



National Womens' Wheelchair  
Basketball League

And

National Wheelchair Basketball  
League

Competition Rules and Regulations

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## 1. League Competition Committee and League Executive National Wheelchair Men's and Women's League Competition Committee

- a. The National Wheelchair Men's and Women's League Competition Committee shall comprise of one (1) representative from each competing team.
- b. There will be an athlete representative – male and female. Athletes will be nominated by their individual teams and voted on by the Competition Committee.
- c. The WBA Board will appoint a League Executive of three (3) who shall be members of the Competition Committee. The members of the Executive Committee will manage competition operations, referee management, classification and eligibility. The members shall not have an association with any of the competing teams.
- d. The League Executive reserves the right to amend these Rules and Regulations at any time. These changes will only be implemented after they have been communicated with the teams providing them with reasonable time for feedback. Teams have the right to apply to the League Executive for special consideration in extenuating circumstances or instances not specifically covered in these Rules and Regulations. All applications for Special consideration must be made in writing and endorsed by the relevant Competition Committee team representative.
- e. The League Competition Committee will meet as required online or face to face where time and cost permits.
- f. All agenda items for meetings should be forwarded to WBA management 7 days prior to each meeting. WBA management will distribute the meeting agenda to the Competitions Committee prior to the meeting.

## 2. Equalisation

- a. To ensure accessibility for all teams in the competition, the game-related costs of the League weekends are to be equalised between all teams. For the purpose of equalisation a team is considered as ten (10) people.
- b. Items included in the National League equalisation are:
  - Airfares to and from the team's capital city
  - Accommodation and ground transportation
  - Referees and technical officials
  - Online streaming
  - Marketing costs
  - Management costs if required
- c. Home teams will be responsible to provide home venues at their own cost. If there are cluster rounds then the costs of the venue hire will be equalised between all teams.
- d. The equalisation amount each season will be developed by WBA management and approved by the Competitions Committee for each season.

### 3. WBA Competition Responsibilities

- a. League Executive reviews the Rules and Regulations on a regular basis.
- b. Consults with the Competition Committee after the current season for input into improving the NWBL and WNWBL for the following season.
- c. Collaborates with Basketball Australia (BA) to ensure that the calendar window is in conjunction with the International Program for men and women.
- d. Coordinates with each of the teams in relation to sponsor liaison and coordination of marketing activities with each team to ensure league sponsors are serviced.
- e. Receives entry information from teams to compile all related documents including the classification information to BA who are responsible for Classification in Australia.
- f. Seeks commercial partners for the League to assist in supporting the cost to each individual team through equalisation.
- g. Prepares the budget each year and proposed equalisation for each season. All equalisation and contribution by the teams will be reviewed at the end of each season.
- h. Collaborates with BA in relation to the international program and determines the schedule for the season after consultation with all competing teams.
- i. Co-ordinates all payments for items included in the equalisation including airfares, accommodation, transportation, referees and technical officials.
- j. Provides NWBL and WNWBL sponsor signs to all competing teams.
- k. Manages the communication and media for the leagues providing content to each of the league teams where relevant.
- l. Manages the NWBL and WNBWL social media channels and keeps the website updated with relevant information and content.
- m. Referee Co-ordinator manages the referees roster in conjunction with each State Referee's Co-Ordinators.
- n. Technical Officials will be coordinated through each of the state associations and the local host team.
- o. All referees and Technical officials will be paid through WBA centrally.
- p. Conducts annual awards each season and arranges the relevant trophies and individual trophies for the competition.

## 4. Competition Guidelines:

- a. The rules and interpretations for the NWBL and WNWBL competition will be the current IWBFF Rules with the variations as outlined in this document.
- b. Players numbers must be as per IWBFF rules
- c. The half time interval is ten (10) minutes.
- d. The total number of red card bonus points that can be claimed on the floor at any given time is two.
- e. A team may not play more than two 4.5 point players on the floor at a given time. Class 4.5 with red cards are exempted.
- f. A common sense approach to dealing with a bleeding player who receives treatment and remains in the game should be exercised in relation as to whether a team time out is charged. This is particularly relevant if a substitute cannot be made to keep within the maximum classification points.
- g. NWBL: in 2024 competition there will be 7 teams, each team will play each team three (3) times. Each team will play three home games and three away games. Total number of games for each team will be 18.
  - o The top four teams will qualify for the finals weekend which will be held in Shellharbour in 2024.
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> placed team will play 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team with the winner advancing direct to the grand final. 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team will play 4<sup>th</sup> placed team with the winner playing the loser of the 1<sup>st</sup> semi final in the final with the winner of the final advancing to the grand final. Two remaining teams will play off for 3<sup>rd</sup> position.
- h. WNWBL: in 2024 competition there will be 4 teams, each team will play each team three (3) times. Each team will have one home round and one away round with the exception of Sydney Uni Flames who will travel in 2025 season.
  - o The top four teams will qualify for the finals weekend which will be held in Shellharbour in 2024.
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> placed team will play 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team with the winner advancing direct to the grand final. 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team will play 4<sup>th</sup> placed team with the winner playing the loser of the 1<sup>st</sup> semi final in the final with the winner of the final advancing to the grand final. Two remaining teams will play off for 3<sup>rd</sup> position.
- i. Competition points will be awarded as follows:
  - o 3 points for a win
  - o 1 point for a loss
  - o 0 points for a forfeit
- j. Forfeits:

Unless extenuating circumstances are accepted by the opposing team and referees, an appeal is made and allowed by the Executive Committee, a team shall lose the game by forfeit if:

- It refuses to play after being instructed to do so by the referee.
- Its actions prevent the game from being played.
- Fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled starting time, the team is not present or is not able to field five (5) players ready to play.

A team claiming a forfeit must do so on the score sheet.

A score of 20-0 is awarded to the team who received the forfeit and 0-20 to the forfeiting team.

A team that forfeits is fined \$500.

k. Defaults:

- A team shall lose a game by default if, during the game, the number of players of that team on the court is less than two.
- If the team to which the game is awarded is ahead, the score at the time of the stoppage shall stand. If the team to which the game is awarded is not ahead, the score shall be 20-0
- The defaulting team shall receive the points for a loss.

## 5. Home Team

- a. Arrange the playing venue with access to the venue and playing court required at least one hour prior to the first game.
- b. Facilities required include:
  - Change rooms, accessible toilets and showers for each team and change room for referees
  - Storage area for sports chairs between games and overnight
  - The minimum standard for the venues is NBL1 approved with visible scoreboard, 24 shot clocks mounted on backboards or on the walls on the baseline where they are visible for both teams.
  - Provide technical officials, including statisticians with the appropriate computers as required.
  - Provide bottles of water for the referees and all Technical Officials during the game
  - Ensure that visiting teams have access to containers for water for their teams.
  - Provide game basketball and at least 3 League approved basketballs. All warmup basketballs should be of the same type, brand and similar condition as the match ball.
- c. Arrange appropriate medical coverage for both teams. The minimum requirement is the attendance of a sports trainer.
- d. Appoint a Game Commissioner who shall be responsible to liaise with technical officials, the visiting team and host team and referees to ensure that the venue and court are available, clean and have all equipment in place for the game. Meet the officials and ensure that the game commences on time.

- e. Games will be live streamed and an elevated position should be provided for the camera operator. Full information for the live streaming process will be provided to each host venue.
- f. Home teams may conduct other activities that promote the League such as post game functions, involvement of sponsors or half time entertainment.
- g. All home teams need to provide an announcer for the game, introduce the visiting team and home team on the court prior to the game commencing. Referees to be introduced prior to the game.
- h. Assist with promotions/local media opportunities and contacts.

## 6. Season Awards

At the conclusion of the season, WBA Management will organize the following team and individual awards:

- Champion team – perpetual trophy and individual athlete trophies
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed trophies for teams
- MVP Award for the Season.
- Season Top scorer
- Best Defensive Player
- Best First Year Player
- Coach of the year
- Most Valuable Player in 4 classification categories –
  - 1.0 – 1.5 pts
  - 2.0 – 2.5 pts
  - 3.0 – 3.5 pts
  - 4.0 – 4.5 pts
- MVP of the finals series award

### **Awards Criteria:**

Most Valuable Player of the Season:

- a. The player that polls the most votes of the four MVP categories will be awarded the NWBL and WNWBL MVP award of the Season award. In the event of a tie in the MVP of the season, the involved players will be ranked as follows to break the tie:
  - The player who has played the least number of minor round games.
  - If the players have played the same number of games, the player who has played the fewer minutes
  - If the players have played the same number of minutes, the player who has the highest game point average.
- b. The season Top Scorer will be decided by games played in the round robin series. The award is made to the player who has the highest game point average. To be eligible for the Season Top Scorer award, players must have played in 40% (rounded up) of their team's minor round games.
- c. The Coach of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year and Best First Year Player will be decided by votes that are polled by the NWBL and WNWBL clubs head coaches,



Assistant Coaches and team captain (3 members of each team) Voting will be 3, 2, 1 – teams are not allowed to vote for their own team.

- d. The Most Valuable Player awards are decided by a triple voting system. Votes are given by both coaches and referees throughout the round robin series for the MVP awards. That is four sets of votes of equal value per game. The votes are one vote per category for each game. The sets of votes in the four categories are tallied together by WBA. The player with the most points in each category at the end of the minor round series is the MVP in their category.
- e. In the event of a tie in the MVP categories, the involved players will be ranked as follows to break the tie:
  - The player who has played the least minor round games. If the players have played the same number of games, the player who has played the fewer minutes. If the players have played the same number of minutes, the player who has scored the most points..
- f. The All Star Five team will be selected based on MVP votes from the minor round.
- g. The All Star Five Team shall be made up of:
  - a. The overall League MVP (player with the highest number of votes regardless of classification category)
  - b. The players with the highest vote counts in the remaining three classification categories together with the second placed player in the classification category from which the MVP came.

The All Star Five Team does NOT have to meet the 14.0 point rule.

- h. The Finals' Series MVP is decided by three sets of votes per final. Votes are placed by the game coaches and by the game referees through the final series. The votes are three, two, one for each game. The votes are tallied at the end of the finals series with the votes divided by the number of games the players team played in the series e.g. two or three. The player with the highest number of averaged points at the end of the final series is the Final series MVP.
- i. All awards will be presented immediately following the playing of the Final Series. Annual awards may be presented at a league dinner or lunch.

## 7. Teams and Players

### Registration of Teams:

- a. All prospective teams must submit a team expression of interest by the due date as determined by the Competitions Committee each season.
- b. All teams will be required to pay the first instalment of the equalization amount by 15 February annually. If teams withdraw from the competition following this date then they will not be refunded the amount paid.
- c. Equalisation will be divided into 5 instalments with the amount and date due determined by WBA Management by 15 January each year.
- d. Each competing team will be required to sign a licence agreement.
- e. The licence agreement must be signed by a legal entity.
- f. Late payment of the 1<sup>st</sup> payment will only be accepted in extraordinary circumstances and only with the approval of the Competitions Committee. A late entry fee may apply.

### Registration of Players:

- a. A team may register up to 16 players per team by placing them on their team registration list. A player may be registered with one team only.
- b. Teams must provide their team registration list by the due date – 12 April each year. Teams will attract a \$100 +GST fine every week their team registration is late.
- c. Players will not be permitted to play if their individual player registration form (and any fees if required) has not been received by WBA. Should a player play a NWBL game without submitting their individual registration form (and any fees if required), the team shall be subject to a forfeit and the player will not be covered by insurance.
- d. During the season, players may be added to the Team's Registration List by applying to the Executive Committee WBA.
- e. All players must be a financial member of a BA affiliated State basketball organization.
- f. A team may only play one imported player per season. An imported player is any overseas player that is NOT an Australian citizen or resident even if they reside in the state for the period of the league season. A New Zealand player (who is a NZ citizen) is NOT CONSIDERED TO BE AN IMPORT PLAYER. Any Australian player that plays for another state is NOT regarded as an import
- g. A team may apply to remove an import player from their team list and replace that player with another eligible import player. To be eligible for the final series the replacement import player must comply with the rules regarding final eligibility.
- h. Team numbers are limited to 10 for equalisation purposes. The list of players and officials for each round of the competition and any other requested information must be provided to WBA no later than the Monday prior to each round.

- i. Teams travelling with more than the equalised number of 10 people will be responsible for the additional people over the 10. WBA will invoice the club directly with the additional costs for flights and accommodation.

### **Participation in Games**

- a. To participate in a game means to be legally on the score sheet and to play or be present at the players' bench in playing uniform during the game.
- b. Any player that is marked on the score sheet pre-game and signed off by the coach may play. It is not the referees' concern to know if the player is eligible to play or not.
- c. Twelve (12) players can be listed per team per game.
- d. Players whose names are on the score sheet, but who are not present nor suited up to play in a game, must be crossed off and initialed by the Crew Chief Referee post-game.

### **Eligibility for Finals**

- a. To be eligible in the final series a player must have participated in 40% (rounded up) of the minor round games.
- b. A team may make application to the Executive Committee to have this set aside when a listed player could not play the required number of round games because of National representation (with a sanctioned National team), injury, illness or other special circumstances. During the period of injury, illness or other special circumstances the player must be resident in Australia. A medical certificate must include specific dates, injury or illness details and specific details regarding exemption from NWBL and WNWBL rounds. Appropriate documentation must be provided for other special circumstances and National representation (with a sanctioned National team).

### **Transfer of Players**

- a. Players may transfer teams between seasons provided any debts with the original team are paid and the player has a release form signed from their previous team. All international imports and Australian players returning from international clubs wishing to play in the NWBL and WNWBL must provide a release letter from their home team/national basketball organization. This form should be provided to WBA, BA and IWBF.
- b. All Australian players wishing to play in international club teams MUST obtain a release from their Australian club and Basketball Australia.

### **Team Uniforms**

- a. Each team must possess two complete sets of basketball singlets, which comply with IWBF uniform regulations. One must be predominantly light in colour and the other a predominantly dark colour.
- b. Visible undergarments and taping must comply the relevant IWBF regulation.
- c. All players on the same team shall wear shorts and/or track pants of the same, single, solid colour. If the shorts or track pants include trim it shall be of the same colour and design for all players on the same team as per the IWBF regulation.

- d. As teams play three (3) games per weekend, the home team shall wear their light uniform for games one (1) and three (3). The home team shall wear their dark uniform for game two (2) - unless agreed upon by both teams. However, where opposing teams have uniforms that are similar in colour, the home team is required to change to an alternate set.
- e. Teams may have decided together and in advance as to who wears the light and dark uniform. If there is a dispute, the previous rule will apply.
- f. Teams are required to wear the NWBL and WNWBL logo on their right breast of the playing singlets. In 2024 WBA has advised all teams that this will not be mandatory.
- g. The players must have their playing numbers clearly visible on their back or hanging from the back of their wheelchairs.

## 8. Classification Process:

- a. IWBF Player classification for the National Wheelchair Basketball League season will be conducted in conjunction with Basketball Australia, using the current IWBF processes. Classification now involves three stages and can take up to two months to process.

### Stage 1:

**All new players or individuals who haven't been classified under the new system must submit an EOI for classification by March 31 each year.** The EOI form and information about the medical information required can be found on this link:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0g-upQnMwk2b7Ub4VNFZHfnJ8Yar0kdJoQepLKnHwydUNFVFMIAySE4zT0NGVzINNTIXR1JKRzKxQi4u>

Players need to complete this EOI. Please note that it can take 2 months to complete the process.

Those athletes who have been previously classified and appear on BA's master list in red, need to also complete this form to be processed under the new IWBF classification.

Players not meeting IWBF classification criteria.

- a. Any player who does not meet IWBF classification criteria will be automatically allocated a 4.5 classification
- b. Players not meeting IWBF classification criteria are not eligible for red cards
- c. These players are allowed to participate in the men's and women's national leagues, and they will be supplied with a WBA classification card for use in National League games. These cards will indicate they are a player not eligible for an IWBF classification

### Stage 2:

In-room assessment and observation during training sessions by classifiers.

BA will conduct player classification at other competitions according to the number of new athletes who need to be classified.

Classification Manager for Basketball Australia may be contacted via:

[classification@australia.basketball](mailto:classification@australia.basketball)

### **Stage 3:**

Observation by classifiers during the game.

**All team lists must be submitted before April 12th** each year to allow BA to plan for Stage 3 of classification, which involves observation during games.

Please ensure that all relevant individuals within your team are informed of these important points.

### **General**

- a. NWBL & WNWBL are conducted under the IWBF Functional Classification System for Wheelchair Basketball.
- b. All players competing in the leagues must have a Wheelchair Basketball Australia Classification Card.
- c. WBA Classification cards will automatically be issued to all players holding an IWBF international or zonal card. These players do not require further evaluation by Australian classifiers. All players with an IWBF Classification are listed on the BA website on the Master List.
- d. Process for those players not holding an IWBF card is listed above and will be a three stage process.
- e. Players eligible for red cards shall have classification cards displaying their true classification, but of a distinctly different colour card (red) to indicate they are eligible in League games. This applies to both NWBL and WNWBL.

## **9. Eligibility**

### **Maximum Points:**

The sum total of the classification points of the five players on court at any one time cannot exceed 14.0. The only exception to this rule is if a team is playing one or more red card players, in which case, they cannot exceed 15.0 points (one red card player on court) or 16.0 points (two or more red card players on court).

### **Red Card Eligibility - NWBL**

Some players are eligible for a red classification card. The players entitled to a red classification card are:

- a. First year National League players. A first year player is defined as any Australian or player from New Zealand (who is a NZ citizen) in their first year of the National League. A player would lose this eligibility immediately after they have represented

the Senior Australian or New Zealand National Wheelchair Basketball team at a AOZ Qualification tournament, World Championship or Paralympic Games (including world repechage qualification events).

- b. A first year National League player (non-import only) may apply to maintain a red card in their second year if they have played a total of less than 90 minutes (NWBL) in the previous year of the National League provided that they are playing with the same team, subject to compliance with the original rules for listing as a first year player. The minutes threshold has been calculated on a player averaging more than 5 mins per game for all regular season games (for 2024 this equates to 9 games per women's teams and 18 games per men's teams). A first year player may only hold this status for two consecutive seasons in total.
- c. For the 2024 season, teams can apply to the Executive Committee to approve a second season of first year player status based on the number of minutes played in the last National League season played in 2022. The tournament played in 2023 shall not be taken into account when looking at first year status.
- d. Junior players are those under the age of 23 as at 31 December of the current season. A player would lose this eligibility immediately after representing Australia or New Zealand Wheelchair Basketball at a senior international tournament as defined by Article 9A.
- e. Female players playing in the NWBL would be able to apply for a red card.
- f. Team lists must display the player's correct points followed by an "R" in brackets to indicate the player's red card status. e.g. John Smith is class 4.0 and is a junior. On the team list this will be listed as John Smith 4.0 (R)
- g. Note that players are eligible for awards under their true classification points, e.g. in the above example John Smith is eligible for the 4.0 point MVP award and NOT the 3.0 point MVP award.

#### **Red Card Eligibility - WNWBL**

Some players are eligible for a red classification card. The players entitled to a red classification card are:

- a. First year National League players. A first year player is defined as any Australian or player from New Zealand (who is a NZ citizen) in their first year of the National League. A player would lose this eligibility immediately after they have represented the Senior Australian or New Zealand National Wheelchair Basketball team at a AOZ Qualification tournament, World Championship or Paralympic Games (including world repechage qualification events).
- b. A first year National League player (non-import only) may apply to maintain a red card in their second year if they have played a total of less than 45 minutes (WNWBL) in the previous year of the National League provided that they are playing with the same team, subject to compliance with the original rules for listing as a first year player. The minutes threshold has been calculated on a player averaging more than 5 mins per game for all regular season games (for 2024 this equates to 9 games per women's teams and 18 games per men's teams). A first year player may only hold this status for two consecutive seasons in total.

- c. For the 2024 season, teams can apply to the Executive Committee to approve a second season of first year player status based on the number of minutes played in the last National League season played in 2022. The tournament played in 2023 shall not be taken into account when looking at first year status.
- d. Junior players are those under the age of 25 as at 31 December of the current season. A player would lose this eligibility immediately after representing Australia or New Zealand Wheelchair Basketball at a senior international tournament as defined by Article 9A.
- e. Team lists must display the player's correct points followed by an "R" in brackets to indicate the player's red card status. e.g. Joan Smith is class 4.0 and is a junior. On the team list this will be listed as Joan Smith 4.0 (R)
- f. Note that players are eligible for awards under their true classification points, e.g. in the above example Joan Smith is eligible for the 4.0 point MVP award and NOT the 3.0 point MVP award.

## 10. Pre-game Chair and Equipment Check

- a. All players are required to be available courtside between 40 and 20 minutes before the scheduled game time for the referees to conduct a chair and equipment check.
- b. Referees may conduct a chair and equipment check of a player(s) in the last 20 minutes pre game if that player (s) was not available 40 minutes pre game.
- c. During the checking process referees must be given access to check cushions and player seating heights if they request to do so.

## 11. Final Series

- a. In the event of a tie for the final positions, the positions will be decided by a points for and against between the teams involved. If a tie is still evident then points for and against for the entire competition will decide the rankings. These formulas are set out in the IWBF rulebook.
- b. The Finals Series with four teams consists of five (5) games. Game 1 – 2 will be played on Saturday morning, Game 3 will be played Saturday evening and Games 4 – 5 on Sunday.

Game 1	1v2
Game 2	3v4
Game 3	Loser Game 1 v Winner Game 2
Game 4	Loser Game 2 v Loser Game 3
Game 5	Winner Game 1 v Winner Game 3

## 12. Game Officials

- a. Game fees, accommodation and transport arrangements are reviewed and set annually following discussion and agreement between the WBA and Referee Co-ordinator.
- b. The Referee Co-ordinator will manage the appointment of referees to all games in collaboration with the individual state referee co-ordinators.
- c. The WBA is committed to the development of game officials in conjunction with Basketball Australia and where appropriate will arrange for the conduct of education opportunities in association with League round games for both men and women.

### **Game Commissioner**

- a. The Game Commissioner is appointed by the host team and is responsible for the following:
  - Two weeks prior to home game, liase with home team and home venue to ensure that the competition court is equipped with working clocks including 24 second shot clocks, monitors and bells/siren etc.
  - If the game is to be live streamed that a suitable position is available for the cameras to be elevated for the coverage and a position courtside for the commentators.
  - Position courtside for game announcer and music operator.
  - Accessible change rooms and toilets are available for both teams.
  - Change room for referees
  - Note and report on any matters that may lead to a protest or to a report to the WBA Executive Committee
  - Ensure that all information is sent to the WBA office after each game.
  - Ensure that a game report is provided to Communications Manager after the game with a summary of the game for sharing on social media.
- b. The Game Commissioner is responsible for the smooth running of the matches and ensuring that NWBL and WNBL rules and regulations are maintained. The fee for the Game Commissioner is \$30 per game.
- c. Home teams are to ensure that the competition court is available sixty (60) minutes prior to the tip of the game. Game Commissioner should be at the court at least one hour prior to the game to ensure that all is in readiness for competition.
- d. Meet teams and referees on arrival and distribute any information and ensure that they are aware of where the facilities are located.
- e. Ensure that the competition court is ready and clean with all score table equipment in place.



- f. Provide or arrange assistance if requested by the referee, in regard to problems with the playing venue or associated equipment.
- g. Ensure any sponsor signs for WBA is in place as per the provided plan.
- h. Coordinate pre game presentation with game day announcer and home game personnel.
- i. Collect all scoresheets and stats sheets and ensure that they are provided to WBA Executive Committee and Communications Manager for media purposes.
- j. Collect MVP votes from each coach and referee.
- k. Ensure that the home team's communication manager provides game summary for use on social media and provided to the Communication Manager. Complete a brief report on each game using the form provided by WBA. The brief report should include any incidents, comments from officials, actions requiring follow up, names of players playing in illegal chairs.

### **Referees**

- a. Referees must be of a standard as recommended for NWBL and WNWBL games by the Referees Co-ordinator
- b. The Referees Co-ordinator makes referees appointments for league round games and final series.
- c. Each game must have three qualified referees
- d. Referee appointments are notified no less than two weeks in advance. Referees or teams may not make unauthorised changes to appointments
- e. The Leagues promote the use of local referees where appropriate and qualified.
- f. Payment for each game for referees is a total of \$450 - \$150 per referee
- g. A travel allowance for referees driving more than 100km is available at the motor vehicle cents per k kilometre rate as per the Australian Tax Office for the distance over 100km on the production of a logbook to WBA Management.
- h. Where possible the Referees Co-ordinator will appoint a referees evaluator/coach to observe the referees, give verbal feedback to the officials and complete a Referees Report form. Referee evaluators/coaches must be of a standard as recommended for NWBL and WNWBL games by BA Technical Committee.
- i. If a Referees Evaluator is appointed for a round, the payment will be \$50 per game. WBA with the Referees Co-ordinator will agree on a budget for the season for the Referee Evaluator's appointments.
- j. When a referee evaluator/coach is not present a referee report form will be completed by both coaches and given to the game commission within 30 minutes of the completion of the game.
- k. The referees evaluator or game commissioner will send the forms to the WBA office after the games.

## 13. Pre Game Timing

Referees are to arrive at the venue at least one (1) hour prior to the commencement of the first rostered game and fulfil the following duties at the nominated times prior to the commencement of the game:

60 minutes	Referees arrive at venue, have pre game meeting
45 minutes	Crew Chief meet Game Commissioner
	Check time with the Game Commissioner and the Game clock set at 40 minutes and begin chair/player inspections.
	Complete chair/player inspections leaving 20 minutes clear for warm up
20 minutes on clock	Referees on court supervising the team warm up
	Meet table officials
	Check technical equipment
10 minutes on clock	Crew Chief Referee ensures that full teams are on score sheet and first fives are marked and checks the classification points of the starting 5
6 minutes on clock	Players to the bench for team introductions
Clock stopped at 3 minutes if necessary	National Anthem is played (before the Grand Final game only)
	Players may return to floor after introductions
Game clock restarts	
90 seconds on clock	Crew Chief Referee orders players to benches
	First Five announced onto court
Game clock runs out	TIP OFF

### Score Table Officials

- a. Score table officials must be of a standard as recommended by BA and the referee Co-ordinator.
- b. Each game must have four qualified table officials, one holding a minimum of Basketball Australia Score Table Level two qualifications.
- c. The score table game fee is a total maximum of \$120 and is shared between the four table officials (\$30 for each official).

### **Statistic Technical Officials**

- a. Game statistics are collected in the approved format by three qualified officials.
- b. The statistics game fee is a total of \$90 and is shared between the three officials.
- c. WBA will distribute statistics of all games on a regular basis for teams to use in their communication and media promotion.

## **14. Court Announcers**

- a. Announcers should provide information and create or encourage an atmosphere of enthusiasm and enjoyment for the game at hand. There should be no criticism emanating from the microphone. Further all commentary should be made from an unbiased view. The announcer should be courtside commentating and most definitely not participating in any way in the outcome of the game.
  - b. Objectives:
    - To introduce teams and players to the spectators
    - To provide information relative to the state of the game that may not be readily available to spectators
    - To promote sponsors at appropriate times
    - To recognise official guests to the audience
    - To provide a limited commentary on the game (as detailed below).
- There should be no commentary while a team (either team) has possession of the ball in play in their offensive half (front court), nor after a player has had the ball placed at their disposal to shoot free throws. Comments that take longer to make, during the course of play, than the time it takes a team to progress to the halfway point of the is too long.
  - The game commentary should be limited to providing the following information at appropriate times.
  - Scoring – who scored. Three pointer, accumulative individual total. An occasional mention of assists may be appropriate.
  - Foul – who fouled. Number of foul's – individual and team. Who is shooting free throws and how many (if required). Note: the referees call should not be pre-empted in anyway. The announcer must wait for the referee decision and signal – don't guess. Incorrect information can create confusion and embarrassment to all.
  - Violation – name the violate not the player violating.
  - Time out – which team called it and how many they have had or have left.
  - Rebounds, blocks and steals can be mentioned if required and appropriate but who made turnovers is generally not appropriate for comment.

- Time remaining – at no time should there be any comment from the court announcer relative to the amount of time remaining on the game clock or the shot clock.
  - a Music and/or sound effects may be played while the ball is in play provided, they are not distracting to the teams or referees. Music and/or sound effects may not be made while any player is attempting a free throw.
  - b The court announcer is not a cheerleader, barracker, noise generator or game critique. The principal duties are to pass information to the crowd not incite it. Any comment reflecting on the performance of the referees, either positive or negative, is not allowed. Critical remarks of any type towards players or coaches are not acceptable (including pre-taped comments played on the PA system)
  - c An appeal to the crowd for the noise/support at inappropriate times is not allowed. Home teams must generate their crowd support and noise through methods other than the court announcer e.g. team mascots.
  - d The court announcer should be an official conduit between the game referees and the audience in conveying information relative to rule decisions that may not be apparent to the public. There are often timing and rule confusions that occur between referees and the score table, or between the referees themselves resulting in game stoppage and consultation. The court announcer should be able to clarify the circumstance with the public after it is resolved. This is an important function.
  - e Recognition of club and league sponsors and guests are a part of the court announcer's duties. These announcements should be limited to pre-game, time out and quarter/half time breaks. The court announcer will be obligated to acknowledge the Naming rights sponsor (if any) a minimum of three times per game.

## 15. Protests

- a. Protests cannot be lodged prior to the commencement of a game. Protests can only be made as a consequence of a specific incident in a game, which is considered to have fundamentally affected the outcome of the game.
- b. A fee of \$100.p00 must accompany all protests on the prescribed form. This fee is refunded only if the protest is upheld.
- c. Protests must be made to the Games Commissioner within 60 minutes of the game completion. Such protests will be dealt with prior to that team playing its next game.
- d. The WBA Executive Committee will decide the outcome of protests.

## 16. Procedures for Reports and disciplinary Tribunal

- a. When a player or a team official at a league game has been cited by a referee or authorised official, he/she will be subject to the judicial proceedings as defined in the following:
- b. A report may be made by any of the following authorised officials:
  - the game referee/s
  - the referees' evaluator
  - a member of the WBA Executive Committee of the League if not involved in the game

## 17. Notification

- a. The reported player/team official must be notified within 30 minutes following the game that he/she is to be reported. This notification may be made directly to the player(s)/team official involved or to an official of the individual's team.
- b. The reporting official(s) must inform the Game Commissioner of the report within 30 minutes following the game.
- c. The report(s) must be in writing and handed to the Game Commissioner no later than sixty (60) minutes from the conclusion of the game. The reporting officials should keep a copy of the report(s)
- d. The Game Commissioner shall email the report to the WBA office within 12 hours of receipt.
- e. If the Game Commissioner is not available to the reporting official(s) up to sixty minutes following the game, the reporting official(s) shall email the report to the WBA Office within 12 hours of the game.
- f. The WBA Secretary shall cause a copy of the report to reach the reported party(s) no later than Tuesday 5.00pm Eastern Standard Time (EST) after the offence took place. If the game that the report arose from was played on a weekday then the report shall reach the reported party(s) at 5.00pm Eastern Standard Time (EST) two days after the game was played.

## 18. Tribunal Hearing

- a. The Tribunal hearing shall be conducted no earlier than four days at 7.00pm EST after the League round/game or Final Series that the offence took place.
- b. The Tribunal hearing shall be chaired by the WBA Executive Committee Chair or his/her appointee who shall conduct the tribunal with two other members.
- c. Members of the WBA Executive Committee must disqualify themselves if they have any conflict of interest. The Chair of the WBA EC can appoint a replacement member of the Tribunal.

- d. The final decision on the tribunal members, time and venue/manner of the tribunal hearing rests with the WBA EC chair or his/her appointee.
- e. The Tribunal Hearing will be conducted on line via zoom or teams.
- f. The WBA EC Chair or his/her appointee shall conduct the hearing and keep or cause to be kept, minutes of the procedures. The Tribunal shall decide if the player(s) or team staff is guilty or not guilty of the charges(s) and hand down a penalty (if appropriate) in keeping with the NWBL and WNWBL Tribunal Standard Penalties.
- g. The penalty (if any) shall be expressed in the number of league games to be served.
- h. The WBA EC chair shall inform all parties of the findings and penalty (if any).

### **Areas of Concern**

- a. Persons charged with offences under Category A and/or B]
- b. Persons charged with offences in Category A and/or B who are a minor
- c. Hearing of appeals from decisions

### **Attendance**

- The following persons shall be entitled to be in attendance :
- Members of the relevant tribunal
- The Charged person
- The Complainant(s)
- In the case of a Minor Charged person, an adult who shall be entitled to represent the Minor Charged person
- Any other person summoned by the relevant tribunal hearing the complaint and any legal representative or advocate of the charged person and or Complainant.

## **19. Tribunal Process**

The Chairman of the tribunal shall firstly:

- a. Identify the members of the tribunal
- b. Establish that the charged person is present to answer the Charge against them
- c. Give the charged person or complainant the opportunity to object to any Tribunal Member on the grounds of bias or perceived bias and then
- d. Inform the charged person and the complainant that they are entitled to remain in the hearing until all evidence is presented but not entitled to be present whilst the tribunal considers its findings and determines their appropriate penalty (if any).
- e. To advise all participants at the commencement of the proceedings before their particular Tribunal of the method of recording the hearing.
- f. Read the complaint and ask the charged person whether the allegations in the complaint are admitted or denied

- g. If the allegations in the complaint are admitted, the Chairman may read a short summary of the facts, admit the reporting official's evidence (written/verbal) and no witnesses need be called to give evidence, or allow all witnesses to give evidence and both the Charged person and complainant may question witnesses.
- h. If the allegations are denied then the Chairman shall ask all witnesses except the Complainant and the Charged person or Minor Charged person as the case may be and his representative to leave the room or on line conference (and to wait to be called to give their evidence). NB The charged person and acting official remain in the Tribunal while evidence is being given.
- i. The Chairman of the tribunal will then call upon the Complainant and any witnesses of the Complainant to give his/her evidence in turn. The charged person shall be entitled to question each witness called.
- j. On completion of such evidence the charged person shall be advised by the chairman of their entitlement to make an initial statement. After each witness has given evidence such witness shall be asked to leave the on line conference.
- k. The Chairman shall then permit the charged person to add any additional evidence by way of witnesses or to make a statement in his defence. The Complainant shall be entitled to question each witness called by the charged person.
- l. The Chairman of the tribunal shall afford members of the tribunal the opportunity to ask questions of any witnesses called at the hearing.
- m. At the conclusion of all of the evidence and of addresses the Chairman then asks the charged person and the complainant to leave the call while the tribunal considers its findings. In the event that a Charged person in relation to whom a complaint has been made fails to appear without reasonable cause the hearing may proceed and a determination may be made by the tribunal in the absence of the charged person.
- n. If the tribunal is not satisfied that the particular complaint has been proved but is satisfied that a lesser complaint has been established then the tribunal may find such lesser complaint established and shall apply the penalty applicable to such lesser charge.
- o. In arriving at a decision as to whether a complaint has been established the tribunal must be satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the particular misconduct has occurred. It is not necessary for the tribunal to be satisfied "beyond all reasonable doubt that the incident occurred" before arriving at a finding that the complaint has been established.
- p. If the tribunal is not satisfied that a complaint has been established it shall dismiss such complaint.
- q. If a complaint has been found established by the tribunal the charged person shall be informed of the determination. Any previous established complaints against the charged person should then be laid before the tribunal. The Charged person should then be given the right to make a final statement in relation to previous established complaints or other mitigating circumstances before being asked to leave the on line conference a second time.

- r. The tribunal shall then determine the penalty (if any) and recall the charged person to advise of the penalty.
- s. The tribunal may either impose a penalty consisting of a period of a number of league games or alternatively record that the complaint has been established but having regard to the nature of the complaint and/or the prior good conduct of the subject Charged person not impose a penalty. The penalties imposed by the tribunal for particular offence shall not exceed those set out on Schedule following.
- t. Any suspension shall be calculated in a number of games played or to be played in the leagues.
- u. A tribunal shall not impose a suspended sentence..
- v. A tribunal shall take into account the prior established offences of the charged person when assessing the severity of the penalty.
- w. Where the Charged person is found guilty of more than one offence, it is procedure that the penalties are served concurrently, with the most severe penalty being the maximum number of games suspended. However, Tribunals do have the prerogative to vary from this procedure
- x. .After a penalty has been imposed the tribunal Chairman shall inform the complainant and the charged person of their right of appeal including the time and date by which the appeal must be lodged, the place of lodgement of the appeal.
- y. The results of the Tribunal are sent to BA.

## 20. Appeal Process

- a. The WBA Appeals Tribunal is approved by the WBA or its delegated authority to hear appeals from decisions of the WBA Tribunals.
- b. The WBA Appeals Tribunal shall consist of at least three members, depending on the matter being decided.
- c. No member of the WBA Appeals Tribunal shall be appointed to hear an appeal from a decision of the WBA Tribunal if such a person was a member of the WBA Tribunal, who heard the particular matter, which is the subject of the appeal.
- d. An appeal made by a Charged person who has had an offence established against him/her may be on all grounds or to contest the severity of the penalty only.
- e. An appeal made by a complainant only on the basis that the penalty imposed on a Charged person by WBA Tribunal was too lenient.
- f. Any appeal lodged to a relevant tribunal shall be made in writing (typed whenever possible) and shall be known as the Notice of appeal.
- g. Any appeal shall be lodged with the relevant tribunal to which the appeal is being brought within fourteen (14) days of the decision appealed against.
- h. Appeals shall be processed as expeditiously as possible.



- i. Upon receipt of any appeal the Chairman of the relevant tribunal shall check that the appeal complies with the rules concerning time of lodgement and completeness of information provided, arrange for a copy of the transcript of the previous hearing to be obtained.
- j. An appellant lodging an appeal against the findings of a tribunal must establish in the Notice of appeal that they have been treated unjustly or unfairly. Reasons for this can be many and varied but some typical reasons for appeal are not being correctly informed of the hearing before the tribunal whose decision is the subject of the appeal; prejudice by any member of the tribunal whose decision is the subject of the appeal; incorrect procedures used by the tribunal whose decision is the subject of the appeal; new evidence which was not available at the time of the hearing by the tribunal whose decision is the subject of the appeal, incorrect information presented to Tribunal.
- k. The relevant appeals Chairman before whom the appeal is sought to be heard shall check the transcript of evidence and any other documents filed with it to determine whether in its view grounds for the appeal such as to warrant a full hearing of the appeal. The relevant tribunal shall have absolute discretion to decide whether to hear an appeal and in the event that it declines so to do it shall not be obliged to assign any reasons for such refusal.
- l. If a relevant tribunal decides to hear an appeal then the chairman of such tribunal shall; make arrangements for the hearing of the appeal; notify all parties concerned of the time, date and place of the hearing; no fee is charged to hear an appeal but the applicant is responsible for any appeal costs.
- m. The tribunal hearing the appeal may request further information prior to determining the appeal but has the discretion whether to allow new evidence to be adduced.
- n. In a tribunal hearing, the appeal should confine its deliberations specifically to the matters raised in the appeal but has the discretion whether to allow new evidence to be adduced.
- o. The tribunal hearing the appeal shall have the authority to stay any order of a tribunal whose decision is being appealed and to re-instate an appellant pending the determination of the appeal.
- p. The following persons shall be entitled to be in attendance at an appeal; Members of the relevant tribunal; The Charged person (or their representatives); The Complainant; Witnesses, if any, to be called to give evidence; in the case of a Minor charged person that person shall be entitled to be accompanied by an adult; any other person summoned by the tribunal hearing the appeal; Legal representatives of either the Charged person or the complainant.
- q. In considering the evidence before it a tribunal hearing an appeal shall not set aside a determination of a tribunal which is the subject of the appeal on technical or procedural grounds but shall do so only if there has been a substantive error made.
- r. At the hearing of the appeal the Tribunal hearing the appeal shall determine the appeal on the basis of transcript of the proceedings of the hearing before the tribunal whose decision is the subject of the appeal; the material contained in the Notice of

appeal; new evidence, if any, heard by it; oral submissions, if any, made on behalf of the Charged person and the complainant.

- s. In the event that new evidence is sought to be adduced on behalf of the Charged person or the Complainant then tribunal hearing the appeal shall first determine whether such evidence should be permitted.
- t. In the event that new evidence is permitted by the tribunal hearing the appeal then such tribunal shall follow the procedure for taking evidence as outlined above.
- u. A tribunal hearing an appeal shall have the power to; confirm the decision of the previous tribunal hearing; waive, increase or decrease penalties awarded by previous tribunal hearings; conduct a new tribunal hearing itself upon the appeal and quash the findings of the previous tribunal hearing; make orders that either the Complainant or the charged person pay the costs and expenses of the conduct of appeal.
- v. After the finalisation of an appeal the Chairman of the Tribunal hearing the appeal shall inform the charged person and the complainant of their right of further appeals including; that the appeal must be lodged within fourteen (14) days and, the place of lodgement of the appeal.

## 21. NWBL & WNWBL Offences and Penalties

Notes: there are two groups of charges and penalties:

**Group A relate to charges against participants but not involving a game official**

**Group B relate to charges against participants involving game official(s)**

### 21.1 Disputing decisions

B – maximum of three (3) games

### 21.2 Unsportsmanlike behaviour

A – Maximum of three (3) games

### 21.3 Code of conduct breach relating to a player, referee or official

Maximum of three (3) games

### 21.4 Attempting to throw a player out of his/her chair by the use of the hand(s) or footplate

A – Maximum five (5) games

### 21.5 Throwing a player out of his/her chair by the use of the hand(s) or footplate

A – Maximum ten (10) games

### 21.6 Attempting to trip a game official by the use of the chair

OR: Attempting to hit a game official by the use of the chair

OR: Attempting to strike a game official with a fist or elbow

B – Maximum fifteen (15) games

- 21.7 Tripping a game official by the use of the chair  
 OR: Hitting a game official by the use of the chair  
 OR: Striking a game official with a fist or elbow  
 B – Maximum of life
- 21.8 Obscene gestures  
 A – Maximum of five (5) games  
 B – Maximum of ten (10) games
- 21.9 Offensive language (which may include abusive, obscene or insulting language)  
 A – Maximum of five (5) games  
 B – Maximum of ten (10) games
- 21.10 Attempting to strike  
 OR: Attempting to elbow  
 OR: Attempting to kick  
 A – Maximum five (5) games  
 B – Maximum fifteen (15) games
- 21.11 Striking (fist, hand, object, head)  
 OR: Elbowing  
 OR; Kicking  
 A – Maximum fifteen (15) games  
 B – Maximum of life
- 21.12 Attempting to use a chair to strike a player on the floor  
 A – Maximum five (5) games
- 21.13 Using a chair to strike a player on the floor  
 A – Maximum fifteen (15) games
- 21.14 Fighting  
 A – More than two players involved a maximum of ten (10) games
- 21.15 Spitting  
 A – Maximum of ten (10) games  
 B – Maximum of fifteen (15) games
- 21.16 Putting a person in fear of impending violence

A – Maximum of fifteen (15) games

B – Maximum of thirty (30) games

21.17 Conduct which brings the game of wheelchair basketball into disrepute

Maximum of ten (10) years

21.18 Deliberately endangering the safety or health of players, spectators or officials (incidents involving blood/body fluids)

Maximum penalty life

21.19 Failure to attend Tribunal without proper cause when notified

Maximum of ten (10) games

21.20 Failure to co-operate in, or hindering an investigation or hearing under these by-laws.

Maximum of ten (10) games

21.21 NWBL and/or WNWBL coaching, playing, score bench duties while under suspension

A – minimum of two (2) games, maximum five (5) games per game plus the suspension period.

## 22. Sponsorship

The WBA Ltd. Will negotiate partnerships and sponsorships for the Leagues.

League sponsorships will be negotiated, mindful of known team sponsors and we will endeavour not to negotiate with sponsors that may conflict with existing team sponsor arrangements.

The WBA will retain the commercial rights for airline travel and basketballs. If there is an opportunity for WBA to source a sponsorship that will financially assist the overall league and individual clubs then the commercial rights will be held by WBA.

Teams have the right to negotiate team sponsors; however teams must confer with WBA prior to completing sponsorship negotiations. Teams should not negotiate sponsorship arrangements with companies in direct competition with league sponsors. Registering potential team sponsors with WBA prior to entering negotiations will help ensure that conflicts do not arrive between the leagues and WBA sponsors.

Prior to undertaking any promotional activities relating to the League, all teams are to seek approval from WBA to ensure that league sponsors are appropriately recognised.

## 23. NWBL and WNWBL Life Membership

### Eligibility Criteria

- a. The major criteria must be meritorious service to the NWBL and WNWBL club (s). such service must incorporate recognisable achievement over a minimum period of time.
- b. Committee Member: Minimum ten (10) years service to the Leagues as an Executive Committee Member.
- c. Players: Minimum fifteen (15) years playing in a NWBL or WNWBL club. Can combined services as a player/coach/official/NWBL/WNWBL committee.
- d. Coaches: Minimum fifteen (15) years service in a league club. Can combined services as player/coach/official/NWBL/WNWBL committee member
- e. Officials (Referees/classifiers/game commissioners). Fifteen (15) years service to the leagues or league clubs. The service can be combined with other roles.
- f. Club volunteers/Associates: fifteen (15) years service to a league club. Can combine services with other contributions in other roles.

## 24. Life Members Entitlement

All Life members shall be entitled to:

- Free entry to any events controlled by WBA on presentation of Life Membership identification;
- Attend open WBA meetings and to speak at such meetings.

All candidates for life membership must be nominated by the clubs or WBA in advance of the annual meeting of all clubs. Nominations to include a summary of the candidate's contribution to the leagues.

All candidates must be elected by no less than 75% of the clubs present at the annual meeting.

Two Life Members can be elected each year.

# APPENDIX A: PROTEST/APPEAL FORM

PROTEST/Appeal lodged by or on behalf of

.....

According to the rules of this competition, all protests presented to the game commissioner must include a deposit of AUD\$100. If the protest/appeal fails, the appeal fee may not be returned.

Grounds for lodging protest/appeal

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

Signature ..... Date ..... Time .....

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Time game finished	Time protest/appeal was lodged with Game Commissioner

Decision

.....

The fee will be:      Returned      Yes      Not Returned      Yes

Chairperson ..... DATE ..... TIME .....

APPELLANT NOTIFIED      DATE ..... TIME .....

TEAM NOTIFIED      DATE ..... TIME .....

# APPENDIX B: NWBL & WNWBL INCIDENT/INJURY REPORT FORM

INCIDENT DETAILS: GAME		<b>v</b>	
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DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:	
DATE OF INCIDENT OCCURRED:	
ACTUAL LOCATION	
ACTION TAKEN	
NAME OF PERSON COMPLETING THIS REPORT:	
CAPACITY:	
ADDRESS;	
PHONE:	