethan Lucas
- Henry Rose
- Max Dagostino
- Nate Cass
- Xavier Barnard
- Xavier Correia

U14 Girls Metro:

- Aalyra Woods
- Ailani Wiay
- Bel Bullock
- Clara Hawley
- Emily Gellin
- Grv Gianoncelli
- Lily Heron
- Maddison Friday
- Niah Andrew
- Violet Hayden

U15 Boys Country:

- Andre De Giambattista
- Brock Duckworth
- Caiden Harslett
- Gianni Trichilo
- Nate Moss
- Nathan Hughes
- Remington Lowe
- Richard Griechien
- Riley Middleton
- Sonny Fotu

U15 Girls Country:

- Bronte Hennessy
- Cassie Ferris
- Chevi Lodge
- Dakota Dimer
- Jemima Anderson
- Kenzie du Bois
- Lake Elliott
- Marli Giles
- Ruby Harris
- Sophia Ferguson

U14 Boys Country:

- Allen Griechen
- Evan Chapman
- Hunter Lines
- Jayden Dull
- Lincoln Barclay
- Lincoln Shiosaki
- Max Smith
- Rahyn Nepe
- Roy Verbe
- Thomas Wailu

U14 Girls Country:

- Addison Van Tiel
- Bethany Brown
- Kaylee Arthur
- Lara Rodney
- Leah Hutchinson
- Lexi Piavanini
- Milla Samulkiewicz
- Molly Fitzpatrick
- Rosie Bull

U18 SPP Squads

Under 18 Country Mens:

- Anthony Huriwaka
- Anton Ausburn
- Billy McRae
- Cale Buzzard
- Charlie Andrews
- Denbi Horstman
- Evan Delbene
- Gavin Deacon
- Harry Watters
- Jack Elliott
- Jake Criddle
- Jayk Hinds
- Lowell Jude Christopher
- Micah Lantzke
- Noah Inman
- Ryan Tafira
- Saxon Halsey
- Tyler Meakes
- Tyson Jacob
- William Triffitt

Under 18 Country Girls:

- Abigail Durdin
- Alexis Donovan
- Alira Fotu
- Amelia Corasaniti
- Ashlee Monaghan
- Ava O'Neill
- Ava Marmion
- Chloe Zorzi

- Ella Edwards
- Elliana Forman
- Imogen Ireland
- Isabella Andrew
- Keely Berry
- Madison Dymnicki
- Meisha Norman
- Millie Gerreyn
- Monet Webb
- Ngaire Parish
- Shaye Lenton
- Tatum Whalley
- Tegan Alabach
- Zahli Dewar
- Carta Tawhiao

Under 18 Metro Men:

- Aaron Gashaw
- Alexander Powderly
- Cyril Mulot
- Daniel Christou
- Ethan Carroll
- Hayden Price
- Jack Pitt
- Jhye Stoker
- Jongkuch Mach
- Kuron Swaka Lo Buluk
- Lachlan Burnett
- Lasiana Edgar
- Leon Maguire
- Lewis Downing
- Marley Sam

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- Max Bucknell
- Max Dimmock
- Perceval Macias Fernandez
- Shayden Weerakoon
- Timothy Ibukunoluwa

Under 18 Metro Women:

- Alyssa Bowen
- Ashlin Ramsay
- Aysha Kemp
- Ella Barmantloo
- Emilie Beggs
- Emma Clark
- Eva Smith
- Keira Reilly

- Kinley Paterson
- Kuir Gayo
- Lara Bussell
- Matilda Campbell
- Mikayla Deshon
- Mya Haley
- Natalie Chisi
- Nicola Moore
- Reece Anticevic
- Remy Hearn
- Saoirse Smart
- Sian Grincer
- Sienna Gerardi
- Skye Thomas
- Taylor Northey

U16 SPP Squads

Under 16 Metro Boys:

- John Aryang
- Lincoln Coleman
- Lucas Dravitzki
- Andre Oweh
- Christopher Eddy
- Alexander Edwards
- Ciaran Evans
- Jaden Exeter
- Sam Gooch
- Kailen Harrison
- Hunter Hearn
- Benjamin Hofmann
- Samuel Johnson
- Jake Lobik
- Zakarayah Magdy
- Luke Martin
- Adam New
- Faitala Patu
- Luke Paul
- Everett Pavic
- Jaelan Toby

Under 16 Metro Girls:

- Aisha Allen
- Sasha Augustus
- Cameron Brown
- Ruby Clay
- Rose Clinch
- Alida Dogramaci
- Jasmine Giles
- Zara Gurney
- Evelyn Hawley
- Tamsin Hill
- Jalyn Newton-Taito
- Sasha Nona
- Ayvah Rioli
- Keira Robinson
- Kaia Rukuata
- Paris Spencer
- Hannah Summers
- Sansa Tatam
- Grace Tomazin
- Gabrielle Van Maanen

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Under 16 Country Girls:

- Lara Anderson
- Addison Barnes
- Charlotte Castle
- Kate Cusick
- Dakota Dimer
- Kenzie du Bois
- Sienna Eade
- Sophia Ferguson
- Cassie Ferris
- Marli Giles
- Legacy Harris
- Natalie Hollins
- Sahba Horstman
- Sophie Kirkpatrick
- Kiara Lawty
- Jordanae Leitu
- Matilda Liebrechts
- Kianna Manu
- Caitlin Musitano
- Michelle Ninyyette
- Sasha Robinson Ava Ramsay

Under 16 Country Boys:

- Liam Beauclarke
- Eliiah Bellottie
- Noah Bennett
- Nicholas Brabazon
- Byron Chapman
- Caleb Croxson
- Max De San Miguel
- Xavier Donald
- Trent Faulkner
- Riley Fong
- Austin Forrest
- Joel Gillett
- Lucas Jacob
- Beau Jones
- Riley Middleton
- Luke Riegert
- Wade Rumble
- Will Teasdale
- Luke Websdale Jnr
- Byron Winder
- Kelvin Yokwe

Hotshots Program

In 2024, Basketball WA proudly continued the delivery of the U12 HotShots Program – a cornerstone of our junior development pathway. The program comprises two key components: the U12 HotShots Skills Days and the HotShots Jamboree.

Skills Days were held across the state, delivered by our dedicated Regional Development Officers in their respective areas, alongside several metropolitan sessions in Perth. These sessions provided hundreds of young athletes with the opportunity to refine their skills, engage with peers, and experience a high-quality development environment.

Following the Skills Days, 180 athletes were selected to attend the HotShots Jamboree – a two-day event hosted at Bendat Basketball Centre during the Term 3 school holidays. The Jamboree featured structured training sessions and organised games, offering athletes the chance to apply their skills in a fun, competitive setting.

We extend a sincere thank you to our incredible volunteer coaches who make this program possible. Your commitment creates a safe, supportive, and enjoyable environment for our future stars to thrive.

Future Development Program

Building on the successful restructure of 2022, the Future Development Program (FDP) continued to grow in 2024. Over 200 athletes participated in FDP Skill Sessions during the first quarter of the year, delivered across both regional WA and metropolitan Perth.

Following these sessions, approximately 80 athletes were invited into the core FDP stream, where they took part in targeted development camps throughout the year. These camps focus on refining fundamental basketball skills while introducing key High-Performance concepts to prepare athletes for future trials and selection into BWA's elite pathways.

The contribution of BWA's Regional Development Officers remains central to the success of this program. Their efforts ensure athletes from all corners of the state can access high-quality training and competition, building a more connected and inclusive pathway for all.

A heartfelt thank you to the 25+ coaches who supported the FDP across 2024. Your expertise and enthusiasm make a lasting impact on the development of these young players.

Emerging Talent Program

The Emerging Talent Program (ETP) continued to play a vital role in 2024, supporting the development of U15 and U17 athletes as a key bridge between the Future Development Program and the State Performance Program.

With limited positions available in the State Program, ETP provides a crucial touchpoint to maintain engagement and development opportunities for promising athletes throughout the year. In January, ETP athletes joined the High-Performance Development Carnival at Bendat Basketball Centre, gaining access to additional training sessions and competitive gameplay.

Nearly 100 athletes from across WA participated in the program, attending development camps and connecting with broader BWA pathway programming. On top of advanced on-court skill development and alignment with BWA's Style of Play, athletes also benefited from sessions with guest speakers and coaches focused on fostering strong off-court habits.

We are proud of the continued evolution of the Emerging Talent Program and the role it plays in preparing athletes for the next step in their basketball journey.

Coach Development

Damian Barr – Coach Development Manager

2024: A Year of Accessibility and Growth for BWA Coach Education

In 2024, the BWA Coach Education Department focused on two key pillars: accessibility and growth. Building on the foundation laid in 2023 with the introduction of mandatory coach accreditations for the WABL competition, this requirement was extended to include NBL1 coaches in 2024 – a significant step forward in elevating the standard of coaching across the state.

Throughout the year, BWA delivered a record-breaking number of accreditations, with over 900 coaches completing their certifications via regular Club Coach courses and the annual Association Coach course. This marks a significant milestone in the ongoing development of our coaching community.

The Community Coach course continued to offer accessibility through its online format, further enhanced by Basketball Australia's launch of a centralised platform designed to standardise learning nationally. Through engaging video examples and comprehensive online resources, coaches were able to gain formal accreditation from the comfort of their own homes.

Complementing the accessibility of the online Community Coach course, BWA expanded the reach of in-person Club Coach courses across the state. In addition to several sessions held in the metro area, regional courses were delivered in Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany, Newman, Port Hedland, and Karratha – ensuring coaches in all corners of WA had the opportunity to access quality training.

A standout highlight for 2024 was the two-day Association Coach course held in September, which saw a record 62 coaches take the next step in their development journey – a clear indication of the growing appetite for higher-level coaching education.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to introduce new modules and online learning opportunities that will further support coaches in their ongoing pursuit of excellence. The continued evolution of our Coach Education program is central to building a strong, skilled coaching community across Western Australia.

Wheelchair

Michelle Fletcher – High Performance Administrator

2024: A Landmark Year for WA Wheelchair Basketball

The 2024 season was action-packed and filled with milestones for our wheelchair basketball community. Our Belt Up Perth Wheelcats proudly competed in the National League under the newly formed Wheelchair Basketball Association (WBA), marking a new chapter for elite wheelchair basketball in Western Australia.

Our state team, the Belt Up Black Ducks, brought home gold at the 2024 Kevin Coombs Cup during the Australian Junior National Championships in Brisbane, showcasing the incredible talent within our development pathways.

WA continued to produce high-calibre athletes, with a strong representation at national events and four athletes selected to represent Australia at the Paris 2024 Paralympics – a phenomenal achievement that reflects the strength of our programs.

Participation also continued to grow across development levels, with new and emerging athletes gaining valuable exposure at HoopsFest, reinforcing our commitment to creating inclusive, visible pathways for future stars.

Frank Ponta Cup – November 2023

The Frank Ponta Cup remains a cornerstone event in our high-performance calendar, serving as a key development platform ahead of the U23 World Championships in 2025. The camp and competition offer aspiring athletes of all ages an invaluable opportunity to train and compete in an elite environment.

WA Coaches in Attendance:

- Robert Pike
- Phil Turner
- Michelle Swain

WA Athletes in Attendance:

- Nattaphon Hongsri
- Jordan Mouritz

Australian Junior National Championships – Brisbane 2024

Kevin Coombs Cup – Gold Medal Winners: Belt Up Black Ducks

It was another standout campaign for our Belt Up Black Ducks at the 2024 National Junior Wheelchair Championships. Guided by Head Coach Phil Turner and Assistant Coach Michelle Swain, the team showed outstanding skill and composure throughout the tournament, dropping just one game in the round stage.

In a thrilling gold medal match, they overcame a highly skilled opponent to secure a 51–43 victory. Their efforts were further recognised at the Basketball WA Gala Night, where they were named High Performance Team of the Year – a fitting accolade for an exceptional season.

2024 Belt Up Black Ducks Team:

- Michael McDonald
- Jordan Mouritz
- Natt Hongsri
- Sarah Thrans
- Joel Swadling
- Cooper Spillane
- Alexander Blackmore
- Katelin Gunn
- Weston Tedcastle

Head Coach: Phil Turner

Assistant Coach: Michelle Swain

Basketball WA Development Sessions

In partnership with WAIS, Basketball WA continued to deliver a world-class high-performance development program. These sessions remain vital to athlete progression and are a key reason for the continued success of WA's wheelchair athletes and coaches at both national and international levels.

By investing in quality development environments, we ensure that our athletes are prepared to excel – from grassroots to the global stage.

End of an Era – Honouring Sarah Vinci

2024 also marked the end of an illustrious international career for Australian Gliders legend Sarah Vinci. A trailblazer and true ambassador for the sport, Sarah has proudly represented Australia in countless wheelchair basketball events around the world.

We thank Sarah for her unwavering commitment, passion, and determination. Her leadership has helped pave the way for future generations of WA female athletes, and her legacy will continue to inspire long after her final game in green and gold.

Wheelcats

Michelle Fletcher

Old rivalries and new faces are set to take centre stage when the National Wheelchair Basketball League and the Women's National Wheelchair Basketball League return in June 2024. Under the guidance of Wheelchair Basketball Australia, the new look NWBL featured seven men's teams while in the WNWBL, there will be four women's teams.

Tipping off in June, teams will play home and away fixtures since 2019 there has been a proper home and away season, with our Belt UP Perth Wheelcats eager to play in front of their home fans on a regular basis.

Each matchup involved three games per weekend, with games played on a Saturday morning, Saturday evening and Sunday morning. By season's end each team had played every team three times, for a total of 18 games in the men's and 9 games in the women's. Finals for both men and women were held in Shellharbour City Stadium.

Basketball WA were proud to be able to enter teams in both the Men's and Women's competition in 2024. Teams were led by Head Coaches Ben Ettridge (Men's) and Michelle Swain (Women's). Our teams both competed at the Finals in Shellharbour and finished 3rd (Men's) and 2nd (Women's).

The 2024 WBA Award Winners for 2024 were.

WNWBL (Women's)

MVP in the 3.0 – 3.5 classification:

- Ebony Stevenson

MVP in the 4.0 – 4.5 classification:

- Amber Merritt

MVP in the 2.0 – 2.5 classification:

- Georgia Inglis

Best First Year Player: Ebony Stevenson

Coach of the Year: Michelle Swain

Joint leading scorers: Amber Merritt

WBA All Star 5: Georgia Inglis, Ebony Stevenson, Amber Merritt.

NWBL (Men's):

MVP in the 1.0 – 1.5 classification:

- Frank Pinder

MVP in the 4.0 – 4.5 classification:

- Tom McHugh

WBA All Star 5: Frank Pinder and Tom McHugh

Coach of the Year: Ben Ettridge

National Duties for 2024

We would like to acknowledge our representatives who partook in teams at a variety of international event during 2024.

2024 Wheelchair Representation List

Paris Olympics - Rollers

- Shaun Norris
- Phil Evans
- Frank Pinder
- Thomas McHugh
- Head Coach: Brad Ness
- Assistant Coach: Luke Mitchell
- Extended Squad Members for Paris
- Jake Kavanagh – Emerging Roller
- Jamie O’Loughlin – Coach

Gliders

- Ebony Stevenson
- Taishar Ovens
- Sarah Vinci
- Sara Houston
- Assistant Coach: Rob Pike

Spinners

- Jordan Mouritz
- Natthaphon Hongsri – Extended Squad

Devils

- Ebony Stevenson
- Lauren Hardbottle

Wombats 3 x 3

Men

- Jake Kavanagh

Women

- Taishar Ovens
- Jade Penny
- Coach: Rob Pike

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Champions

The Spinners have won the gold medal match over Japan, going undefeated all through the 2024 U23 Asia Oceania Championship!

FT | AUS 67 - 41 JAPAN

- Jordan Mouritz (Selected Team Member)
- Nattaphon Hongsri (Squad)

Osaka Cup in Japan - February

- Amber Merritt
- Georgia Inglis
- Sarah Vinci
- Taishar Ovens
- Michelle Swain (Manager)

European Tour – March

- Andrew Dewberry
- Jake Kavanagh
- Shaun Norris
- Frank Pinder

International Friendlies in Thailand - May

World Championships in Dubai- June

Rollers:

- Andrew Dewberry
- Shaun Norris
- Frank Pinder
- Kim Robins

Gliders:

- Georgia Inglis
- Amber Merritt
- Sarah Vinci
- Coaches:
- Brad Ness – Head Coach (Rollers)

Under 25 Devils

- Lauren Hardbottle
- Ebony Stevenson

Congratulations Brad Ness – Basketball Australian Hall of Fame

Bradley Ness is widely considered to have been one of the best and most decorated wheelchair basketballers in the world.

A strong-bodied centre with a high basketball IQ, Ness made his Rollers debut in 1999 in the Roosevelt Cup in the US then graced the biggest stage, a home crowd at the Sydney Paralympics the following year, his first of five Paralympic campaigns.

As captain, he guided the Rollers to an historic gold medal in 2008 in Beijing with Australian defeating Canada by 12 points.

His medal collection also features two silver medals from Athens (2004) and London (2012) and a pair of IWBF World Championship titles in 2010 and 2014.

Fittingly, Brad was chosen to carry the Australian flag at the closing ceremony of the 2016 Rio Paralympics in his international farewell.

After fulfilling a scholarship at the University of Texas in the US, he played professionally in Italy for 12 years. His international feats saw him claim multiple Sandy Blythe Medals for International Wheelchair Basketball Player of the Year. On home soil, Ness carved out a brilliant career in the National Wheelchair League with the Dandenong Rangers, Perth Wheelcats and Red Dust Heelers winning an array of championships, MVP and All-Star Five honours. Currently head coach of the Rollers, Brad led Australia at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

Basketball WA would like to congratulate Brad on his entry into the Basketball Australia Hall of Fame.

8 Participation

Keely O'Brien – Participation Officer

Over 1.3 million Australians are playing basketball across the country, once again ranking it 2nd for Australia's most popular team sport for both adults and children. In WA, registered competitive numbers rose to 67,471 in 2024, with AusPlay statistics predicting 161,681 Western Australians were playing basketball in the 23/24 financial year. These figures have remained steady in recent years as associations continue to face challenges with limited venue capacity and stretched resources. The team looked at ways to enhance participation quality, rather than simply increase numbers, expanding the team to address gaps and target low-participation areas and populations in the coming years.

Fuel to Go & Play School Slam Series

In 2024, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Fuel to Go & Play School Slam Series. What began in 2004 with just 21 teams and no girls' division has grown to 332 teams, including 146 girls' teams. Providing an inclusive and enjoyable basketball experience for primary school students, the series saw 3,068 participants across 19 interschool events this year, 45% of whom were girls—16% above the state average.

While overall numbers remained steady compared to 2023, we saw significant growth in low-participation areas. The Geraldton School Slam saw a 42% rise in participation, Mundaring and Northam experienced 23% and 50% growth in just their second years respectively, and All Hedland grew by 33%, adding a new girls' division.

In November, the annual Fuel to Go & Play Champions Cup at Bendat Basketball Centre showcased 32 of the top teams from the series both in talent and in sportsmanship. In a thrilling boys' Grand Final, Frederick Irwin Anglican School – Meadow Springs edged out Mount Hawthorn Primary by 1 point. On the girls' side, Swanbourne Primary claimed victory over Willetton Primary, capping an undefeated tournament with a dominant finals performance.

Basketball WA thanks Healthway, School Sport WA, and SEDA College for their support in delivering this series which promotes health and wellness among youth through sport.

STATS: 55% Male 45% Female

- 3068 Total Participants
- 332 Total Teams
- 122 Total Schools

CHAMPION BOYS: Frederick Irwin Anglican School – Meadow Springs

RUNNER UP BOYS: Mount Hawthorn Primary School

CHAMPION GIRLS: Swanbourne Primary School

RUNNER UP GIRLS: Willetton Primary School

Ford Aussie Hoops

The Ford Aussie Hoops is Australia's leading introductory basketball program for kids aged 5-10. With a focus on skill development and fun, it provides a safe, inclusive space for young players to learn the fundamentals of the game.

WA saw a 6% growth in participant numbers, breaking the record for the most participants in state history, with 45 active Centres now running the Ford Aussie Hoops program across the state. 10 new Centres came on board this year, including large regional associations Bunbury, Busselton, and Geraldton, and growing metro association Binar further extending the program's reach. WA continues to be one of the leading states in the Aussie Hoops program, making up around 20% of participation nationally, performing well above our population.

Three WA Centres currently rank in the top 10 largest nationwide: Cockburn at 3rd, Warwick at 7th, and Rockingham at 10th. Adding their success, Cockburn's Sienna Branco earned a spot in the prestigious Australian Aussie Hoops All-Star Squad, showcasing her outstanding development and dedication to the program.

Ford's continued partnership with the Aussie Hoops program has been key in boosting grassroots basketball across WA.

STATS

- Total Participants: 7,867
- Metro: 5,658
- Country: 2,208
- Boys 75%
- Girls 25%

Top Centres

Metro

1. Cockburn
2. Warwick
3. Rockingham
4. Perth
5. East Perth

Country

1. Kalgoorlie-Boulder
2. Denmark
3. Karratha
4. Broome
5. Manjimup

Belt Up Everyone's Game

Basketball WA ran three Belt Up Everyone's Game Carnivals in 2024, bringing together athletes from Albany, Bunbury, and Geraldton. Sponsored by the Insurance Commission of WA, these Carnivals focus on inclusion, sportsmanship, and fun. With an average of 100 athletes at each event, it marked the largest year for Everyone's Game since 2017. The Carnivals offer athletes with disabilities a welcoming environment to showcase their talent, socialise, and celebrate International Day of People with Disability with the basketball community.

SEDA

The partnership between BWA and SEDA continues to foster growth in basketball specific industry training, the administration capacity of BWA-led events, participant experiences across the Metro and South-West regions, and connectivity between the leaders of tomorrow. 78 Year 11 and 12 students completed coaching accreditation, delivering 1264 volunteer hours across the year. Notably, BWA workplace student Jorja Herman won the prestigious Chris Reidy Industry Engagement Award, highlighting her outstanding contributions.

3X3

The Paris Olympics weren't the only place to catch some fast-paced 3x3 in 2024. In WA, 3x3 events were run by BWA, third parties, and six associations—Cockburn, Lakeside, Mandurah, Warwick, Wanneroo, and East Perth—each running multiple tournaments throughout the year. Of 25 events, 4,810 WA athletes showcased their 3x3 skills. 3x3 Hustle hosted the Scarborough Slam and Hustle Nationals, and the Red Bull Half Court returned to WA. Thanks to DLGSC, 3x3 was also introduced to the Pilbara through an exciting event in Newman.

3X3 Streetball Championships at Groundswell Festival

The annual Groundswell Festival 3x3 State Championships remain WA's flagship 3x3 event. Surrounded by a bustle of other exhilarating sporting codes, live music and DJs, stalls and activities, 3x3 streetball is backdropped by the beautiful beaches of Scarborough every October to showcase the awesome energy of 3x3.

In another busy year, almost every division reached capacity. The 3x3 space continues to be popular amongst U16 and U18 players, with some of Perth's elite players stepping up to the plate this year including multiple high-performance athletes and a Lynx Academy player.

In one of our most competitive tournaments yet, both U21 Grand Finals came down to the wire. The women's final saw "GT3" hit a thrilling buzzer-beater to take the win, while the "3 Range Chooks" secured the men's title by a single point, completing their threeppeat in their final year of eligibility.

The Streetball State Championships were made possible thanks to the City of Stirling, event partners Kinn & Co, sporting collaborators, and the local community. The Groundswell Festival plays a key role in showcasing 3x3 basketball to a wider audience, and we look forward to its return to Scarborough Beach in 2025.

STATS:

- 133 Participants
- 56% MALE 44% FEMALE
- 35 teams

WABL 3x3 Club Championships

The WABL 3x3 Club Championships returned to Warwick Stadium, giving WABL players a chance to prepare for the season while representing their associations in a competitive 3x3 setting. Held between the WABL grading tournament and season launch, it's now a key fixture in the basketball calendar.

This fast-paced, one-day tournament brought 60 teams from 12 associations together to compete for the prestigious perpetual trophy in a high-energy environment. The 2-Point Shootout featured 31 participants showcasing their skills for gift vouchers and merch. The U18-U21 divisions neared gender balance, with just two women's teams short of a 50/50 split, reflecting growing female interest in late teens.

STATS:

- 227 Participants
- 12 Associations
- 62% MALE 38% FEMALE

School Sport WA 3x3

Designed to provide interschool opportunities for year groups less likely to make 5v5 high school competitive teams, the School Sport WA 3x3 tournament invites Year 7 and Year 10 school teams from across the state to compete in this fast-paced basketball alternative. In 2024, 353 students from 19 schools participated - a drop from 2023, reducing the event to one day. However, female participation remained strong at 35%, above state and national averages. The Grand Final was held a week later, showcased between SSWA Senior 5v5 Grand Finals.

Community Impact

We focused on increasing female participation and engaging Aboriginal communities in 2024. In July, BWA secured a DLGSC grant to fund the Inclusive Participation Program (IPP) for three years, targeting female participation in the Mid-West and Metro regions and Aboriginal participation in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. This funding enabled us to expand our team, welcoming a new Community Development Officer, Sarah Munn, in August.

Female Participation Initiatives

In February and April, BWA teamed up with the Perth Lynx to bring 8 top WNBL players to Kalgoorlie, Narrogin, Geraldton, and the South-West (Margaret River, Busselton, and Bunbury) for clinics with the next generation of country athletes.

Basketball Australia's SheHoops visited Perth, Bunbury, and Albany in April, connecting juniors with Australian legends Lauren Jackson and Sami Whitcomb. They returned in August with another star athlete Abby Cubillo to deliver an Indigenous Leadership Program in partnership with Binar. Throughout the year, 8 WA girls aged 15-18 were selected in the SheHoops Scholarship program, building confidence and leadership skills while working with some of Australia's top basketball players and leaders.

In August, through the IPP, the participation team delivered female-led clinics in Exmouth. Over two days, Jessie Goodluck, Sarah, and I ran 5 Phys-Ed lessons and 5 after-school clinics, engaging 200 participants aged 5 to 15. Female participants made up 49%, nearly achieving gender equity.

In September, the Empower-Her Scholarship launched through the IPP to develop confident female leaders and promote involvement both on and off the court. The pilot, held in the Mid-West and South-West, saw 23 women aged 15-18 participate in weekly mindset workshops with Olympian Nat Burton, Perth Lynx clinics, and nutrition education.

Aboriginal Engagement

In September, Jessie, Nikki Hemmett (Pilbara RDO) and I teamed up with Ngurra Kujungka to return to the Pilbara, starting with the remote community school in Parnngurr, where we activated their court and painted basketballs together. On day three, we travelled to Jigalong, ran school clinics for four classes, and activated the court after school during the Community Celebration. Working with the kids was a truly rewarding experience, creating a fun and welcoming environment where they could simply enjoy the game.

Sarah and I flew up to Karratha in November for a round trip through Hedland and Newman, where we met with Nikki to conduct basketball clinics, School Slams, and an inaugural 3x3 competition in Newman. The clinics, in collaboration with All Hedland Basketball Association, saw 57 boys and girls from U10-U16 take to the court over two days, 44% of whom were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. We also ran a Performance session in Karratha with over 20 top athletes, many preparing for state trials or competing in the HPDC carnival.

The P.A.M.S. 3x3 Streetball Tournament, held in Newman in partnership with Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Services (P.A.M.S.) and The Shire of East Pilbara, was a first-of-its-kind event. It invited all ages to compete in a fast-paced streetball competition where players could register on the day, play with friends, and create their own team names (with plenty of creativity!). The Shire provided bus transport and healthy snacks, promoting active, healthy lifestyles. A total of 44 athletes participated between 9 and 27 years old, 53% identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The day was well-received, with strong local interest to host the event again in the future.

NAIDOC

Basketball WA Celebrates NAIDOC Week 2024 – “Keep the Fire Burning, Blak, Loud and Proud!”

Basketball WA proudly celebrated NAIDOC Week 2024 with a vibrant and inclusive basketball carnival held on Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 July. The event embraced this year’s powerful NAIDOC theme: “Keep the Fire Burning, Blak, Loud and Proud!” – honouring the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The 2024 Carnival welcomed teams from across Western Australia, coming together in the spirit of community, pride, and unity through sport. The opening ceremony featured a heartfelt Welcome to Country delivered by Elder Trevor Walley, followed by a stirring traditional dance performance by Bindjareb Middar to officially open the festivities.

The two-day carnival featured multiple age divisions, from Under 14s through to Under 18s. Round-robin games were held across both days, culminating in exciting finals matchups on Day 2. Adding to the energy and engagement of the event were special competitions, including a 3-Point Contest for U16s, U18s and U25s, and a crowd-favourite Dunk Contest for U18 and U25 players – both of which were enthusiastically received by participants and spectators alike.

Beyond the court, the carnival offered a range of off-court activities and community engagement opportunities. The foyer featured activations and stalls, including the presence of Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, providing information and support around primary health, mental health, and dental services.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the Team Coordinators for their dedication in bringing their teams together for this meaningful annual event, and to everyone who contributed to the organisation and delivery of such a successful celebration of culture and sport.

Special thanks to our valued event partners – Healthway, DLGSC, and Belt Up – Insurance Commission of WA – for their continued support in making this celebration possible.

Regional – Great Southern

Anita Reca – Regional Development Officer (Great Southern)

High Performance in Great Southern

In 2024, Basketball WA's Future Development Program (FDP) sessions were held across the Great Southern region, with hubs in Esperance, Denmark, and Albany. These camps focused on developing athletes in the U14 and U15 age groups, serving as a pathway to the Southern Cross Challenge Trials in Perth. From these trials, our athletes were selected to represent our state in Melbourne, as well as at the High Performance Development Carnival in Perth and some also named as reserves.

Meanwhile, our youngest players participated in local Hotshots camps, emphasizing skill development and enjoyment. From these camps in Albany and Esperance, selected players earned the opportunity to represent the region at the Hotshots Jamboree 2024 event in Perth.

The Great Southern region also fielded teams for the 2024 Basketball WA State Titles (Division 1), allowing our athletes to compete against the best teams in Western Australia. Participation in the State Titles further enabled our players to take part in Basketball WA's WABL 3x3 competition, a challenging and exciting experience for all involved.

The commitment and success of our athletes in these programs highlight the growth and strength of basketball in the Great Southern region.

Guests in Great Southern

In 2024, the Great Southern region welcomed several notable visitors and events, enriching our basketball community.

The year began with a tournament hosted in partnership with Binar Futures, bringing together teams not only from our region but also from Bunbury and other areas. This event showcased strong regional talent and fostered collaboration within the basketball community.

A highlight of the year was the visit from basketball legend Lauren Jackson and the She Hoops program, who delivered an inspiring skills and drills clinic in Albany. While young athletes honed their skills, parents eagerly participated in a Q&A session and collected autographs, making it a memorable experience for all.

Adding to the excitement, Denmark hosted a clinic with the Perth Lynx, where star player Alex Ciabattoni shared expert tips and guidance with our local female athletes.

These events not only inspired our players but also strengthened the connection between the Great Southern basketball community and some of the sport's most influential figures.

All-inclusive Game

The success of the Great Southern Hotshots program has been a testament to the dedication of our athletes, coaches, and volunteers. Building on the momentum of their first regional entry, the program has grown significantly, now proudly fielding two teams. These teams regularly participate in Basketball WA's Everyone's Game carnivals, showcasing their skills, teamwork, and passion for the sport. This continued involvement highlights the remarkable progress of the Great Southern Hotshots and reinforces our region's commitment to fostering an inclusive basketball community for all.

School Basketball

This year, in collaboration with Denmark Senior High School, we hosted our inaugural primary school basketball tournament. Primary school students enjoyed the opportunity to compete in organised games, while high school students played a vital role in running the event, volunteering at the score bench, and officiating all matches.

Building on this success, we also introduced our first-ever Year 7/8 school tournament. Notably, 2024 marks the first year that high school tournaments have been divided into separate divisions for Year 7/8 and Year 9/10 students. This new structure not only creates more opportunities for younger athletes to compete but also highlights the growing interest and enthusiasm for basketball in the region.

Partnerships with Kadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation

Over the Term 3, we had a partnership with the Kadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation delivering program in Gnowangerup which showcased the power of collaboration and community. The fortnightly program trained young leaders in running effective sessions for younger players. This partnership not only enhanced skills through basketball drills and trust-building activities but also empowered young mentors to take on coaching roles, fostering leadership roles and encouraged teamwork. It was a fantastic example of how partnerships can create impactful opportunities for growth and connection in the community.

Regional – South West

Wayne Hayes – Regional Development Officer (South West)

South West Basketball Continues to Thrive

Participation in basketball across the South West is at an all-time high – a testament to the tireless efforts of local associations, volunteers, and the support of Basketball WA. The growth and success of the region’s competitions reflect the commitment of countless individuals working behind the scenes to foster a love of the game in our communities.

A huge thank you goes out to our volunteer coaches – so often the mums, dads, brothers and sisters of our young players – who generously give their time to guide and mentor the next generation. Our referee numbers remain strong, thanks to the excellent development work being delivered by local associations and the referee education courses provided through BWA.

Defeat Distance, Decentralise Development

In 2024, the South West proudly launched HUB Development for both player and referee pathways, with hubs operating in Bunbury, Bridgetown, and Busselton.

This year marked the inaugural rollout of BWA’s HUB Referee Development model in the South West, with over 200 young referees attending Level 0 and Level 1 courses delivered by Perth-based educators. This initiative has helped bridge the geographic gap, providing local access to high-quality training and development.

Player development has also continued to flourish through these hubs, supporting BWA’s Pathway and High Performance programs such as Hot Shots, FDP, SCC, and SPP pre-trial sessions.

Ford Aussie Hoops Expansion

We were thrilled to welcome Bunbury, Eaton, and Busselton – our three largest associations – to the Ford Aussie Hoops program in 2024. Their participation added over 220 young children to the basketball pathway, further strengthening grassroots development in the region.

A special congratulations goes to the Manjimup Basketball Association, which with 125 registered Aussie Hoopers, now ranks among the top five regional centres in WA.

Empower-Her Scholarship Program

In 2024, Alex Ciabattoni and the BWA Female Participation Team introduced the first Empower-Her All-Girls Scholarship Program, supporting young female athletes aged 15–20. We are incredibly proud that 12 girls from the South West were selected for this inaugural initiative. Feedback from the first year was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to its continued impact.

She Hoops Comes to the South West

Australian basketball legend Lauren Jackson visited the region through the She Hoops program, delivering a sold-out, all-girls clinic alongside South West Slammers women’s players. The event saw 80 young girls inspired by one of the game’s greats – an unforgettable moment for players, parents, and coaches alike.

BWA High Performance Legacy Award

Congratulations to Aaron Edwards, who was honoured with BWA's High Performance Legacy Award in 2024. This award recognises Aaron's years of selfless service as a player and coach across BWA High Performance programs at all age levels. His dedication to developing basketball in the South West is truly commendable.

"Education Before Accreditation" Coaching Sessions

Under the banner of Education Before Accreditation, we successfully delivered coaching development sessions to over 200 volunteer coaches across the region. These sessions provided vital knowledge and confidence to those guiding our junior athletes – many of whom are new to coaching – and highlighted the importance of practical, accessible training.

SEDA Pathways Support

In 2024, we provided three workplace learning placements for SEDA students, alongside continued support for their coaching and referee certification pathways. These opportunities are an important part of nurturing future leaders within our basketball community.

Following is a summary of 2024 in numbers.

BWA Country Championships

- 180 Jnr teams
- 32 Senior teams

Slammers

- WABL 20 Teams
- NBL1 Men's Finished 12th Women's Finished 13th

Hot Sots

- 58 u12 players

FDP

- 62 u14 players

Ford Aussie Hoops.

- 791

Southern Cross Challenge Program Representation

- (2) u14 boys selected in the travelling team.
- (1) u15 girl selected in the travelling team

State Performance Program Representation

- (4) u16 girls
- (6) u16 boys
- (4) u18 Girls (1) head coach (1) Ass Coach
- (4) u18 boys (1) head coach (1) Ass Coach

Regional – Wheatbelt

Georgi Eddy – Regional Development Officer

State and Country Championships

In the Country Championships, Wheatbelt Associations had 26 junior teams compete across the span of four weekends. Wanting to challenge themselves further Narrogin and Merredin Basketball Association also entered State Championships where eleven teams competed across the 4 weekends.

Throughout both competitions the Wheatbelt teams improved with each game, continuously displaying their determination and effort which was inspiring to see. These performances from all the teams speaks volumes about the significant strides coaches have made in developing local talent.

High Performance

2024 was a year of firsts in the High-Performance space for the Wheatbelt with Basketball WA High-Performance Pathway Programs, Hotshots and FDP being run at the three Wheatbelt hubs, Merredin, Narrogin and Northam. In total over 100 aspiring ballers attended the sessions to develop their skills and exposed player to the concepts needed to be successful in BWA High-Performance Programs.

Several players that attended the Future Development Program where selected for the High-Performance Development Carnival Squad.

Ford Aussie Hoops

Basketball continues to be a popular choice for our younger athletes with Merredin being the latest Association to introduce the Ford Aussie Hoops Program to their community. Participation in the program remains strong and with 7 Centres across the Wheatbelt the future generation of ballers is looking bright.

Courses

Coach and referee development was a focus point for 2024 and while the Wheatbelt is in the early stages of Coach development the number of Coaches completing their Community Coach Accreditation and attending the 4 Community Coach Education sessions that were run across the Wheatbelt is a positive step in the right direction.

The introduction of the Regional Referee Roadshow by the Basketball WA Official Department was a huge success in the Wheatbelt with three Association Beginner Referee Courses and one Level 1 Referee Course being held in the Wheatbelt over three locations. 59 referees attended the courses providing them with the knowledge and confidence to put on their referee shirts on and umpiring back at their local associations.

School Slam Series

The Northam Slam Series continues to be a hit in the Wheatbelt with 3 new teams entering in 2024 providing more competition and new faces too. All the players, teachers and parents had a great time, with every school leaving it all on the court as they battle it out to be the second team to put their school on the Northam Slam Series trophy, after an exciting Grand Final Gingin DHS came out on top being the second School to put their name on the Northam Slam Series Trophy.

Perth Lynx

Perth Lynx players Anneli Maley and Chloe Forster visited Narrogin. Over two days clinics were run at Narrogin Recreation Centre for local schools and the public. Students and players that participated in the sessions were introduced to and developed their fundamental basketball skills and participated in fun games, the sessions were wrapped up with a Q&A as well as some signed merch.

While in Narrogin Anneli and Chloe also ran a high-performance training session for the Nets players, Narrogin Basketball Associations Rep Team, during the session the Nets players were put through their paces and showing off the talent present in Narrogin.

She Hoops

Basketball WA and She Hoops provided a unique opportunity in Northam for local girls to develop their basketball skills in a 2-hour clinic with superstar players Lauren Jackson and Abby Cubillo. 5 school took part in the skills clinic, with the day wrapping up with an opportunity to ask questions, pose for photos and have their basketballs signed.

The purpose of the clinic was to provide opportunities for girls to get involved and stay involved in basketball. This includes strategies to support the growth of country basketball and to inspire the future generation of female players in a fun and safe environment.

Partnerships

2024 proved to be a whirlwind of basketball excitement with the Wheatbelt experiences a lot of firsts and the building of strong foundations to allow basketball in the Wheatbelt to continue grow in the future. To celebrate 2024 as well as thank CSBP for their continued support in the Wheatbelt Basketball WA ran a Team Day at Bendat Basketball Centre. The day was filled with fun games, friendly competition and a lot of sweat, all who participated left the court with a smile on their face.

Regional – Midwest/Gascoyne

Dan Hunt – Regional Development Officer

Our programs in Midwest/Gascoyne saw us reach 7083 Athletes Boys=4425, Girls=2658, Ind=1565

Midwest Programs:

January Holiday Camp:

11-U14 80 campers. 58 boys, 22 girls, 9 ind.

Midwest Basketball Academy= 147 Athletes, Boys=87, Girls=60, Ind=20

Midwest Rep Trials for BWA and Country Champ Teams = 270 Athletes, Boys=165, Girls=105, Ind=45

Rep Teams= 184 athletes made Rep teams. 102 boys, 82 girls, 36 ind.

17 teams sent to BWA State Champs. 10 boys' teams and 7 girls' teams.

BWA Programs run in Midwest:

SPP U16-We sent 20 athletes to trials. 5 Boys and 3 Girls made the State Squad. 2 boys and 2 girls made travel teams.

SPP U18-We sent 14 Athletes to trials. 4 girls and 10 boys. 3 girls and 3 boys made their respective squads.

SCC U14 and U15-We sent 35 athletes to trials. 21 boys and 14 girls. 16 Boys and 9 Girls made their respective squads. 12 made HPDC teams. 9 boys and 4 Girls. 1 Girl made SCC Team.

Year two of our Future Development Program Midwest ran in Geraldton. To cut down travel for our Midwest families we lobbied to run FDP in Geraldton. 25 athletes attended. 13 boys, 12 girls.

Hotshots were run in Geraldton with 62 athletes registered and 20 were invited to attend Hotshot's Jamboree in Perth.

Coach Development:

We hosted a Club Coaching Course on Feb 18. This was well received with 14 coaches in attendance.

School/Skills clinics were held all over the Midwest/Gascoyne. Geraldton, Carnamah, Kalbarri and Exmouth.

My highlight from the 2024 basketball season is sending our All-Abilities Buccaneers down to compete in the Everyone's Game tournament held in Perth. The team battled hard and had a great time doing it! To top it all off we had two of our girls selected in the Ivor Burge women's team to compete at the National Championships!

Might pay to check with Michael for some stats on all of female activations we ran in the Midwest and Gascoyne with the help of the Participation team!

Midwest/Gascoyne

Highlight – Alex Ducas (Journey):

Alex Ducas is proof that dreams can come true! Even from regional Western Australia. Demonstrating that the Basketball WA pathway works, Alex started playing basketball in the Geraldton Amateur Basketball Association U8 competition and is now playing for Oklahoma City Thunder in the NBA.

Alex didn't skip any steps following his dreams of playing in the NBA proving there are no shortcuts when you want to compete with the best. He was a standout from a young age. He was part of the Midwest Basketball Academy, represented WA Country at U14 and U15 Country Cup. U16 WA Country x 2, U18 WA Country x 2 and U20 WA x2.

Loyal to his Geraldton roots, Alex stayed home to play for his beloved Geraldton Buccaneers helping them win that elusive SBL title in 2019. Straight after that win he flew out to the US to start a fantastic career at St Mary's College in California. The Gaels reached the NCAA Tournament a couple times, and this is where Duke really flexed his basketball skills.

This led to a crack at the Australia National team. After a stint in the Australian Institute of Sport Duke played for Australia in the 2022 FIBA Asia Cup. Helping the Boomers win the gold medal.

Of course, this all led to the crescendo of all crescendos. The National Basketball Association. This chapter is only beginning.

Regional – Goldfields

Donna Coughlan – Regional Development Officer

Fuel To Go and Play State Championships

Fuel to Go and Play State Championships - 6 teams over 4 weeks of the championships.

We are extremely proud of all our competing sides who all performed at high levels throughout all the tournaments & championships in 2024 demonstrating leaderships, sportsmanship and team basketball.

Congratulation to all our teams who all came home as Champions in their respective divisions. Thank you to all Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, Referees and committee who attended the tournaments throughout the year.

Northern Star Diggers Academy

Northern Star Diggers – the second year this program has been running.

With over 25 athletes attending on a weekly basis over term 2 and term 3. Athletes are provided weekly training session – developing individual skills and team structure.

The Diggers Program is an important part of the Basketball WA pathway for boys and girls to train and development skills. We would also like to thank Northern Star Resources for their support for development of our Program.

This program gives boys and girls (selected) the opportunity to access further trainings and development at a higher level.

Northern Star Academy Program

Northern Star Academy Program – second year this program has been run.

Players / athletes are selected to attend weekly training sessions on a Monday night – Boys or Girls on a Tuesday night.

The Academy Program is to identify and select basketball athletes with future potential and develop their individual skill, mental skills and team concepts which will aid them to develop successfully in future levels.

The Academy Program is an important part of the Basketball WA pathway for boys and girls to train at elite level.

We would also like to thank Northern Star Resources for their support for development of our Talent Identification Academy Program.

Perth Lynx Visit – Training Session

Perth Lynx basketball players – McKenzie Clinch Hoycard, Amy Atwell and Ashlee Hannan, visited Kalgoorlie and hosted two days as part of the Regional community visits to inspire the next generation of players.

Perth Lynx held an All Girl's Clinic at the KBBA stadium with over 40 girls attending the clinic.

The 3 players visited 3 primary schools (St Mary's Primary School, North Kalgoorlie Primary School & O'Connor Primary School – where they run basketball clinics for boys and girls over the two day's.

Giants In School Program

For the third year running NBL 1 Men and Women players from the Goldfields Giants players visited local primary schools and run fundamental basketball sessions focusing on the 'fab 5', this year the program was run during Term 2.

All Goldfields schools were invited to register for this program, we had 8 local primary schools register to this program.

Schools are provided with up to 8 hours for the term for Basketball skills session, if they are liking extra sessions schools are encourage to register through the Sporting Schools program.

A huge thankyou to Shari Winter for support in organising this program.

Re- Development KBBA Basketball Stadium

The new stadium it getting very close to finalization of the project, which began about 7 years ago. The multimillion-dollar, state of the art facility is set to elevate basketball within the Goldfields Community, with now 5 indoor courts available for training and games.

Ian Crawford Building Unstoppable Resilience Workshop

Northern Star Academy players attended an Ian Crawford workshop – Building Unstoppable Resilience in Kalgoorlie in July 2024.

- 40 Athletes attended the session
- 6 Coaches & 6 parents attended the session

The Course is tailored for young Athletes striving for selection in regional, state and national teams. Athletes participated in number of demonstration, working on building resilience based **on the different situations they may be placed in while playing basketball.**

FDP – BWA Future Development Program

Basketball WA's Future Development Program aims to bring together the most talented Under 14 (Born 2011 & 2012) athletes in the state in a competitive environment.

The aim of the program is to expose, educate, and develop athlete's knowledge and understanding of concepts needed to be successful in BWA High Performance Programs.

FDP athletes attend camps throughout the year, which combine athletes from other regions across the state, and gives athletes the opportunity to compete in an environment not found anywhere else in Western Australia.

Camps will feature guest coaches and presenters from all areas of sport and athlete development, and are designed to prepare athletes for success in future BWA High Performance Programs by introducing them to areas like, Strength & Conditioning, Nutrition, and Psychology.

12 Goldfields players attended the FDP Camp which was held in April and July in 2024.

Regional – Pilbara

Nikki Hemmett – Regional Development Officer

In August 2024, Basketball WA (BWA) proudly welcomed Nikki Hemmett as the new Regional Development Officer for the Pilbara. This role had remained vacant for some time, leaving the region's basketball development efforts to be supported by an understaffed Participation and Regional Development team. Despite the challenges, this dedicated team remained focused on ensuring the Pilbara continued to receive vital support in player development and participation opportunities. Nikki's appointment marks a significant step in strengthening BWA's commitment to regional growth and fostering a stronger basketball community in the Pilbara, as well as across Western Australia. Her leadership and expertise will be pivotal in advancing the region's basketball initiatives, creating new pathways for players, coaches, and officials alike.

2024 Western Desert Tour – Ngurra Kujungka

In September, members from Basketball WA's Participation and Development team - Jessie Goodluck, Keely O'Brien, and Nikki Hemmett, embarked on a remarkable journey through the Western Desert. Roy Hill and Ngurra Kujungka partnered with Basketball WA to deliver basketball programs to remote communities in the Pilbara region.

This week-long initiative aimed not only to promote physical activity but also to foster community engagement and inclusion. Through a blend of school clinics and after-school programs, the tour brought basketball to local youth, offering them a positive outlet for self-expression and development.

The tour exemplified the power of sport as a tool for social development. It encouraged empowerment, inclusivity, and teamwork, highlighting the transformative effect of sports on remote communities.

Throughout the tour, Basketball WA led a series of drills, skill-building exercises, and friendly scrimmages to enhance participants' basketball skills and nurture a love for the game. In addition to these activities, Roy Hill graciously provided Healthway-approved meals at each clinic, promoting healthy eating habits and supporting overall well-being both on and off the court.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Roy Hill for their generous support and to Ngurra Kujungka for their invaluable partnership. This tour would not have been possible without their contributions, and we look forward to building on this success in future initiatives.

BWA Clinics and Courses

In September 2024, Basketball WA team delivered a series of impactful basketball development programs across the Pilbara, focusing on enhancing both player and coach skills.

BWA's Coach Education and Development Manager, Damian Barr, visited the region to lead the Club Coach Course, which was open to all coaches across the Pilbara. This course provided valuable insights and practical tools to help coaches elevate their skills and improve the quality of coaching in local clubs.

During the same visit, Damian joined Nikki Hemmett and Keely O'Brien to assist with delivering a high-performance training session for the Karratha Basketball Association, helping to further develop the region's competitive athletes.

Keely O'Brien also visited the Pilbara, where, together with Nikki Hemmett, they facilitated the Hot Shots program. This initiative introduced young players to the fundamentals of basketball in a fun and engaging way, laying the foundation for future growth and participation in the sport.

Together, these programs underscored BWA's commitment to fostering basketball development across both the player and coach levels throughout the Pilbara region.

Further extending the reach of BWA's development efforts, coaching clinics were also held in Port Hedland, in addition, high-performance sessions were hosted in Karratha, targeting the region's emerging athletes and offering them specialised training, designed to refine their basketball skills and prepare them for higher levels of competition.

These initiatives highlight BWA's commitment to not only developing players but also empowering coaches, ensuring the long-term growth and sustainability of basketball across the Pilbara region.

School Slam Series 2024

Basketball WA successfully wrapped up its highly anticipated School Slam Series in Hedland and Karratha, furthering its mission to promote basketball and foster healthy, active lifestyles across the Pilbara region. The event brought together primary school athletes from local schools to engage in a series of dynamic, round-robin basketball games, offering an exciting platform for both friendly competition and skill development.

The School Slam Series is designed to introduce children to basketball while helping them develop key life skills, including teamwork, leadership, and physical fitness. The competition is split into separate divisions for boys and girls, with modified rules to ensure inclusivity, accessibility, and enjoyment for participants of all abilities.

The School Slam Series also served as an opportunity for BWA to engage directly with local communities, highlighting the importance of active living and offering positive experiences for children who may not have regular access to structured sports programs.

This initiative is part of BWA's ongoing efforts to expand the reach of basketball in regional and remote areas of Western Australia. By creating accessible pathways for young players, BWA aims to grow the sport across the state and ensure long-term engagement with the game.

For many participants, the event has sparked a lasting passion for basketball, with some likely to continue their involvement through local clubs or higher-level competitions. Regardless of where their journey takes them, the young athletes have gained valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline, and the importance of staying active - lessons that will benefit them both on and off the court.

3x3 Tournament – Newman

Basketball WA Participation and Development team members, Sarah Munn, Keely O'Brien and Nikki Hemmett hosted a highly successful 3x3 Basketball Tournament in Newman, marking a major milestone in the region's basketball development.

The event was a standout, showcasing impressive local talent and receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from both participants and coaches. The tournament not only highlighted the athleticism of the Pilbara region but also provided a platform for local players to compete in a dynamic, fast-paced format of basketball.

The 3x3 tournament served as a key opportunity for the region's athletes to demonstrate their skills, while also fostering a sense of community and excitement around basketball. The event was well-received by all involved, with local players, coaches, and supporters expressing their enthusiasm for the competition and its ability to bring people together through sport.

The success of the tournament was made possible by strong collaboration between BWA and a number of local organisations. Key partnerships with the Shire of East Pilbara, Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Services, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) played a crucial role in delivering the event. These community-driven partnerships helped ensure the tournament's success and demonstrated the power of local collaboration in fostering sporting opportunities in regional areas.

The 3x3 Basketball Tournament not only provided a high-energy competition but also laid the groundwork for future initiatives aimed at further developing basketball in the Pilbara. The event was a true reflection of the region's untapped potential, and BWA is committed to continuing its work to support local communities and help cultivate the next generation of basketball talent across Western Australia.

Roebourne Night Lights

Basketball WA Regional Development Officer launched the Roebourne Night Lights initiative, a new and innovative program designed to bring basketball to the local community in Roebourne. Held on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM, the program offers free basketball sessions that are open to everyone in the community, regardless of age or skill level.

This initiative has seen strong participation across a wide age range, with attendees from as young as five years old to as mature as 55, including both male and female players. The flexibility of the sessions, which are tailored to suit all abilities, has helped attract a diverse group of participants, creating an inclusive environment where people of all backgrounds can come together to enjoy the sport.

The Roebourne Night Lights program aims not only to promote physical activity but also to foster a sense of community. By offering these sessions in the evening, BWA provides a safe, engaging space for local residents to connect, stay active, and improve their basketball skills. This initiative has quickly become a key part of the local sporting landscape, contributing to improved community health and well-being.

The program is also a valuable opportunity for local youth to build confidence, leadership, and teamwork through sport. By engaging the entire family unit, from young children to adults, Roebourne Night Lights helps strengthen community bonds and encourage long-term participation in basketball.

As the initiative grows, Basketball WA looks forward to expanding the Roebourne Night Lights program and exploring additional ways to engage with other communities within the Pilbara, ensuring that access to basketball remains inclusive and accessible for all. The program's success in its first year sets a strong foundation for its continued growth and impact in Roebourne and other regional areas.

SCC & SPP Training Session

In response to the growing demand for high-level training opportunities, Basketball WA Regional Development team added additional training sessions to the 2024 calendar for athletes trialling for the State Performance Program (SPP) and Southern Cross Challenge (SCC) teams. These early morning sessions were held before school, from 6:00 AM to 7:30 AM, ensuring that athletes could fit intensive training into their schedules without disrupting their academic commitments.

The sessions were specifically designed to prepare athletes for the rigorous selection process for both the SPP and SCC. Led by BWA coaches and guided by training programs developed by Darren Winterbine, these sessions focused on developing key skills, improving athletic conditioning, and refining tactical understanding. The structured and targeted training helped athletes build the physical and mental resilience needed for the highly competitive trials.

The primary goal of these early-morning sessions was to ensure that all participants were fully prepared and equipped with the necessary tools to perform at their best during the trial process. By providing this extra level of support, BWA reinforced its commitment to developing athletes who have the potential to progress through the state and national basketball pathways.

The sessions also fostered a sense of support, discipline and commitment among the athletes, as they demonstrated their dedication to their development by attending early morning training before school.

Looking ahead, BWA plans to continue offering these additional training sessions to support athletes in their pursuit of excellence, while ensuring that every participant is given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

2024 Summary

The 2024 year has been a transformative one for basketball in the Pilbara, marked by significant growth, new initiatives, and an unwavering commitment to community engagement. A pivotal moment came in August with the appointment of Nikki Hemmett as the new Regional Development Officer for the Pilbara. Her leadership has strengthened Basketball WA's (BWA) efforts in the region, ensuring that both player development and participation opportunities continue to thrive despite previous staffing challenges.

BWA's 2024 initiatives spanned a wide range of programs, from the highly successful Western Desert Tour in September, which brought basketball to remote communities in collaboration with Roy Hill and Ngurra Kujungka, to the School Slam Series in Hedland and Karratha, introducing young athletes to the sport in a fun and competitive environment. These efforts, along with additional clinics and high-performance sessions, reflect BWA's ongoing dedication to fostering basketball across the region.

The 3x3 Basketball Tournament in Newman was another standout achievement, showcasing local talent in an exciting new format. The tournament's success, backed by key community partnerships, highlighted the potential of Pilbara athletes and laid the foundation for future basketball initiatives in the area. Similarly, the Roebourne Night Lights program proved to be a game-changer, providing free, accessible basketball sessions for a diverse group of participants, from young children to adults, fostering both physical activity and community spirit.

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To support the region's rising talent, BWA added early-morning training sessions to prepare athletes for the State Performance Program (SPP) and Southern Cross Challenge (SCC) trials. These sessions allowed athletes to develop their skills and mental resilience in time for selection, ensuring that the Pilbara continues to produce competitive players for the state and national levels.

As we reflect on 2024, the Pilbara has seen significant progress in building a stronger basketball community. With the continued support of local organizations and the unwavering commitment of BWA's Regional Development team, we look forward to expanding our efforts and creating even more opportunities for the next generation of basketball stars across the Pilbara.

9 Association Development

Jeremy Jones – Association Development and Member Protection Manager

Association Development and Member Protection: A Year of Progress and Commitment

In 2024, the Association Development team made significant strides in reinforcing the core values of integrity, inclusivity, and excellence within our basketball community. With the leadership of Jeremy Jones, who commenced the role of Association Development and Member Protection Manager this year, we have placed a strong emphasis on Member Protection, with a particular focus on ensuring that safeguarding practices are central to the way we operate.

Endorsement of National Integrity Framework and Member Protection Policies

A key milestone this year was the successful endorsement and implementation of the National Integrity Framework and the Basketball Australia Member Protection and Child Safeguarding Policies. These policies provide a clear framework for maintaining a safe and secure environment for all those involved in basketball—from players and coaches to volunteers and spectators. The introduction of these policies has ensured that all Associations are now better equipped to uphold high standards of safety, creating a positive and inclusive culture across the community.

Healthway Fuel to Go & Play Partnership Expansion

The Healthway Fuel to Go & Play partnership has continued to grow in 2024. The focus has been on strengthening collaborations with Associations and clubs, with the aim of securing funding grants to support nutrition education and improve canteen facilities. By working closely with clubs and Associations, we are not only promoting healthier food choices but also helping to foster environments that prioritise the health and wellness of players and their families.

Focus on Member Protection, Child Safeguarding, and Association Governance

Looking ahead to 2025, the emphasis will be on rolling out child safeguarding training for all relevant personnel and volunteers, ensuring that best practices are embedded across the community in line with Sports Integrity Australia guidelines. This will help Associations create and maintain environments where young players can develop safely and confidently.

In addition to child safeguarding, we are also placing a strong focus on Member Protection and Association Governance in the coming year. We will be supporting Associations to enhance their governance structures, ensuring that policies and practices are in place to support a transparent, accountable, and well-run environment for all members. Strengthening governance will further contribute to the success of our Associations, ensuring they are compliant with all relevant policies and fostering a culture of trust and responsibility.

Looking Forward: Building a Safe, Inclusive Basketball Community

As we look ahead to 2025, our primary focus will continue to be strengthening our relationships with Associations and clubs, ensuring that they are equipped with the tools, resources, and support needed to implement Member Protection and Child Safeguarding practices effectively. Our ongoing commitment to Association Governance will ensure that our Associations remain strong, sustainable, and committed to the best interests of their

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members. By building on this year's achievements, we aim to create a basketball community that is not only safe and inclusive but also focused on long-term growth and development—both on and off the court.

10 Bendat Stadium

Justin Scarvaci – Stadium Manager

Bendat Basketball Centre was a pillar of fun and excitement in 2024 continuing to grow again with another year accommodating over half a million patrons. 2024 saw Bendat host 4 games of the inaugural Hoops Fest which brought an incredible atmosphere and array of talent to the venue along with proving to be a positive influence in promoting the WNBL.

Immediately following on from that was the commencement of the WNBL season with Bendat hosting 6 home games in the final 2 months of the calendar year.

The 2024 Country Championships were held in February and March along with the Wheelchair State Basketball League. The 2024 State Championships took place over 4 weeks in November and December and finished the day before the court refurbishment began.

The venue was buzzing with excitement during the school holidays with Redhage junior camps taking place bringing a lot of excited and happy children to the venue. We also had NoExcuses running team building camps for major corporations throughout the year.

2024 saw an increase in community usage (89.71% of court usage compared to 86.84% in 2023).

Overall the venue achieved a strong customer satisfaction rate of 92% with patrons feeling safe at the venue coming in at 97%.

Figures for 2024

- Patronage: 507,437 approx
- Hours: 23 572

Hours Use:

- Elite 9.44%
- Community 89.71%
- Commercial 1.08%

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11 Marketing

In 2024, Basketball WA underwent a rebranding process, transitioning from Black & Orange to Black & Gold to align with Western Australia's state colours. This rebrand encompassed various aspects, including uniforms for State teams, staff, and programs, as well as a refreshed digital presence.

Basketball WA's social media presence lead the National with impressive statistics and achieve large growth throughout the year:

Social Media 2024 Statistics

2023 (VS) 2024

Basketball WA

Facebook	559.2K (up 58.7%)	Visits 295.6K (up 72%)
Instagram	150.6K (up 167%)	Visits 86.3K (up 37.6%)

NBL1West

Facebook	622.3K (up 63.6%)	Visits 123.5K (up 47.1%)
Instagram	330.6K (up 323.7%)	Visits 97.5K (up 43.5%)

Perth Wheelcats

Facebook	23.7K (up 196.2%)	Visits 13.2K (up 548.8%)
Instagram	16.2K (up 235.9%)	Visits 2.8K (up 291.1%)

WABL

Facebook	227.9K (down 47.1%)	Visits 104.4K (up 31.6%)
Instagram	80.4K (up 220%)	Visits 31.2K (up 34.8%)