

MEMO

To: WABL Administrators and Presidents
From: Christian Rice (Competitions & State Teams Administrator)
Date: November 3 2009
Subject: **2010 WABL Structure**

As many of you are aware, Basketball WA recently held its WABL General Meeting on Sunday October 25. All Associations, the WABL Commission and Basketball WA representatives discussed the 2009 Season and improvements to be made for the 2010 WABL Season.

Agenda items included the improvements to the WABL structure for 2010 and the future competition structure beyond 2010. Positive discussion and feedback was received from all twelve WABL clubs.

The WABL Commission met recently to discuss the General Meeting and the Competition Structure for 2010 with many positive outcomes for the sport of Basketball and the growth of the WABL Competition. We are pleased to announce the following outcomes for the WABL Competition in 2010:

- **Under 23 Men's Competition**
 - In 2010 the Under 23 Men's Competition will be changed to an Under 20 Men & Women's Competition. This will bring the WABL age groups in line with the Australian Junior Championship (AJC) age groups. In addition those players leaving the Under 18 Competition will now have an elite competition to hone their skills for the Division 1 and SBL Competitions. The Under 23 Men's competition will not be a part of the WABL Competition in 2010.
- **Under 18 Girl's Competition**
 - To allow a better flow of future players through to the new Under 20 Women's Competition, the Under 18 Competition will be aligned with the Boys

Competition in 2010. This will see Under 18 Division 1 & Under 18 Division 2 Girls competitions in 2010.

- **Open Men/Women Competitions**

- The Open Men & Women Competitions (formerly Division 1) will be rebranded as the “Development League” and will be aligned with the SBL Competition timing (March – August). The competition will still be run by the WABL Commission.

- **Under 14 Australian Club Championships**

- The Australian Under 14 Club Championship qualification process will be updated in 2010. The three WA representatives in 2011 will be decided as follows:
 - First Two Places – Under 13 WABL Grand Finalists
 - Third Place – Qualification Tournament open to all Metropolitan & Country Associations (details TBC).

- **SBL & WABL Interchange Rule**

- The 2010 WABL Competition will see all junior age SBL Starting Five members eligible to participate in their WABL Age Group. The SBL & WABL Interchange Rule will only apply to the Development League.

- **Under 12 WABL Competition**

- The 2010 WABL Season will see the Under 12 age group move to a weekly WABL Tournament as per all other WABL Age Groups. This received strong support from the vast majority of our WABL Associations. This will allow our Under 12 players to hone their skills that they learn in training in a regular game environment.

In addition it will assist with the development of our athletes for the High Performance Programs including Under 16 – 20 State Teams and Under 14 Club Championships. The WABL Competition will also be aligned with other sporting codes and Basketball bodies in introducing a regular Under 12 representative competition.

The Carnival format seen in 2009 will be maintained in a slightly different format with several Junior Development Carnivals still available for those unable to participate in a Weekly Under 12 Competition.

- **Under 18 Competition for 2011**

- In 2011 Basketball WA will align the Under 18 Division 1 & 2 Competitions with all other age groups in the WABL Competition. This will see the Divisions abandoned in favour of an Under 17 and Under 18 Competition for both the Men & Women in 2011.

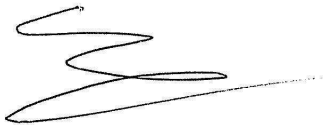
- **2010 Required Age Groups**

- The required WABL Age Groups for participating associations in 2010 will be Under 13, 14, 15, 16, 18-1 (Men & Women).

Basketball WA is pleased to see many positive results for the future growth of the WABL Competition. In 2010 we will see 18 Competitions, an increase on the 14 from the 2009 WABL Competition. In addition to the growth of the league, the changes to the WABL Competition will also increase the development of our elite junior athletes and better prepare all players for the AJC and the SBL Competitions.

We look forward to the support of all Associations administrators, coaches, players, referees and parents in 2010 and beyond as we continue to strengthen the WABL Competition and WA basketball.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Christian Rice', with a stylized, flowing script.

Christian Rice
Competitions & State Teams Administrator