



# Country Championships – Rules of Operation

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# Country Championships – Rules of Operation



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# Country Championships – Rules of Operation



## 1 Overview

The Country Championships Rules of Operation are the responsibility of Basketball WA. Basketball WA recognises the need to maintain up-to-date rules that ensure fair and consistent gameplay.

## 2 Scope

These rules apply to all Country Championships related games.

## 3 Document Author and Approving Authority

These rules are subject to the [Competition Rule Change Procedure \(BWA-COMP-PRO-001\)](#).

The BWA Chief Basketball Officer (CBO) is the approver of these rules. Suggestions for changes should be communicated to the BWA Head of Senior Competitions.

## 4 Nominations

### 4.1. Age Groups Offered

The following age groups are offered in the Country Championships competition:

- Boys & Girls: Under 12,13,14,15,16 & 18
- Senior Men: 18 years or older
- Senior Women: 18 years or older
- Masters Men: 35 years or older

### 4.2. Eligibility to Participate

Any financial Basketball WA country association is eligible to enter teams in any age groupings in the Country Championships weekends.

Incorporated associations that reside in the country but are not directly affiliated with Basketball WA, may be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the BWA General Manager of Competitions.

### 4.3. Team Nominations

Team Nominations will be called for by Basketball WA each year by early January at the latest.

Major Regional Associations are required to place a team in Division One (Championship Division) of the Country Championships prior to entering any additional teams. Associations affected by this are:

- Albany
- Bunbury
- Busselton

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- Geraldton
- Mandurah

Basketball WA will review the Team nomination costs and any associated referee costs annually and distribute this information to associations along with the nomination process.

#### 4.4. Number of Divisions

Basketball WA is responsible for determining the number of divisions in each age group.

Junior team nominations will be restricted to one (1) team per division from any one Association.

Senior team nominations shall be restricted to divisions. Each Association shall be entitled to nominate one (1) team per division plus one (1) Masters team.

#### 4.5. Team Withdrawal Penalty

The nomination fee and any associated referee costs are non-refundable once the nomination due date has elapsed.

Once the official fixtures have been completed and distributed, Associations will incur a fine for withdrawing any teams. Penalty for withdrawal after official fixtures are distributed: \$300.00 per team. There are no grounds for appeal of this penalty.

In the event of a withdrawal of any team accepted into the Country Championships, a replacement will be named from teams on the waiting list (If applicable).

### 5 Players

#### 5.1. Age Eligibility

To be eligible to participate, all junior players must be under the prescribed age as at the 31 December of the year in which they will be participating in the Country Championships.

All senior players must be 18 years or older as at the 31 December of the year in which they will be participating in the Country Championships.

All players must be a regular playing member of that Association's competition, having played a minimum of four (4) games in that Association's most recent competition.

Where an Association is not entering a team for a particular age group and is willing to provide a clearance for a player who wishes to play for another Association, approval must be lodged with and granted by the Competitions Administrator at least two (2) weeks prior to the Championships.

If a player plays for multiple Associations during the Country Season, they are to nominate one (1) Association they wish to play for per age group i.e. an eligible U16 player can play for Eaton in U16s and Bunbury in U18s subject to Rule 5.1.5 but cannot play for multiple teams in the same age group.

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Any requests for exemptions to these rules must be submitted in writing to the Competitions Administrator at least two (2) weeks prior to the Country Championships. This includes but is not limited to:

Players who have relocated over the Christmas/New Year period and wish to compete for their previous Association.

Players who wish to participate in a Senior team but do not meet the required age requirement.

## 5.2. Registration

All players must register via the online player registration form before participating in any game.

Associations are responsible for ensuring player registrations are complete.

## 5.3. Team Size

Teams shall be restricted to a maximum of twelve (12) players, of which only ten (10) can play in any one game.

## 5.4. Minimum Player Requirement

A minimum of 5 players must be present for a match to commence.

## 5.5. Restrictions

### Association-based players

In all junior weekends, players are limited to playing for one team per weekend. For the senior weekend, masters' players (35+) may play for more than one team (Masters & Senior Men) for that weekend, providing it is for the same Association they are registered to.

NOTE: Basketball WA cannot guarantee that Senior Men's and Masters games will not overlap on the Senior weekend and cannot guarantee there will not be clashes between divisions for players playing in two teams.

Associations who have secured the services of players for the purpose of participation in the NBL1 West, and who were not regular playing members of that Association's competition prior to 1 January in the year of the Championships, shall not be eligible to compete in the Championships.

## 5.6. Finals Participation

Players must play at least a third of qualifying games to participate in the finals.

A bye does not count as a qualifying game.

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## 6 Format of Pools

Basketball WA shall determine the Country Championships format subject to the number of teams participating.

Where practical, there shall be a full round robin of games, with teams finishing in positions one (1) and two (2) at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds, contesting a Grand Final.

## 7 Grading

Grading shall relate to results from the previous year's Country Championships. Where excess nominations are received, the Competitions Administrator shall determine the placement of these teams, having regard to that Association's standard of play.

Decisions by the Competitions Administrator will be final as to the grading of any team(s). As a general principle, teams from larger Associations will be allocated to higher divisions.

## 8 Promotion and Relegation

Where practical and having regard to Rule 7, the winning Grand Final team will be promoted and the last team in each division will be relegated for the following year's Country Championships. i.e. An association that wins the Division 3 Grand Final in Under 14's will have to nominate that team for Division 2 in Under 15's. a team that wins Division 2 in Under 13's will have to nominate for Championship in Under 14's.

Teams not nominating shall, on future participation, maintain where possible, the position held when they last competed.

## 9 Team Control

Each team nominated must contain a registered coach and manager to be responsible for the players on and off the court.

## 10 Coach Accreditation

All head coaches must hold a minimum accreditation level of Community Coach.

- Non-compliance of Community Coach accreditation: \$50.00 per offense

## 11 Referees

Referees are to be supplied and paid by the nominating Association for the Junior Country Championships weekends. Failure to supply a referee will result in a **\$250.00** fine per game not supplied.

Basketball WA will send out a referee allocation procedure prior to the Country Championships each year outlining the requirements of associations.

The referee may not be a player from the same division.

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Basketball WA will roster and pay referees for all Finals games. The Senior weekend will have referees centrally rostered by Basketball WA.

Failure to provide/use a Country Referee for the Senior weekend, will result in a fine to the Association not exceeding **\$1000** as determined by Basketball WA.

## 12 Timekeeper and Scorer Responsibilities

The home (left) team will supply a timekeeper (scoreboard), and the away (right) team will supply a scorer (tablet).

Failure to provide a score table official - **\$50** per game.

## 13 Uniforms

### 13.1. Player Uniform and Coach Components

Player uniforms consist of:

- Playing singlet
- Playing shorts (must not extend past the kneecap and must be without pockets)
- Warm-up top
- Tracksuit
- Any other club apparel that is approved by BWA for players to wear.

Coach/Team Manager/Support Staff uniforms consist of:

- All coaches must wear an Association branded polo, plain black shorts or pants, and enclosed shoes.
- All team managers and support staff must wear a minimum of an Association top with logo visible (polo is preferred) and enclosed shoes.
- Any other club apparel that is approved by BWA for coaches, team managers or support staff to wear.

All items must be endorsed by the Association and approved by Basketball WA.

### 13.2. Correct Uniform Requirement - Players, Coaches, Team Managers and Support Staff

All players must warm up and play in their Association's correct, registered uniform.

- Uniforms or clothing that deviates from Association-endorsed (and BWA approved) merchandise or branding are not permitted.
- Where an association has an approved warm-up top, this must be used as the official warm-up item (for example, a polo is not acceptable).
- Players, coaches, team managers or support staff not wearing the approved registered uniform are ineligible to play or participate.
- All player singlets and player shorts must be of a matching design unless Basketball WA approves otherwise.

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Failure to comply will result in a fine of up to \$300.00, and if an ineligible player is played (or coach, team manager, support staff is in the bench area), the game may result in a forfeit. For absolute clarity, an ineligible coach, team manager or support staff is someone who is not wearing a uniform that is correct and registered.

### 13.3. Registered Uniforms and Changes to Registered Uniform

All Associations are required to register their uniform with Basketball WA.

Any changes to the registered uniform must be lodged with Basketball WA for approval.

This includes playing singlets, playing shorts, warm-up tops, coach polos, tracksuits, and any other items that may be worn on game day.

### 13.4. Under Garments

In accordance with FIBA regulations, arm and leg garments, including undershirts and undershorts, are permitted if made of compression material.

- Compression material that is not skintight is not permitted

All undergarments must be:

- Black, white, or
- The same dominant colour as the playing uniform.
- It is not a requirement for all players to be wearing a consistent colour

### 13.5. Prohibited Items

- Hats and sunglasses are not permitted to be worn by players, coaches or team managers.
- Shoes that are not enclosed are not permitted to be worn by coaches or team managers.
- Examples of inappropriate shoes: thongs, slides, sandals, crocs

Failure to comply will result in a \$100.00 fine

### 13.6. Uniform Numbers

- Numbers must be displayed on the back of the playing singlet (minimum 20 cm tall) and the front of the singlet (minimum 10 cm tall). All numbers must be no less than 2 cm wide.
- In accordance with FIBA rules, teams may only use numbers 0, 00, and 1 to 99.
- Players on the same team shall not wear duplicate numbers.
- No sponsorship, manufacturer, or Association logos, names, or player names may infringe on the playing number.
- In the event of a uniform colour clash, the home team is responsible for changing into their alternate colour. Should this not be possible (i.e. no reversible uniforms), the away team is expected to change into their alternate colour if available. Basketball WA recommends home Associations always have a clash set available should either team not be able to reverse to their alternate colour.
- Any player whose number does not comply with these requirements is ineligible to play.

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## 13.7. Advertising on Uniforms

Excluding the uniform number, any line (e.g., player name or sponsor) on the back of the singlet must:

- Comply with a maximum height of 8 cm.
- Not encroach on the singlet number.
- Match the Association's predominant colours.

The Association name or team logo must appear on the front of the singlet:

- Written in 1 line (max 8 cm) or 2 lines (max 6 cm each).

Team Logos:

- On the front of the singlet must not exceed 25 cm (W) x 25 cm (L).
- On the front of the shorts must not exceed 12 cm (W) x 12 cm (L).

Manufacturer's Logo or Advertising:

- Must not exceed 12 cm (W) x 12 cm (L) on the front of the singlet or shorts.

## 13.8. Referees

Referees must wear appropriate attire, including:

- A Basketball WA-issued referee shirt (Black & White for Level 1 or higher; Green shirt for junior referees).
- Long black pants.
- Fully enclosed, non-marking shoes.

## 13.9. Jewellery

Exposed jewellery is not permitted during any game. This includes, but is not limited to: Rings, earrings/studs, nose rings/studs, lip rings/studs, necklaces, bracelets, anklets, and watches.

Items that cannot be removed including those listed above must be covered with a protective device, such as medical tape.

## 13.10. Enforcement

All the above regulations shall be controlled by the Games Controller and Referee Coaches.

A BWA staff member may enforce such regulations if they are present at an event.

## 14 Equipment

All scoring devices and time-clocks will be supplied by the host stadium.

Teams will supply their own Basketballs. The game ball must be a Spalding, specifically:

- Spalding TF 1000 (Legacy/Precision)
- Spalding Elite

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The game ball should prioritise quality over bounciness, especially for Under 12 games. The Referees have the final say in the determining the ball.

Ball sizes:

- Size 5 for Under 12
- Size 6 for Under 13 and 14 Boys
- Size 6 for Under 13 Girls and above
- Size 7 for Under 15 Boys and above

## 15 Mouth Guards

All players up to and including under eighteen (18) grades are required each game to wear a mouth guard whilst participating. Mouthguards **MUST** be worn properly inside the mouth. Players seen wearing their mouthguards incorrectly whilst playing will be substituted at the next dead ball or stoppage. Repeat offences may result in the player no longer being allowed on the court for that game.

Those players under the age of eighteen (18) who do not wear a mouth guard, will be ineligible to play.

All players over the age of eighteen (18) are encouraged to wear a mouth guard when participating.

An exception will only be granted to those who notify the Competitions Administrator in writing of any medical condition which prevents a mouth guard being worn, no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the event, accompanied with a copy of the medical certificate.

## 16 Playing Rules

The Country Championships will be conducted as per the FIBA Rulebook with the following modifications:

### 16.1. Game Duration

50-minute time slots comprising of:

- 3-minute warm-up minimum before the game.
- 20-minute halves running clock
- 3-minute halftime
- Time Outs – two per half each team.

### 16.2. Draws/Overtime

- If the score is tied at the end of a round robin game, the draw will stand.
- If scores are tied at the conclusion of a Finals game, there will be as many periods of two (2) minutes of Overtime as necessary to break the tie.
- One (1) Time-out per team each extra period (Grand Final Only)
- There will be one (1) minute intervals between each extra period.
- Grand Final games will be fully timed for the last two (2) minutes of the second half. This will also include the two (2) minutes of any extra time played in the event of a drawn game.

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## 16.3. Forfeit Points

If a team is not ready to play 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time, a forfeit will be declared with the result of 20-nil win to the opposition.

Additionally, a fine as determined by Basketball WA not to exceed **\$500**, shall be levied against the team.

## 17 Competition Standings

### 17.1. Championship Points Allocation

- Win: A win is awarded 2 championship points
- Draw: Both teams in a draw are awarded 1 championship point
- Loss: A loss is awarded 0 championship points
- BYE Round: A regular season BYE is considered a win and awarded 2 championship points
- Washout: In the event of a washout, both teams will be awarded 1 championship point each.

### 17.2. Classification of Teams and Determination of Rankings for Finals

#### Ladder ranking order

1. Ladder points
2. Head-To-Head (refer below)
3. Percentage

#### Head-To-Head (H2H) Calculations

- If there are two teams equal on ladder points, the result(s) of the game(s) between the two teams involved will be used to determine the placing.
- If more than two teams are equal on ladder points, a mini ladder will be established considering only the results of the games between the teams that are tied.
- Eligibility Check: H2H ranking is only applied if all tied teams have played each other an equal number of times (including zero). If not, the next ladder ranking method will be applied.

#### Tiebreakers

The following tiebreakers are applied in order:

- Point Differential: Total points scored minus points conceded in mini ladder
- Points For: Total points scored in the mini ladder
- Overall Point Differential: Point differential in the general ladder
- Overall Points For: Total points scored in the general ladder

Points difference is calculated by points scored for; minus points scored against.

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- If ties persist after all tiebreakers, the next ladder ranking method will be applied.
- The H2H tiebreaker process repeats from the beginning if any team is eliminated during calculations.

## 17.3. Best Second Placed Team

When there are three pools in a division, for finals, the best second placed team may be required. The top team in each pool go through to the finals with the best second placed team to make up the fourth team. The four teams will be re-ranked by record first then percentage in a separate mini ladder to determine the finals seeding. e.g. the best second placed team will not be automatically assigned the fourth seed.

The best second placed team will be decided on:

1. which second placed team finished with less points separating them from the top team (championship points).
2. If tied, head-to-head record against the respective top teams will decide second top team overall (narrowest losing margin).
3. If head-to-head does not apply, the following tiebreakers are applied in order:
  - a. Overall Point Differential: Point differential in the general ladder
  - b. Overall Points For: Total points scored in the general ladder
  - c. Overall Percentage

## 18 Protests

- All protests must be in writing and accompanied by a \$100.00 online payment within 10 minutes of game conclusion.
- Online payment link - <https://www.playhq.com/basketball-wa/register/a1506f>
- Teams may only appeal at the conclusion of a game. Refusal to take the court during an active game will result in forfeit.
- Protests must be lodged with Basketball WA at the front desk. During this process, all Basketball WA staff must be approached in a calm and respectful manner.
- The bond is repayable if the appeal upheld.
- Basketball WA decisions are final.

## 19 No Zone Defence

### 19.1. Under 12 to Under 14

Zone defence is not permitted in all Under 12 to Under 14 age groups

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## 19.2. Dispute Procedure

If a referee or coach believes the opposing team is playing zone defence, the referee coach should be consulted. Should a referee coach not be available, the games controller should be consulted.

The designated official will:

- Observe the game to determine whether a zone defence is being used.
- Advise on the appropriate course of action if a zone defence is confirmed, which may include awarding a technical foul and applying the relevant penalty.

## 19.3. Game Day Reference

Game day staff are to reference Basketball WA's "No Zone Defence Rule" guides on the WABL website.

## 20 FIBA Rule Adoption

### 20.1. FIBA Rules with Modifications

The Country Championships shall be conducted under the playing rules of FIBA with the following modifications:

- Article 46.12 (2008): the competition will not adopt the rule allowing the use of technical equipment to decide if a last shot at the end of each period or extra period was released during playing time.
- Article 4.4.3: the competition will not force players to have left and right shoes of matching colours. However, the competition will still enforce the rest of the rule, prohibiting flashing lights, reflective materials, or other adornments.

### 20.2. Country Championships Rule Changes

- Article 38.3.2: A disqualified player under the age of 18 must remain on the team bench under the supervision of the manager and/or coach. At the end of the game, the player should be escorted from the court by the coach, manager, or parents. Games controllers may use discretion for removal in extenuating circumstances.
- Article 2.5.4 (3-point goal area):
  - Age groups Under 15 and above will use the "outside FIBA three-point line."
  - Age groups Under 14 and below will use the "inside FIBA three-point line." If the court lacks old FIBA markings, the "most outside three-point line" will be used for all age groups.

## 21 Under 14 National Qualifiers

The Grand finalists from the U14 Boys & Girls will be extended an invite to participate in the Under 14 National Qualifying tournament to be held in March at Bendat Basketball Centre.

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## **22 Tribunal**

The Country Championships conducts tribunals in accordance with the Basketball WA tribunal by-laws. Should a tribunal be required, a three-member panel will be convened as early as possible.

All communications related to a tribunal will be made by Basketball WA through the Association.

## **23 Photography**

Basketball WA reserves the right to appoint an official photographer of the Country Championships.

No SLR Cameras will be allowed in the venue for the Country Championships. Only the Official Photographer will be allowed to use SLR Cameras in the venue. Non SLR Cameras may be used throughout the event.

All players participating in the Championships adhere to the Country Championship Terms and Conditions that outline the acknowledgement of game photography. Any players who wish not to be photographed must inform Basketball WA.

## **24 Items not Provided For**

### **24.1. Matters Outside the Rules**

Any matter not covered by the scope of these rules, if it comes within the objectives of Basketball WA, shall be dealt with by Basketball WA.

### **24.2. Decisions Outside the Rules**

Basketball WA reserves the right to arrive at decisions outside these rules, in special circumstances and upon written application.