**An overview of Opal League – Winter 2017**

**Purpose:**

In an attempt to address the participation numbers, standard and development issues of players at the Under 16 and Under 18 age groups in the girls domestic competitions.

To provide a higher level of domestic basketball to cater for existing and new representative players in the region.

With a large number of existing Storm representative players of the Under 18 and Under 16 age group (specifically girls) not participating in the domestic competition, it is apparent that we need to do something to encourage their involvement, and provide a valuable competition which will be mutually beneficial to players and the association.

**Structure:**

Domestic competition run by BPBA. Does not carry the Storm (Rep Program) name.

Individual Players register to Opal League competition (not team based).

Player Draft system to select teams (minimum four teams. i.e minimum 28 players).

ALL Representative players in Under 16 Girls and Under 18 Girls are expected to play.

An invitation would be extended to Under 14 (1) players also.

Players from the domestic competition (non-rep players) would be invited to participate based on skill and interest level (with no expectation on player to join rep program).

Other players may apply, including from other associations. Subject to player/team numbers.

Any players not placed in an Opal League team, would play in the Under 17 Girls domestic competition (previously YG2).

All players required to pay standard BPBA domestic competition costs, including player registration (if due for Winter season) and weekly games fees ($8.00 per game).

Playing singlets to be provided to players, and remain the property of BPBA.

Players to provide own, navy basketball shorts.

Coaches to be sourced by BPBA (likely from within Storm program). Expressions of Interest are being sought now.

Domestic Player Points System does not apply.

Player Draft carried out by office staff with input from Storm Coaches if/as needed.

All games played on Monday evening at Drysdale.

Game will be played at 7.30pm, if team numbers warrant additional games, this may include 6.40pm or 8.20pm time slots also.

**Process:**

Nominations open Monday 27th February. Close Friday 17th March.

Players to nominate via online registration form.

Player Draft to be completed on Thursday 30th March.

Announcement of Teams on Monday 10th April

First Game Winter Season – Monday 24th April

**Benefits:**

Increased participation of ALL Storm players in domestic competition.

High level competition may encourage non-locals to be involved, with room for expansion on Monday evening.

Opportunities for non-rep players to be coached and challenged at higher level.

Sponsorship of competition.

Higher standard of games for junior referee development (with view to developing potential VJBL referees).

Opportunities for coaching development (targeting coaches for potential rep involvement).

Could provide avenue to introduce same or similar competitions to other age groups.