

To: 2008 Women's Basketball League (WBL) Participants

Welcome

Welcome to the first step towards planning and preparing for the 2008 WBL season. To all new entrants, welcome to a competition which recognises and acknowledges the important contribution to the game made by women. You, along with the WBL stalwarts, are at the cutting edge of our sport's future. Your efforts go a long way to ensuring that New Zealand basketball has the depth in playing talent needed to strengthen our sport at national and international levels in future years. 2007 was a successful year for the consolidation of the League with three zones in operation leading to an exciting finals weekend hosted by North Harbour. 2008 looks to be on track for further consolidation of the League in terms of both participating teams and the level of competition experienced. Come mid-September 2008 and we can all confirm just that...and more.

The following is an update on 2008 planning which will, hopefully, assist in your preparations for the coming season.

League Objectives and Philosophy

The WBL's objective is to provide player exposure and experience opportunities. We positively contribute to the ongoing development of the vast pool of New Zealand players and while the current strength of the women's game restricts us in our competition format options, this should in no way detract from the very important role the League plays in New Zealand basketball.

Key elements are:

- Minimum operating costs
- Development of New Zealand players

With regard to minimum operating costs, all teams are reminded that this League is an opportunity for as many players throughout the country to play on a regular basis over a sustained period. Team funding should be limited to covering costs.

With regard to development of New Zealand players this League has a purpose and in addition to the key focus of further development of New Zealand players, it is also to ensure that there is a tangible path from Junior to National levels. Achieve this and we go some way to slowing the loss of talent to other sports. Teams do need old heads and the most common composition of teams, and subsequently successful programmes, have been a balanced mix of young legs and old heads.

2008 Conference Format

Everyone associated with WBL is a winner and this can only continue with a year-in, year-out commitment by all Basketball Associations to a WBL programme. The 2008 WBL will be played in three conferences:

- Northern North Island - Taupo North
- Central North Island - South of Taupo (including Gisborne and New Plymouth)
- Southern South Island

Conferences play will consist of two rounds (preferable and team number dependent) with the objective being, to provide all teams with assured exposure opportunities to the widest possible variety of playing styles and philosophies within feasible and manageable geographical areas. As a result of this approach we expect all entrants to be able to plan and prepare for their seasons with a degree of confidence in terms of the playing and financial commitments for the season. The season will start at the end of March - early April to mid June.

2008 Finals Format and Venue

The 2008 finals will consist of the two top teams from each Conference and will be played over two days. Day one will be section play. Day two will be crossovers and the final. The host will be a team from the Central Conference and those teams are, therefore, requested to consider the feasibility of staging the event in their centres. The following are considerations which must be taken into account:

Venue:

- Confirmed availability for a Friday and Saturday
- Alternative team training facilities
- Venue hire costs
- Seating plan and indication of capacity (min. 500 excluding team seating requirements)
- Venue plan showing seating, bench location, stairs location, entrances, toilets and changing rooms
- Availability of wet and dry tills (ie: bar, food etc)
- Sound system/MC availability/arrangements

Accommodation: Listing of preferred team accommodation and room rates.

Travel: Availability of team vans for rental or sponsored.

After Match: Proposed after match venue, services available.

Sponsors: Local sponsorships which will be acknowledged by the hosts.

Mid-Point of Season Player Registrations

2008 player rosters need to be genuine in terms of both content and playing intent. The registration deadline will be the midpoint of the season and this is intended to ensure teams and season programmes are both well planned and structured. To this end, please be very clear that the spirit and intent of the rule is that players, and restricted overseas players especially, must be registered and in the country playing by the midpoint of the season. Any team not abiding by the spirit of the rules on this issue can only be considered to be contravening the rules of the League in terms of bringing in a player specifically for the finals.

Preliminary Draws

Preliminary draws for the 2008 season will be prepared. Teams will be required to then return a copy of the entry form with confirmation of the following before the end of January:

- Correct Team Name
- Correct Team Contacts (Coach, Manager and Team Contact)
- Stadium and confirmed game times for each game

EST (estimated start times) will be suggestions only and each home team, especially where either an NBL, a second CBL, WBL team or combinations thereof is/are factors, is asked to consider how they want their home game schedules finalised. Final draws will be compiled by the end of February and home games indicated in the Preliminary Draw will be retained wherever possible. Preliminary draws will be based only on teams who have officially entered by the closing date Friday, 25 January 2008.

Association Endorsement

All teams must be endorsed by the affiliated Basketball Association within whose jurisdiction the team will be operating. It is recommended that, for the integrity of all parties concerned, the organisation seeking endorsement for a WBL team prepare a formal document for the Association's consideration. This document should cover:

- Objectives of the WBL organisation including how its activities are likely to benefit the Association
- Organisation's principals and key personnel including roles and responsibilities such as Media Liaison, Funding, Marketing, Home Game Activity Coordinator etc
- Proposed season budget



Team Rosters

All completed team rosters must be sent to the BBNZ Leagues Manager; signed team rosters (including full names, birth date, height and position)

In addition to team roster a completed Statutory Declaration for non-restricted player status is required from players who:

- Have not lawfully played in the WBL prior to the 2008 season as a New Zealand player
- Have never played in the WBL before
- Have previously played in the WBL only as a restricted (overseas) player and now wish to play as a non-restricted player having complied with NZ citizenship requirements

Please note that a Statutory Declaration is a legally binding document and must be signed in front of a lawyer, Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, Registrar or Deputy Registrar. Note also that players knowingly making false statements in their Statutory Declaration may be suspended from playing in the League as a non-restricted player.

Player Eligibility

Please note that the WBL and its activities with regards to the inclusion of players on rosters who are not New Zealand citizens are subject to FIBA audit. As such, players resident in New Zealand, but of overseas citizenship are classified as restricted players and require a FIBA Foreign Player Licence prior to playing at WBL level in New Zealand.

I look forward to working with you next year and hope we both can make another outstanding WBL season!!!

Kind regards

Maree Taylor
Leagues Manager