



Joondalup Wolves

WABL Tryout Information Pack

Wanneroo Basketball Association Inc.

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Contents

What is WABL Basketball? 3

About the Wanneroo Basketball Association (Joondalup Wolves) 4

Our Selection Philosophy 5

Playing WABL Basketball 5

The difference between WABL & Domestic Basketball 6

Required commitment 7

WABL Coaching Appointments 8

Selection/Tryout Process 8

Mid Tryout Selections 9

Tryout Exemptions 9

Team Announcement Process 9

Team Finalisation Process 9

Player Selection Criteria - Tryouts 10

Frequently Asked Questions 11

Closing Message 15



What is WABL Basketball?

'The Western Australian Basketball League (WABL) aims to provide a state-wide premier junior competition which develops players, coaches and officials. The League seeks to meet the high-level competition requirements through accessible education and training, while promoting positive mental, physical and emotional outcomes'

– WABL February 2017

WABL is WA's premier junior basketball competition catering for players in the following age groups: U12, U14, U16, U18 and U20/U21.

WABL has graded divisions within each age group and gender. Teams grade into divisions through the grading phase of the competition in February and March of each year.

Games are played on Sundays over an 18-week home and away season, plus finals.

The season generally commences on the last weekend of April with finals finishing at the end of September. WABL pre-season training runs from November to March (excluding school holidays) with practice games, pre-grading and grading games used to determine the appropriate competition grade for each team. WABL season runs from April to August (excluding school holidays). Teams will play home and away games on Sundays, across metropolitan Perth and regional WA which may include overnight stays as required.

WABL is currently comprised of Basketball Associations from both the metropolitan and country regions extending from Joondalup to Southwest (Bunbury).



About the Wanneroo Basketball Association (Joondalup Wolves)

Established in 1983, the Wanneroo Basketball Association is the most successful and professionally operated basketball Association in Western Australia. Based in the heart of the northern growth corridor, Joondalup, our popular and high-profile club has been in existence for over 35 years.

The Association has grown substantially, becoming a large, integral and highly influential organisation within the northern metropolitan community. In late 2017, the Association built and relocated from the iconic Joondalup Basketball Stadium to the new state-of-the-art Arena Joondalup, a bespoke facility for Basketball, a genuine home for the future.

Through its extended representation in Junior, Senior and representative competitions, the Association has more than 5,000 registered players (members) through what is eight large, volunteer governed affiliated domestic clubs; with numbers bolstered by the many thousands of spectators who pass through the stadium every week of the year.

The Wanneroo Basketball Association aspires to be 'The Destination of Choice for Basketball', welcoming and growing by over 500 new players per year, as a notably progressive, inclusive, accessible and affordable sporting option for the WA community.

The pinnacle of the Association is the NBL1 Men's and Women's teams. The Joondalup Wolves, as they are proudly known, have been in existence since 1983 and have experienced much success in their time, including 10 Championships between Men's and Women's teams.

The club is committed to sustainable success, and prides itself on a high-performance culture, from junior ranks all the way through to the professional levels of the sport and business.

The Wanneroo Basketball Association is a destination for physical health, participation, personal development and social connectivity. Management's objective is to position the club as a true destination for all, a genuine hub of the Perth community and our growth projections remain significant, as does our exploration of new models and stadia to service our demand.

Our commitment to further sustained growth is evident in our recent recruiting activities, as we evolve our organisational structure to deliver more quality outcomes into our existing member base, as well as boosting our business and basketball development roles and activities.

Our club possesses an inherent belief and commitment in what we do, the quality of our service and the strength of our programs and products. Go Wolves!



Our Selection Philosophy

At the WBA, our WABL program is a development focused program. Our purpose as a program is to provide players with an environment that can maximise their potential, learning and enjoyment of the game in a safe way. We do this using contemporary approaches that are evidence based and highly intentioned.

The selection criteria we utilise during WABL tryouts is detailed later in this document. The WBA will use these criteria to select teams as well as ensure that players are selected on merit and the individual's alignment with our values.

Playing WABL Basketball

The nature of WABL basketball is that players represent the Wanneroo Basketball Association, as the Joondalup Wolves, at an elite level in addition to playing local domestic basketball. Players from all domestic clubs are welcomed and encouraged to tryout for the Joondalup Wolves.

Benefits of WABL basketball include:

1. Opportunity to compete at an advanced level
2. Improved basketball skills and knowledge of the game
3. Exposure to different coaches and coaching methods
4. Developing new friendships and social networks

Players are selected into to age group teams as follows:

State Championships – 2026

- Under 11 (2018, 2017 & 2016)
- Under 13 (2015 & 2014)
- Under 15 (2013 & 2012)
- Under 17 (2011 & 2010)
- Under 19 (2009 & 2008)
- Under 20 (Women only) (2009, 2008 & 2007)

WABL Season – 2027

- Under 12 (2018, 2017 & 2016)
- Under 14 (2015 & 2014)
- Under 16 (2013 & 2012)
- Under 18 (2011 & 2010)
- Under 20 (2009 & 2008)
- Under 21 (Women only) (2009, 2008 & 2007)



The difference between WABL & Domestic Basketball

WABL basketball operates at a higher standard than domestic competition, with increased expectations placed on players. The program provides an intentional, challenging environment designed to maximise each player's learning, development and enjoyment of the game. Players are expected to listen with purpose, engage fully in coaching, and demonstrate a commitment to improving their skills and understanding of basketball.

Most players respond positively to this environment and grow because of it; however, families should recognise that WABL carries greater responsibility, elevated standards, and a higher level of pressure than domestic basketball. These expectations are part of creating a development-focused environment that supports players in becoming the best version of themselves.

Other important differences include:

- Selection opportunities – Trying out for WABL basketball does not mean the player is guaranteed selection in a team, and all selections are final.
- Court time – Players are not rotated evenly as is often the case in domestic. Players will have more or less time on court during the game, depending on several factors including skill level, match-up to opposition players, participation, attitude, behaviour, attendance at training and performance in games.



Required commitment

WABL Basketball is a year-long commitment:

Tryouts are held in October/November each year. There are 2-4 tryout sessions for each age group and teams are then selected by the WBA Selection Panel with the assistance of Head Coaches within each age group.

State Championships are held in November & December each year and form part of our WABL selection process.

All players and parents/guardians are required to meet the following commitments:

1. Weekly Commitments:
 - Sunday game, home or away dependent on fixture
 - 2 x Mid-week trainings for 1.5 hours on scheduled evenings
2. Tournament Weekends (All are compulsory):
 - State Championships in November/December
 - Grading Tournament in February and March
3. Domestic Commitments:
 - All players participating in the WABL program MUST play junior domestic basketball at WBA during the winter season. Exemptions apply in certain circumstances (refer to WBA website).
4. General Commitments:
 - All players, coaches, parents and spectators must agree to abide by the WBA and Basketball WA's Code of Conduct
 - Commit to pay all WABL fees as prescribed
 - Players are expected to attend all trainings and games even if injured
 - Players are only permitted to train in WBA sanctioned training sessions for insurance purposes
 - For any major injury, including concussion, players are required to provide medical clearance to the WBA prior to recommencing training or games
 - All players must wear the official training and playing uniform and apparel, at all WABL trainings and games, as required by the WBA

PLEASE NOTE: WABL training and games take precedence over all other basketball commitments except state representation. Players are required to prioritise their commitments accordingly.



WABL Coaching Appointments

WABL coaching applications are called for via the WBA website and social media. The WBA Selection Panel will identify, recruit and appoint coaches in line with our Coach Selection Policy.

Coaches are appointed to age group/genders prior to tryouts (this includes head and assistant coaches). Final Appointments are announced via the WBA website and social media after the conclusion of tryouts.

PLEASE NOTE: Coaches are not named to specific teams until later in the tryout process to ensure the upmost transparency in our selection process and to protect selected coaches from unfair accusations or perceptions. All coaching appointments are made by the WBA Selection Panel, in line with our Coach Selection Policy, and ratified by the WBA Management.

Selection/Tryout Process

Joondalup Wolves WABL Program Tryouts are advertised via the WBA website, our social media networks and the WBA online database. Players trying out must register online prior to tryouts.

Players trying out are required to arrive 30 minutes prior to all tryout sessions to sign in. During the sign-in process the players will have a number written on their arm and leg.

Players are NOT permitted to wear representative attire of ANY association to tryouts. Players who wear representative or state attire to a tryout session will be given a verbal reminder by WBA staff in the first instance and have their name recorded. In the second instance, players will not be allowed to train.

NOTE: If players don't have a reversible non-representative, they will be required to bring a dark and light shirt to train in.

WABL tryouts are run by the appointed coaches and the WBA Selection Panel. The tryout program and curriculum are set by the appointed WBA staff.

Head Coaches and selectors compile their notes and during the tryout sessions. At the conclusion of each tryout session, panel members and Head Coaches meet to discuss selections. Together, Head Coaches and the WBA Selection Panel make selections for the entire age group, not just a specific team.

Selections are made utilising the "player selection criteria" (which can be found later in this document).



Mid Tryout Selections

Traditionally referred to as “cuts” mid tryout selections will be made after the second round of tryouts. The final rounds of tryouts will be by invitation only.

The players invited back for the final rounds of tryouts will be posted on the WBA website in the week after the Mid tryout cuts.

Tryout Exemptions

If you are unable to participate in the tryouts due to injury or availability you can apply for an exemption to remain in consideration for selection. The WBA Selection Panel will work with you to discuss your options but please note if you are unavailable for tryouts there are no guarantees of selection.

PLEASE NOTE: Tryout exemptions are only offered using the criteria outlined in the exemption policy of the WBA website.

Team Announcement Process

After the conclusion of tryouts, team selections will be announced on the WBA website and social media.

Following the team announcements, the appointed team coach will email selected players with further information and ask players to confirm acceptance by registering.

Team Finalisation Process

Following State Championships there will be a window of player movement to finalise WABL selections. The WBA Selection Panel will finalise the team lists for the WABL teams.

Prior to finalising teams, the WBA Selection Panel will discuss potential changes with coaches. The WBA Selection Panel will consider Head Coach feedback, when submitted in the required time, regarding final team placements. All player movements will be finalised by the WBA Selection Panel.

In accordance with the BWA WABL Rules of Operation, WBA can move players between teams after State Championships as needed to support team balance and player development.



Player Selection Criteria - Tryouts

The document provides the criteria the selection panel will utilise during the tryout process. While these criteria provide a guideline, subjectivity is unavoidable. The WBA Selection Panel will finalise all selections to ensure we maintain consistency and fairness.

SKILL – The players Basketball specific skills.

Basketball specific skills include, but are not limited to dribbling, shooting, scoring, footwork, defense, decision making etc.

IQ – The players ability to understand the game of Basketball.

Basketball IQ can present itself through the player's ability to read, understand and solve the game in real time. It is about how well they process Basketball information and make good decisions.

PHYSICAL – The players physical attributes.

In the game of Basketball, physical attributes can be varied – height, wingspan, strength, endurance, sprint speed, vertical jump and agility etc.

COACHABILITY – The players ability to be coached.

Coachability is a term that refers to the players' attitude, teamwork, commitment and ability to receive and act on feedback.

TEAM BALANCE – How the player fits within a team.

Team balance refers to selecting players into a team that allows the collective to be able to work together to succeed. Considerations in balance include all of the above selection criteria.



Frequently Asked Questions

General WABL Basketball Questions:

Q) What are the benefits of playing WABL Basketball?

Playing WABL basketball allows players to play in the highest-level junior basketball competition in our state and has been a key pathway for many of Australia's best players. It also exposes players to a higher standard of competition and a higher standard of coaching. The WBA has made significant investment in appointing professional coaches to support and guide our WABL program, including a Player and Coach Development Manager and Pathways and Development Coordinator. In addition to the basketball-related benefits, there are also general health and fitness benefits, social benefits and the life skills learned on and off the court.

Q) Are WABL basketball players allowed to play other sports?

Yes, WABL basketball players can play other sports and we encourage it. However, WABL basketball is a genuine commitment, and players and families are expected to meet the expectations as outlined throughout this document.

Q) If my son/daughter cannot attend training sessions regularly due to other commitments, can they still play WABL basketball?

WABL basketball is a genuine commitment, the inability to attend training sessions may impact playing time and future selections. These situations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis upon application to the WBA appointed staff. When registering for tryouts, players are required to outline any training restrictions.

Q) Is playing time guaranteed for WABL players?

No, court time is NOT guaranteed. However, coaches are encouraged to fairly (not evenly) distribute court time based on level of commitment, application, behaviour and attitude at practice and in games. Playing time is distributed by the coaching staff and will not be dictated by parents/guardians. Players who are concerned about playing time are required to appropriately discuss with the Head Coach, areas the player can improve to receive more court time. If there are still ongoing issues, the player may raise their concerns with the Player and Coach Development Manager.

Q) Are all the WABL coaches qualified?

Yes. All Joondalup Wolves WABL coaches are required to hold a minimum Club Coach (Level One) Accreditation and Working with Children Check prior to the commencement of the WABL season. Additionally, the WBA invests heavily in coach education and development by running multiple professional development sessions for WABL coaches to attend.



Q) What is the pathway for players at the Wanneroo Basketball Association?

The development pathway at the WBA is built around a three-tier structure that clearly maps how a player progresses from first contact with basketball all the way to high-level WABL performance and into our Elite level at NBL1. This framework is designed to give every player — regardless of starting point — a purposeful, aligned, and age appropriate development experience.



Tryout Questions:

Q) Why are the tryouts closed to parents and spectators?

WABL tryouts are closed to all parents/guardians and spectators to ensure that all players are given the best opportunity to perform without outside distractions and to avoid potential for perceptions of bias to arise. They are also closed to protect the integrity of our selections and allow coaches to avoid conversations and interaction with parents during the tryout process. Only players, coaches, selectors and WBA staff will enter the courts during tryouts. First aid will be on site and emergency contact details will be readily available in case of any emergencies. All coaches, selectors and WBA staff involved in the tryouts will possess a working with children check.

Q) What happens if my child cannot attend any of the tryout sessions?

You will need to apply for an exemption as outlined on the WBA website. Exemptions may be granted at the discretion of the WBA.

Q) What are the coaches and selectors looking for in players?

Coaches/selectors are looking at a wide variety of skills and attributes in players. This document outlines the key attributes that players will be assessed on at the tryouts.

Q) How are WABL teams selected?

As outlined throughout this document, teams are selected by the WBA selection panel and age-level Head Coaches. A team is selected on a balance of positions and although your child may be for example the 5th best guard in the age group it does not necessarily mean they will be selected in the first team, as each team requires a balance of players in every position.

Q) My child was promised that they would be in a certain team next year, why didn't this happen?

The WBA does not make any promises to players about which team they will be selected in prior to tryouts. All selections are made on merit at the tryouts each year based on the selection criteria. If you or your child have been made promises or were under the impression that your team would stay together for multiple years, unfortunately this is not the case and is NOT in line with our selection process, policies or criteria.

Q) If my child has made a 1st team previously, shouldn't they make a 1st team again this year?

No, all selections are made on merit each year. Players that make 1st teams in one year, do not automatically gain selection in the 1st team the following year. Players all progress differently and team balance will also change which will affect player selection.

Players are assessed by the WBA Selection Panel against the selection criteria and placed in teams accordingly.



WANNEROO BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Q) My child is better than a child that was selected above them, how can that happen?

While we understand each parent may have a subjective opinion on the ability of their own child compared to others, the WBA Selection Panel is led by professional full-time coaches who are experienced in the assessment of player ability and potential. The selection panel may provide feedback on areas to improve, however, under no circumstances will the WBA discuss the selection of players with anyone other than their own parents/legal guardians. There are several factors involved in our selection process which are detailed in this document.

Q) I believe my child is in the top ten players, why didn't they make the 1st team?

When selecting WABL teams, the WBA Selection Panel does not just select the 10 best skilled players or the 10 best scorers; there are many factors that impact the selection of teams. For example: Positional balance - when selecting teams, coaches need to ensure there is an appropriate number of players selected in each position.

Q) My child plays A grade in domestic basketball, yet a C grade player was chosen above them. How/why does that happen?

WBA Selection Panel and age group Head Coaches do not take into consideration what level domestic team players play at. There may be many factors why a player does not play in A grade, for example, their club may not have entered an A grade team, so they played in the grade their club was placed.

Q) I have two children in the same age group, can they be picked in the same team?

Generally, this will not be considered due to the limited number of position available in our program, however in exceptional circumstances and based on team numbers an application to the WBA Selection Panel will be considered. It is our preference that all players be selected in teams based on merit. In exceptional circumstances where parents/guardians request siblings be placed in the same team, both players will always be placed in the lower grade team that one of the siblings was selected. For example, if one of your children is selected in the second team and the other in the first team, the first team player would be lowered to the second team. The second team player would not be promoted to the first team.

Q) Why was my child cut before the end of all the tryouts?

The tryouts are split into three sections across four sessions. The first two sessions are used to determine which players might be capable of playing at WABL level. The second two sessions are used to determine what individuals will be selected into which WABL teams, if at all.

Q) I believe my child never played on the top court or against the "better" players during any of the sessions.

At the beginning of the tryout process, players will be randomly grouped onto courts and gradually moved throughout the tryout process. The WBA Selection Panel will move players throughout the tryout process to see the players compete against others of comparative ability.



Closing Message

Whether selected or not, every player who attends our tryouts should be proud of putting themselves forward. Selection is only one step in a basketball journey, and players develop at different rates. We encourage every player to continue learning, improving and enjoying the game, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth both on and off the court, regardless of the outcomes of this year's WABL tryouts.

