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The Domestic By-Law change recommendations have been collectively developed and debated between the Association and all seven (7) clubs via what has pleasingly been a very thorough and consultative process.

The Domestic By-Laws have been specifically reviewed and from the responses, we have considered themes, priorities and what is operationally feasible, and provide the below recommendations -

1. TWO (2) YEAR AGE BANDS –

- 1.1. Changing the age bands from 1 year to 2 years (as per the girls' competitions) to ensure a greater number of "talented" players (including many WABL) to be available to play in A grade competition while also increasing the number of teams in each grade offering greater variety in teams to play against each other and reducing the impact of bye rounds.

2. PLAYING UP – The rare exception, not the rule

- 2.1. All players are to be in their correct age groups this Winter season – and further supported by the introduction of 2-year age bands from the Winter 2017 season onwards.
- 2.2. There will be no playing up an age group without exceptional circumstances, submitted via club application and approved by Association committee – this will be a very rare occurrence for rare talent.
- 2.3. A child is considered as 'playing up' for the rest of their involvement (don't need to continually reapply), but they can request to come back to their normal age group, effective the following season.
- 2.4. *WBA Management retains discretion over player movement within the domestic competition.*

3. WABL PLAYER POINTS – Fostering a more even and equitable domestic competition

- 3.1. Maintain a WABL Player points allocation for each junior domestic season (the Winter season to be considered the first season after WABL team selections).
- 3.2. Revised the points allocation to;
Championship (4pts)
All other Divisions (2pts)
- 3.3. The maximum points allowable per team – 12pts:
- 3.4. Max of 3 "Championship" level players in any one team (regardless of points).
- 3.5. WABL "CHAMPIONSHIP" Players ONLY to play in A Grade. WABL players CANNOT play in a grade lower than "B GRADE"
- 3.6. Any non-Wolves WABL players (e.g. Stirling or Perry Lakes) will incur the same allocation as Wolves players (i.e. Champ [4pts], D2/3 [2pts]).



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4. **TEAM UPGRADING / DOWNGRADING PROVISION**– SUPER TEAMS: How do we mitigate the complete ‘floggings’ from becoming a regular occurrence.

Combined with the three points above:

4.1. It is highly recommended that each club undertakes internal grading (try-outs, or talent assessment) – so that team composition and ‘talent spread’ is achieved;

4.2. It is strongly encouraged that each club nominates at least one A-Grade team in each division, and establishes a culture of achieving this each season;

4.3. Re-grading proved to be a contentious issue previously, and created a lot of angst across the membership and therefore will only be considered in the rarest of circumstances and using the following process:

4.3.1. Clubs to ENSURE consultation undertaken with coaches BEFORE attending Registrars’ meeting;

4.3.2. Priority will be given to changes where:

4.3.2.1. A team wishing to move down a grade has a corresponding team wishing to move up a grade;

4.3.2.2. There is no impact on Court space allocation;

4.3.2.3. Teams that made the Grand Final of the same age group the prior season will NOT be allowed to move down.

4.4. Clubs must include clause in registration form advising parents that there may be changes in this period at the request of the clubs;

4.5. The WBA Management Committee will retain full discretion to make changes in competitions, including at Registrar’s Meeting to ensure sufficient teams in each age division (Min of 4) / or sufficient court space to accommodate competition structure;

4.6. **NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE AFTER THE 5TH PLAYING DATE.**

5. **PLAYER UPGRADING / DOWNGRADING PROVISION**

5.1. Clubs may choose to upgrade / downgrade a Player from within their club, to another division within the same age group, after the commencement of the relevant season, provided that:

5.1.1. Clubs notify the WBA and other Domestic Club Registrars of the move a minimum of 72 hours before the next match;

5.1.2. The move must NOT cause a breach of any other WBA By law (e.g. WABL player rules);

5.1.3. Where a Player is being **UPGRADED**, this can occur at any point during the season, however, from that point on, that Player may only play in that higher division for the rest of the season. Finals eligibility criteria still applies (i.e. min number of games required to have been played within the higher-grade competition during the season);

5.1.3.1. **INJURY EXCEPTION:** Where a player suffers a long term injury but is able to return during the same season, a club may upgrade a player for the period of the injury, and that player may be able to return to their original team. This player will also be finals eligible in the lower grade that they return to.



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5.1.4. Where a Player is to be **DOWNGRADED**, this may only occur within the first four (4) weeks of the season, however, from the 5th week on, that Player must only play in that lower division for the rest of the season.

5.1.5. **FORFEIT RULES EXCEPTION – Applies to the above points in exceptional circumstances only - See clause 6 below;**

5.1.6. All players are only allowed to play **one game per weekend**.

5.3. Mid-season clearances between clubs will **NOT** be allowed after the 5th Game. Internal movement between teams is allowable subject to adherence to other WBA by laws;

5.4. The WBA Management Committee will retain full discretion as to whether to allow any player movement to proceed.

5.5. A Player who plays in a lower division will cause any premiership points that Team has acquired whilst the Player is playing to be forfeited.

6. **FORFEIT RULES** – How do we absolutely prevent forfeits where possible.

6.1. Where a team is likely to forfeit a regular season match, **one (1) temporary replacement player** may play for this team as a **“once off”** subject to:

6.2.1. It PREVENTS A FORFEIT (ie team can only have a maximum of 5 players TOTAL including the replacement player);

6.2.2. The club must inform the Association of any one-off transfers 24 hours prior to the match taking place;

6.2.3. The player must play for the SAME club and in the SAME age group;

6.2.4. “A” Grade players can play in lower divisions **and vice versa** – SUBJECT TO:

6.2.4.1. The relevant team not exceeding 5 players TOTAL including the replacement player;

6.2.4.2. The player cannot be a WABL Championship player;

6.2.4.3. No WABL players in a grade lower than B Grade;

6.2.4.4. The team cannot exceed the WABL Points limit.

6.2.5. The replacement player MUST return to their original team for the following fixture;

6.2.6. All players are only allowed to play one game per weekend.

6.2.7. Players found to have played for two separate teams on the same weekend will result in the second team forfeiting the match.

6.2.8. THIS POLICY DOES NOT APPLY TO FINALS MATCHES.

6.3. This policy is only to be enforced where there is a forfeit likely to result. If team has sufficient players, then any player found playing from another team will result in a penalty to the relevant team.

6.4. Clubs must re allocate the player to the relevant team via Sporting Pulse prior to the fixtured match (min 24 hours). Club must ensure the return of player to original team via Sporting Pulse for following fixture. **PLAYERS NOT REGISTERED ON SPORTING PULSE CANNOT PLAY**. Exceptions applicable subject to the following:



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6.4.1. Club are responsible for the control of their own memberships. If a club chooses to add a player to their membership, then that is their right as is how much they set their fees at (including waiving any fees if they choose). It is an Association requirement that ALL PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED, but under the existing fee model, it is the clubs' responsibility to ensure that their members are financial;

(Caveat – Under new BWA Player Affiliation fee, ALL players must be financial with BWA to participate in any WBA competition)*

6.4.2. Players may be added to club memberships either via the pre registration process (which is strongly our preference) or via the lap tops on match days – HOWEVER THIS IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

6.4.2.1. ONLY IN RARE CIRCUMSTANCES - Games Managers ONLY may “add” players on game day (**team manager / coaches / parent scorers are NOT to add players on to the lap tops**);

(Caveat – Under new BWA Player Affiliation fee, ALL players must register using the BWA player registration form to participate in any WBA competition)*

6.4.2.2. Players must not breach any other WBA by law such as:

6.4.2.2.1. play in more than one match in our domestic competition on any given weekend;

6.4.2.2.2. Must not cause team to exceed WABL points limit or be a WABL Championship player playing in a grade lower than “A” Grade;

6.5. Once players are added to a team on the laptop, they are then considered members of that club (hence the requirement for club representatives to approve any additions to teams via this method).

6.6. Players are then subject to the usual rules of the WBA, such as uniform requirements etc. If the player is not in clothing that is suitable for playing basketball or considered a danger to others (ie dress shoes / bare feet; shorts with pockets; jewellery etc), then they should not be allowed to participate by the GM on duty. If clothing deemed safe and appropriate, then uniform penalty applies.

7. BWA State Championships / WABL Grading Tournament - Forfeit Policy –

7.1. Where possible, the WBA will make every attempt to reschedule fixtures to prevent forfeits;

7.2. Teams that lose WABL players for State Championships and State wide events (ie WABL Grading) will be able to declare a forfeit and still receive equal treatment under the following circumstances:

7.1.1. The Domestic Team List must show that sufficient WABL players from that team are competing in events as stated above that will cause a forfeit (ie a team with 7 players that loses 3 players to State Champs / WABL will be eligible. A team with 8 players that loses 2 players to State Champs / WABL is NOT eligible);

7.3. ALL REQUESTS FOR FORFEITS UNDER THIS PROPOSAL MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA THE DOMESTIC CLUB (NOT DIRECTLY FROM THE INDIVIDUAL TEAM)



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8. Miscellaneous Competition Clauses:

8.1. Uniform by law - to allow for undergarments (excluding T-Shirts) to be the following colours:

- i) Skin coloured;
- ii) White;
- iii) Black;
- iv) Predominant colour of team uniform.

All colours other than listed to remain prohibited

(* Remove the provision that – “ALL players must have the same colour as per the above”.)

8.2. Uniform by law - to allow for T-shirts to be worn under the playing uniform to be the following colours:

- i) Predominant (or minor) colour of team uniform;
- ii) White;
- iii) Black.

All colours other than listed to remain prohibited

ALL players must have the same colour as per the above in the Junior Domestic Competition

We provide a strong and genuine acknowledgement that updating the laws of the game and their interpretation can often be a highly-charged and emotive issue. We are making decisions to position the entire Association and the integrity of our competition(s) in the best possible way for future consistency, growth and development.

The following four (4) guiding principles were established and used to support these by-laws:

- (1) How can WE improve to ensure that the Wanneroo Basketball Association is the *destination of choice* for young Basketballers?
- (2) Let's assess By-law changes based upon their merit for enabling the growth and development of OUR Association, opposed to individual circumstances or grievances
- (3) Let's work collaboratively to provide benefits for the whole of OUR membership and obtain a collective sense of *pride* and *achievement* by establishing improved by-laws
- (4) For us to grow and improve, WE must look to the future and adhere to any newly agreed or existing By-Laws to ensure;
 - A) the integrity of competition; and
 - B) consistency and fairness.