

**The winner is basketball with the three-year merger of specific senior teams called the Razzle-Cannons.**

The Essington Cannons and Razzle Storm are long term basketball Clubs who both have primary affiliated teams which are part of the Darwin Basketball Association (DBA). For the next three seasons the Clubs have agreed to a unique collaborative arrangement to form one team at the most senior levels of the competition and be known as the Razzle-Cannons. Like 2021, the Clubs would be challenged and struggle again this year to individually form teams for the men's and women's league and the men's and women's division 1 competitions; however, working collaboratively, the Razzle-Cannons will be looking to field teams in the following competitions for the 2022 – 2024 seasons:

- Women's League and Women's Division 1
- Men's League and Men's Division 1

The Clubs will continue to operate separately and work within their existing structures, having separate constitutions, committees, teams, and officials at all other levels. Both Club Committees have worked on this proposal during the holiday season, with the final approvals from DBA and the respective Club Committees reaching an agreement. The governance of the arrangement will continue to be put into place during the period January-March. The Razzle-Cannons have also approached some potential sponsors with a well-regarded company seeking final approvals to be the inaugural platinum sponsor for the next 3 years.

This is a unique opportunity for players and coaches to be part of a new team whilst enjoying the support of well-established and enduring clubs in the competition. Given COVID and the recent challenges, the Razzle-Cannons will focus on providing opportunities for local players and going through a re-build with a collaborative and inclusive club culture.

The Clubs are now looking for expressions of interest and taking registrations for the four teams. Registrations will be as follows:

- Player registers and pays for the BNT fee.
- The relevant Club will cover the Club registration fee and DBA registration fee.
- Uniforms will be discussed with players with the costs being minimal.
- Additional incentives may be available and are open for discussion.

Following are comments from each of the respective Chairperson of each Club:

Chris Smith, Chairperson of Razzle Storm: "This is a good opportunity for emerging players of both Clubs to play together, improve their skills and gain experience at a higher level."

Roland Houareau, Chairperson of Essington Cannons: "This is an exciting year for us and Darwin basketball, it's the Razzle-Cannons inaugural year and the NT NBL1 teams will also make their debut".

As everybody will appreciate, the committees have a lot to work through over the coming months; however, with the attitude and spirit of both Clubs, we have every chance for a good debut season. We encourage early registrations for players to secure their positions on the teams and preferred numbers.

Please see the following page for frequently asked questions. Should you have any other questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact:

Roland Houareau  
Chairperson Essington Cannons  
Email: [basketball.ebc@outlook.com](mailto:basketball.ebc@outlook.com)

and/or

Chris Smith  
Chairperson Razzle Storm  
Email: [razzleballclub@gmail.com](mailto:razzleballclub@gmail.com)

Kind regards,

The Essington Cannons Basketball Club Inc &  
Razzle Storm Basketball Club Committees

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q1. I played for Razzle Storm Division 1 previously, and I want to register for Razzle-Cannons, what do I do?**

You simply register again and connect to Razzle Storm and the Club will work with you from there. The same applies with players from Essington Cannons.

### **Q2. Does this mean both Clubs will have representation in the Men's League and Women's League?**

Yes. This is our intention and early indicators point to this will be the case.

### **Q3. I really want to have the number I usually wear, is this possible with the merger arrangement?**

Yes, it's possible; however, we do encourage players to register quickly and early so we can accommodate people wherever possible.

### **Q4. I'm in support of this arrangement but why do the Clubs need to join together at this level?**

Both Clubs have struggled to field the numbers in previous years and to manage all teams. The decision to merge was made instead of being unable to field senior teams again. Collaboration was considered to be a better option and to provide juniors in both Clubs with pathways to the senior competition. Both Clubs believe their cultures align to this type of arrangement.

### **Q5. What uniforms will be wearing, and will new uniforms be arranged?**

The Clubs will arrange new uniforms; however, this is proving to take some time with the current COVID situation. In the meantime, the Club will wear the uniform of one of the existing teams. Keep an eye on our social media for the new uniform design!

### **Q6: I'm keen to join but want to talk with somebody at the Club, who can I call?**

Please talk with either Roland or Chris, their details are above.