



BASKETBALL WA

WABL Association Standards, Expectations, and Expansion Guidelines

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WABL Associations – Standards, Expectations and Expansion Guidelines



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1 Overview

This document outlines the standards, compliance, and expansion guidelines for Associations currently participating in the **Western Australian Basketball League (WABL)** – including their on-going participation in other Basketball WA run competitions.

It complements the [WABL Application Procedure – New & Re-Applying Associations \(BWA-CMP-PRO-010\)](#) and must be read alongside relevant **BWA**-run competition **Rules of Operation**.

Basketball WA (BWA) expects **Affiliated Associations** to develop coaches, athletes, and Technical Officials; maintain quality facilities; support high-quality and growth of Domestic Competitions; and uphold strong governance practices.

These guidelines aim to maintain the integrity, consistency, and fairness as **WABL** expands. Importantly, they provide an opportunity for BWA to assist Affiliated Associations with corrective action (via support) if required, and/or further mechanisms if the guidelines are unable to be achieved.

2 Scope

Applicable to approved **WABL** Associations, however, does not include WABL Open Championship (or equivalent) associations that do not compete in other WABL age groups.

3 Aim

The core aims of these guidelines are to:

- **Preserve and Enhance Quality:** Ensure plans are in effect to maximise standards across gameplay, officiating, and administration.
- **Support Sustainable Growth:** Guide Associations in responsible team expansion.
- **Uphold Consistency:** Align expectations across all Associations.

4 Document Author and Approving Authority

The **BWA Chief Basketball Officer (CBO)** is the approver of this procedure. Suggestions for updates or improvements must be submitted to the **General Manager of Competitions (GMC)**, who will then forward them to the **CBO** for appropriate consideration.

5 Baseline Standards for Existing WABL Associations

All **WABL Associations** must meet the standards in the [WABL Application Procedure – New & Re-Applying Associations \(BWA-CMP-PRO-010\)](#), with additional expectations outlined in this document taking precedence where applicable.

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Associations must also comply with the relevant **Rules of Operation** for **WABL, Grading Tournament, Winter Classic, State Championships/Titles**, or any other relevant operational document as determined or directed by **BWA** from time-to-time.

Key Requirements:

- **Affiliation and Governance**
 - Remain a financial member (i.e., an **Affiliated Association**) of **Basketball WA (BWA)**.
 - Operate under a clear governance structure (e.g., Board, Constitution, audited financial statements).
 - Maintain processes fostering strong governance and organisational capability, including (but not limited to) regular board meetings, strategic plans, and risk management strategies.
 - Demonstration of a commitment to positive culture – including preventative mechanisms to enhance and further develop the behaviours of all members. Importantly, the development of processes that are able to respond in real time to behaviour that falls short of **BWA** and community expectations.
- **Domestic Competition Ratios**
 - Meet the **Domestic Team Ratio** requirements before adding or retaining **WABL** teams (see Appendix Two).
 - Ensure the **Domestic Competition** runs year-round (at least two seasons) if in the metropolitan area. If current (2025 or earlier) Associations are unable to fulfil this, they may apply for a waiver.
 - Provide requested annual data or confirm data via the member database to demonstrate ongoing **Domestic Competition** health.
 - For current Associations (2025) **BWA** may consider a waiver for not meeting current **Domestic Team Ratios** on an annual basis only. This would be contingent on clear evidence of intent to enhance participation in the appropriate age groups or genders, or when limitations are beyond Association control.
 - For absolute clarity, waivers will not be considered for **Domestic Team Ratios** when increasing above existing **WABL** team numbers.
- **Venue Quality and Availability**
 - Comply with the venue standards in the relevant **Rules of Operation**, including minimum venue requirements in **Appendix One**.
 - Provide appropriate court access for home games and ensure all venues remain safe, accessible and adequately staffed.
 - If current (2025 or earlier) associations are unable to fulfil all criteria of Appendix One, through means that are beyond their control, they may apply for a waiver to **BWA**.
- **Association Staffing Requirements**
 - **Game-Day Staff:** Competent Games Controllers/Venue Managers, First Aid staff, and appropriately trained scoreboard volunteers and shot clock operators.
 - **Referee Coordinator:** Oversees rostering, development, and welfare of referees.
 - **Dedicated WABL Staff:** At least one staff member or volunteer responsible for **WABL** operations (e.g., nominations, compliance, training schedules, communication).
 - *Note: By 2027, WABL Associations are expected to have a paid (part-time or full-time) representative program administrator.*

- **Coach, Athlete, and Official Development**
 - **Coaches:**
 - Must meet minimum accreditation requirements in the relevant BWA-run competition **Rules of Operation**, with a demonstrated (and regularly reviewed) coach development plan or framework. This would include staffing plans for coach development.
 - In the absence of a plan, an existing association must demonstrate clear steps and progress being taken to progress and action one.
 - **Athlete Pathways:**
 - Must demonstrate a clear, ongoing athlete development plan, with evidence of implementation and regular review.
 - In the absence of a plan, an existing association must demonstrate clear steps and progress being taken to progress and action one.
 - **Technical Officials:**
 - Must meet the **minimum accreditation requirements and minimum number of registered officials** (overviewed in the **Rules of Operation**) with a demonstrated referee (and referee coaches) and technical officials (score table and statistician) development plan or framework. This includes evidence of plan implementation and regular review. This would include staffing plans for referee and technical official development.
 - In the absence of a plan, an existing association must demonstrate clear steps and progress being taken to progress and action one.
- **Financial and Administrative Compliance**
 - Pay all fees on time and meet administrative deadlines.
 - Attend relevant BWA-run competition meetings.

6 Demonstrating Current Success and Ongoing Eligibility

6.1. Continuous Performance Assessment (CPA)

Associations must uphold the baseline standards in Section 5 (and all relevant **Rules of Operation**) to remain eligible for ongoing **WABL** participation. **Basketball WA (BWA)** will evaluate each Association's performance annually, focusing on:

- Affiliation and Governance
- **Domestic Team Ratios & Domestic Competition Health (Appendix Two)**
- Venue Compliance
- Staffing
- Development Pathways
- Financial and Administrative Compliance

The CPA will be due for completion by the end of the WABL finals in September each year. The link to the CPA form will open in July of each year, and clubs may complete it from that stage onwards.

The link can be found [HERE](#).

6.2. Method of Assessment

- **Completion of Association Self-Evaluation:** Completed via the *WABL Association CPA Form (See Appendix Three)* – on an annual basis.
- **Data and Documentation:** Associations may be asked to submit updated statistics or documentation on the *WABL Association CPA Form (See Appendix Three)*.
- **Observations and Feedback:** **BWA** may conduct on-site venue visits, observe game-day operations, and collect feedback from referees, coaches, staff, BWA advisory groups or other stakeholders to provide breadth to any assessment.
- **Compliance Reviews** (Section 7): If standards are at risk.

BWA will notify Associations in writing if they risk falling below the required standards, outlining necessary improvements or corrective actions.

7 Compliance Review

- Triggered if CPA falls below expectations or concerns arise.
- BWA may require corrective actions, of which BWA will provide assistance and support to the club before considering further action.
- Sanctions for non-compliance include reduced team numbers, suspension, or revocation of participation.
- Reviews are conducted at **BWA's** discretion, in a manner determined by **BWA**, with formal notice provided.
- If any compliance review results in consideration of total team numbers being reduced, or ultimately an Association's overall participation, the **CBO** will collaborate directly with the **BWA CEO** to inform next steps in the process.

As part of any CPA or Compliance Review, BWA is committed to playing its part in assisting with the lift in minimum standards across the state. BWA has a role to play in providing support to Associations, and acknowledges that at the time of writing (June 2025), it must also continue to invest in its own capability to provide support.

8 Controlled Expansion and Increasing Existing Number of Teams

8.1. Rationale for Controlled Expansion

Controlled Expansion is a term used to consider nomination of more teams than what is currently the maximum allowable as described in the applicable **Rules of Operation for State Championships/Titles** and **WABL Grading/Season**

Expansion must be measured and sustainable. Junior basketball participation has grown approximately 35% since 2020 in the metropolitan area, with **WABL** participation plateauing at approximately 10-12% of total **WABL** Perth/Peel/South-West junior members.

With further junior membership growth beyond 2025 expected with establishment of new facilities, and many Associations nearing team nomination capacity, this percentage may decrease over the coming years.

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Therefore, it is important to ensure representative basketball grows with the sport, to ensure accessibility and development can occur at a similar proportion.

8.2. Eligibility for Controlled Expansion

8.2.1. Current Team Nomination Maximum

As per the appropriate **Rules of Operation**.

8.2.2. Future Expansion Pathway

2025 (State Championships/Titles): Up to six (6) U11 teams (per gender).

2026 (WABL): Eligible for five (5) U12 teams if previously entered six (6) U11 teams at **State Championships/Titles**.

2026 (State Championships/Titles): Up to six (6) U13 teams (per gender), if five (5) U12 **WABL** teams were entered in 2026.

2027 (WABL): Eligible for five (5) U14 teams if previously entered six (6) U13 teams at **State Championships/Titles**.

Conditions:

- Associations must have the maximum allowable number of teams in U12-U16 age groups (per gender) from the previous WABL season to nominate teams beyond the 8.2.1 maximum.
- Associations may only consider U13 (2026) and U14 (2027) expansion, if they have first fulfilled the U11 expansion number first.
- Approval is contingent on venue/referee capacity, and overall compliance, as determined by **BWA**.
- **BWA** recognises some Associations currently enter four teams of 10 athletes into each age group (per gender) for **State Championships/Titles** as selected WABL teams. These associations with a history of using **State Championships/Titles** this way may apply directly to **BWA** for consideration of a fifth WABL/State Championships/Titles team for that gender/age group in 2025/2026, provided all other conditions are met.
- **BWA** reserves the right to refuse expansions based on state-wide venue availability or other considerations as determined by **BWA** from time-to-time.

8.2.3. Initial Consultation

Associations likely to add teams must advise the **Head of Junior Competitions** in writing at least two (2) months before the relevant **State Championships/Titles** date (approx. mid-September) **and** prior to 31 December of the calendar year before the **WABL Grading Tournament** – for **WABL** teams.

For absolute clarity, this initial consultation relates to the 'intent' of increasing total team numbers, which will trigger the appropriate checks to ensure associations continue to meet eligibility

requirements. BWA acknowledges final confirmation is often dependent on trial numbers at a later stage.

BWA acknowledges it will consider late requests (beyond mid-September, but no later than mid-October), from Associations who may demonstrate **Domestic Team Ratio** compliance for addition of teams by the summer season (if applicable) of the current year.

8.2.4. Evidence Submission

Any Associations considering future expansion must submit evidence (which may be via the CPA if timely) satisfying each of the points below:

- **Domestic Ratio Compliance (Appendix Two).**
- **Sufficient Coaching and Referee Resources:** Show sufficient accredited coaches and officials for new teams. This includes fulfilling minimum referee requirements – as specified in the appropriate **Rules of Operation**.
- **Venue Availability and Compliance (Appendix One).**

8.2.5. Assessment by Basketball WA

BWA reviews all requests based on domestic competition health, off-court structures, and broader state needs. Where demand exceeds capacity, preference goes to the most compliant associations and considers 8.1.

BWA may use any **Compliance Review** or **Continuous Performance Assessment** recently undertaken for assessment of expansion, and may request additional evidence not explicitly listed if appropriate.

8.2.6. Approval, Conditional Approval, or Refusal

Where capacity allows, **BWA** may grant approval (with or without conditions).

If constraints (venue or officiating) prevent additional teams, **BWA** will notify Associations as soon as practical.

8.3. Increasing Number of Nominations

For Associations to increase the number of nominations per gender per age group up to or below the existing maximum allowable under 8.2.1, they will be required to demonstrate via their **Continuous Performance Assessment** they are able to sustain and adequately service and develop the increased number of teams and staffing / volunteer / official requirements that come with it.

BWA will consider **Continuous Performance Assessment(s)** prior to approving nominations with an increase in previous team numbers.

NOTE: Associations must seek approval before selecting expanded teams.

9 Terms and Conditions

- **Adherence to Governing Rules**
 - These Guidelines must be read in alongside the **WABL Application Procedure – New & Re-Applying Associations** and relevant **BWA-run** competition **Rules of Operation**. In cases of any conflict between these documents, a determination will be made by **BWA's** Chief Executive Officer (or delegate).
- **Accuracy of Information**
 - Associations are responsible for providing accurate documentation. Misrepresentations may lead to sanction, suspension, or revocation of expansion privileges.
- **No Guarantee of Expansion**
 - Submitting an expression of interest or application to add teams does not guarantee approval. **BWA** retains absolute discretion to accept or reject requests for expansion.
- **Financial Standing**
 - **Associations** must be fully financial with **BWA** to be considered for expansions or continued membership for **WABL** and **BWA-run** competitions.
 - For clarity, fully financial means the Association is within trading terms, or up to date with repayments of a payment plan on all financial invoices with **BWA** as of June 30 each year. This includes not missing any deadlines across the year.
- **Dispute Resolution**
 - Any disputes arising under these Guidelines shall be referred to **BWA's** Association Development Manager. If the dispute relates to conflict between **BWA** Rules, Policy, Procedure, Guidelines or other, this will first be referred to **BWA's** Chief Basketball Officer (or delegate) for resolution.
- **Revocation of Participation**
 - **BWA** may revoke or restrict an Association's participation if significant or repeated breaches occur.
 - For clarity, a significant breach includes repeated non-compliance with requests for corrective action, or continued lack of evidence of a desire for appropriate change as requested by **BWA**.

10 Glossary of Terms

“Affiliated Association” or “Association”

A basketball association meeting membership and constitutional requirements set by **Basketball WA (BWA)**. Only **Affiliated Associations** may enter **WABL**.

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“Basketball WA (BWA)”

The governing body for basketball in Western Australia, overseeing competitions including **WABL**, **WABL Grading**, the **Winter Classic**, and **State Championships/Titles**.

“Compliance Review”

A review by **Basketball WA (BWA)** if an Association’s **Continuous Performance Assessment (CPA)** is below expectations or if other concerns arise.

“Continuous Performance Assessment”

An annual assessment by **Basketball WA (BWA)** to evaluate adherence to these Guidelines and relevant **Rules of Operation**.

“Domestic Competition”

A local, Association-managed basketball competition, forming the foundation of player, volunteer and coaching pathways.

“Domestic Team Ratio”

A minimum number of domestic teams (per age group/gender) required to enter representative teams in **WABL** (see Appendix Two).

“Financial Standing”

An Association’s status regarding meeting all financial obligations to **Basketball WA (BWA)**.

“Rules of Operation”

Official **Basketball WA (BWA)** documents outlining operational rules for **WABL** and other **BWA-run** competitions.

“State Championships/Titles”

A **BWA-sanctioned** tournament for junior (and sometimes senior) teams across Western Australia to compete for championship honours.

“Venue Availability”

The ability to secure a facility that meets **WABL** standards (timeslots, capacity, safety) to host home games.

“WABL (Western Australian Basketball League)”

Western Australia’s premier representative basketball competition, administered by **Basketball WA (BWA)**.

“WABL Application Procedure – New & Re-Applying Associations (BWA-CMP-PRO-010)”

A procedural document guiding how new or returning Associations enter **WABL**, detailing mandatory requirements and processes.

11 Appendix One – Minimum Venue Expectations

The information below is taken directly from the **WABL Application Procedure – New & Re-Applying Associations (BWA-CMP-PRO-010)**. These requirements are also reflected in the relevant Rules of Operation.

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

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

12 Appendix Two – Domestic Team Ratio Requirements

(Extracted from the **WABL Application Procedure – New & Re-Applying Associations (BWA-CMP-PRO-010)** and reflected in relevant **Rules of Operation**.)

NOTE: Ratios will be determined by the larger of the two domestic competitions an association runs on an annual basis (in the 12 months up until September 1 of each year).

ALL WABL BOYS AGE GROUPS & U14 GIRLS

- Minimum of six (6) junior domestic teams per gender/age group to register one (1) WABL team in the same category.
- Each additional four (4) domestic teams allow for an extra WABL team.
- Mixed domestic teams count as one (1) team for every seven (7) athletes of that gender.

WABL GIRLS U12, U16 & U18

- Minimum of six (6) junior domestic teams per gender/age group to register one (1) WABL team.
- Each additional four (4) domestic teams allow for an extra WABL team.
- In U12 WABL, domestic teams are counted collectively from U8-U12 girls.
- In U16 & U18 WABL, teams are counted from all domestic competitions aged U16 up until (but not including) senior age groups.
- Mixed domestic teams count as one (1) team for every seven (7) athletes of that gender.

13 Appendix Three – WABL Association CPA Form

Associations should use this form (or any future updated version) to submit annual data and self-evaluate compliance. **The link to the form is below.**

[CLICK HERE](#)