

# Media Release

21 November 2025



## Basketball WA announces two new Board-appointed members to the NBL1 West Commission

Basketball WA is pleased to announce the appointment of Kirsty Whitfield (née Pitcher) and Kyle Armour as the two new Board-appointed members to the NBL1 West Commission.

Both bring extensive leadership, governance, and on-court experience to support the continued growth and integrity of Western Australia's premier basketball competition.

Kirsty Whitfield brings more than 11 years of leadership experience in the disability and health sector, with a proven background in governance, policy, budgeting, and team management.

A former elite athlete and championship-winning captain with the Cockburn Cougars, Kirsty's experience across mentoring, coaching, and community engagement highlights her strong commitment to inclusivity and leadership.

Her combination of professional expertise and lived basketball experience provides valuable insight to the Commission, while maintaining an independent position within the sport.

Kyle Armour offers over 12 years of corporate experience in business development, account management, and strategic planning, having held senior roles with Nokia, Optus, and Soprano.

A recently retired player after 19 years in the NBL1 West/SBL competition, Kyle's career has spanned multiple clubs, national representation, and professional contracts with the Perth Wildcats and Sydney Kings.

His leadership as a captain, mentor, and community contributor, combined with strong commercial acumen, brings a unique perspective to the Commission's work.

Basketball WA Chief Basketball Officer and Chief NBL1 West Commissioner **Tyrone Thwaites** said the appointments reflected the organisation's commitment to strong governance and diverse expertise.

*"Kirsty and Kyle's appointments strengthen the independence, expertise, and connection of the Commission,"* Thwaites said.

*"Both bring deep basketball experience, but also the leadership and governance insight needed to help us continue building a professional and sustainable competition for players, clubs, officials, and the community alike."*

*"We're excited for the role they'll play in the next phase of NBL1 West's growth."*

With these appointments, the NBL1 West Commission now comprises Chief Commissioner Tyrone Thwaites, Kelly Exeter, Paula Purcher, Kirsty Whitfield, and Kyle Armour.

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Basketball WA Board Chair Dr Kyle Hoath said the strengthened composition of the Commission ensures a strong foundation for the league's future.

*"The NBL1 West Commission plays an essential role in guiding the strategic and operational direction of our premier state-league competition,"* Hoath said.

*"We're delighted to welcome Kirsty and Kyle, whose experience both within and beyond basketball will add significant depth to the Commission's skillset and its ability to represent all parts of our basketball community."*

*"We also want to again thank outgoing commissioners Andy Stewart and Karl Hombergen, who have both been incredibly impactful members in their time as commissioners."*

The updated Commission reflects a balanced blend of metro and regional voices, as well as administrative, player, and coaching experience – strengthening the League's capacity to deliver growth, competitive balance, and continued alignment with national priorities.

Following approval by the Basketball WA Board, Commission terms for Board-appointed positions have now been extended to two years (previously one) to ensure continuity and momentum.

The updated Terms of Reference are available at [basketballwa.asn.au](https://basketballwa.asn.au).

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