

# COFFS HARBOUR BASKETBALL

Hello Members,

As part of our legal agreement with Basketball NSW, we are required to run domestic competitions, pathways for players, coaches, referees and other technical officials. Over the past few years, CHBA has struggled to field referees to represent our association at representative carnivals and weekends. This was due to a lack of a dedicated training and development programs for our referees and subsequently, BNSW have financially penalised the association. CHBA have since employed Alison Ross as our referee development officer to help alleviate this lack of skills and consequently we have increased the number of people interested in representing the association during these competitions.

A teleconference was recently held with BNSW and all NJL associations, to discuss all associations requirements for 2020. We were informed of the requirements to field a certain number of qualified referees for 2020 to remain eligible to participate. As such, Alison, under instruction, started to implement a strategy to improve the referees committed to CHBA. As we have limited opportunities to train these junior athletes during our domestic competitions, we find that we need to start prioritising the use of those referees who are available to referee our domestic leagues. This has been implemented so CHBA referees may gain the required expertise to progress their officiating to senior level games. A requirement for CHBA to be eligible to compete in representative basketball with the Northern Junior League. Unfortunately, this means that some referees that have indicated that they will not be available for CHBA may be under-utilised. We note that moving forward CHBA will be implementing a rule that if referees are trained by CHBA in the future, then they have a responsibility to represent us when required.

We have a duty of care to be financially responsible to our association and our members. Unfortunately, this may mean that some athletes may not be able to participate in some programs offered by the association. We believe that we can offer high-level programs, exposure and opportunities in all areas of development to those athletes that represent Coffs Harbour, but we must prioritise the needs of all members of the association. CHBA are very sorry that the current referee roster has adversely affected any child. It is in no way a reflection on their dedication or ability they have applied to becoming a good technical official. This is not a personal issue, this is a business decision to ensure CHBA meet the criteria set out by BNSW and to ensure the members of CHBA are provided first rate development opportunities.

Essentially, any referee that indicates a commitment to CHBA will be given priority so CHBA meets its contractual requirements with BNSW. I can only encourage any child wishing to develop any of their skills to commit to CHBA, which would see CHBA provide you with the required high level ongoing development to ensure you remain a highly sort after official. I apologise for the delay in communicating this message outlining this information. As volunteers we aim to do everything with the best intentions without prejudice and with the utmost transparency, to provide the best service possible. CHBA Board of Management and I would be happy to discuss this with any member further if required.

Thanks



Bob White  
President CHBA