

## Basketball WA Confirms Coaches for Southern Cross Challenge Teams

Basketball WA is pleased to announce the appointed coaches who will lead Western Australia's Southern Cross Challenge (SCC) teams for the 2025–26 campaign.

The SCC is a key step in WA's Performance and Pathways system, providing young athletes with the opportunity to compete nationally while preparing for future state and national representation. The tournament also serves as a critical platform for the development of WA coaches, with this year's appointments reflecting a strong mix of proven expertise and emerging talent.

Among the group are coaches with Paralympic and Australian Boomers program experience, alongside upcoming leaders from across the state's associations who are progressing through our pathway programs.

### Pathway Preparation – Athlete & Coach Development

- **October 11–12, 2025 – Super Camp:** Over 200 athletes from recent Metro and Country trials will attend two days of intensive training and preparation.
- **October 31 – November 2, 2025 – Performance Carnival:** Athletes will compete at Bendat Basketball Centre. This event will form the basis of athlete selections for WA's SCC teams.
- **January 16–19, 2026 – SCC Tournament (Victoria):** WA has re-introduced two travelling teams per gender, per age group, ensuring a greater number of athletes, coaches, and support staff are exposed to high-level national competition. This expanded structure strengthens WA's high-performance culture by embedding the habits and standards that prepare athletes and coaches for future national championships.

Basketball WA is also in the planning stages of its Coach Development Framework, designed to shape how coaches are supported and developed both now and across the next 3–4 years. This framework will provide clearer structure, professional standards, and long-term direction for coaching in WA, ensuring more individuals are ready to step into state and national team environments.

These announcements form part of Basketball WA's broader Performance & Pathways Strategy, which is set to be launched publicly in the final quarter of 2025. The strategy will outline the vision and framework to guide athlete and coach development through to 2028 (and beyond).

Basketball WA congratulates all successful coaches and thanks those who contributed to the appointment process.

#### Basketball WA Partners



The full list of coaches is attached below:

U14 SCC - BOYS		
Darren	Blyth	HEAD COACH
Tony	Ronaldson	HEAD COACH
Anthony	Bertelli	TRAVELLING ASSISTANT
Jackson	Mews	TRAVELLING ASSISTANT
U14 SCC - GIRLS		
Melissa	Webb	HEAD COACH
Jessica	Van Schie	HEAD COACH
Skylar	Forbes	TRAVELLING ASSISTANT
Rochelle	Piavaninni	TRAVELLING ASSISTANT
U15 SCC - BOYS		
Brendan	Gaunson	HEAD COACH
Declan	Kinsella	HEAD COACH
Boston	Fitch	TRAVELLING ASSISTANT
Rohan	Stokes	TRAVELLING ASSISTANT
U15 SCC - GIRLS		
Jennifer	Hess	HEAD COACH
Jacqueline	Tibbits	HEAD COACH
Aric	Forman	TRAVELLING ASSISTANT
Carolyn	Ward	TRAVELLING ASSISTANT
SCC WHEELCHAIR		
Shaun	Norris	HEAD COACH
Sarah	Vinci	TRAVELLING ASSISTANT

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