

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT
ILLAWARRA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION



**ILLAWARRA
BASKETBALL
ASSOCIATION**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Illawarra Basketball Association (IBA) pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders - past, present and emerging - and recognise the immense cultural and linguistic strength and diversity that has existed on this land for tens of thousands of years. Gwynneville, where the IBA is based, is a suburb west of the Wollongong City Centre. Local communities of Aboriginal people were the original inhabitants and Traditional Custodians of Illawarra Land. Their dialect is a variant of the Dharawal language.

The IBA and the multicultural communities we work closely with realise that understanding the past helps us shape a better future for all. We commit to learning from the knowledge, traditions, stories, spirituality, and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We, who come from many places, acknowledge the welcome offered to us by the traditional custodians of this land, the world's oldest living culture.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:	Andrew Thornberry
VICE PRESIDENT:	Sam Ackroyd
DIRECTOR/COMPANY SECRETARY:	Edith MacDonald
DIRECTOR/TREASURER:	Mark Caldwell
DIRECTOR:	Daniel Muller Resigned Oct 2024)
DIRECTOR:	Jasmine Cario (Resigned July 2024)
DIRECTOR:	Sandra Kolednik

STAFF

EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER:	Nathan Loveday
HEAD OF BASKETBALL:	Ben Bagoly
JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR:	Eric Hackett
REFEREE COORDINATOR:	Tom Marsh
FINANCE MANAGER:	Selin Kahraman
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER:	Mackenzie Bates

LIFE MEMBERS

Peter Andrews (*Deceased*), Harry Alla Snr (*Deceased*), Oliver Ounapu, Dr Adrian Hurley, Edna Williams (*Deceased*) Edward Weston (*Deceased*), Peter Brettell, John Trivellion Scott, Paul Devine, Barry Benjamin (*Deceased*), Ken Riseborough (*Deceased*) Pat Cherrington (*Deceased*), Roy Brettell (*Deceased*), Betty Hassen (*nee Jones*), Malcolm Harris, Warwick Stutchbury (*Deceased*), Syd Webb, Peter Bolt (*Deceased*), Ian Richardson, David North, Bill Dowson, Michael McGrath
 2017 - Wendy Brown, Bob Kubbinga (*Deceased*), Eric Kivi, Robin Robertson
 2018 - Cheryl Lowe, Richard Banks, Darren O'Brien, Michael Stjepanovic
 2020 - Val Mann, Phil Driscoll, Jeanette Stutchbury, Graeme Haney
 2022 – Alan Caldwell, Janice Caldwell

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Members,

2024 has been an interesting year for the association. At the end of 2023, our EGM Oscar Foreman resigned his position. As you know, Oscar, an ex professional player, did an excellent job to help turn the association around after COVID.

After advertising, We received several high quality applications and ultimately we decided to take a calculated risk in hiring an EGM, Nathan Loveday, who did not have a basketball background. I am happy to report that this risk has paid off with a successful first year for Nathan. Like all organisations, at some point, a startup needs to become more mature. Oscar was the perfect candidate for the post COVID restart where we needed to move fast and make money fast, and Nathan has brought a new level of structure and compliance to the organisation, helping us to set in place processes for the future.

In the same way, our board has been evolving. Historically, we have been more operational, with more of a focus on the day to day, whereas we are now transitioning to being an advisory board commensurate with the size and structure of the association. I also note that we have a large group of potential new directors here today and am excited about what 2025 brings.

Some of the other key elements of the past year include the spending of \$250,000 on improvements to the stadium which you will hear more about from Nathan.

We are also planning for the 70th anniversary celebrations, which will take place in April next year, and starting to prepare for a much larger 75th anniversary in 2030.

One of the newest parts of IBA is our NBL1 program which is only a few years old. For 2025, we will have a new coach for both the men's and women's teams. Matt Flinn will be coaching the men and Rod Tremlett the women. I was part of the selection panels for these coaches and was impressed with the quality of the coaching applications we received. It goes to show that the Illawarra is a sought after association for both players and coaches.

Probably the biggest item of 2024 from a board point of view was the signing of the MOU with the Illawarra Hawks. I would like to thank Stu Taggart, General Manager of the Hawks, for being the instigator and driving force behind this improved relationship. Many of you will know better than I, the roller coaster history between the association and the professional team. Stu along with Nathan worked tirelessly to find a path through the history and with the help of the board to come up with an MOU we are all happy with.

Whilst, of course, we are still separate entities, the relationship has improved a huge amount, allowing us to share some resources, run training camps together, and look at joint sponsorship deals. I am excited about the ways this relationship will help both organisations.

Thank you once again for attending tonight and if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them either during the AGM or afterwards.

Andrew Thornberry, President Basketball Illawarra

2025 – 2028 STRATEGIC PLAN

Please take this as notice that once the Board is elected for the 2025 year, work will commence on the strategic plan for 2025-2028. The Board will work with the EGM and Staff, whilst acquiring feedback from ALL Membership groups to Develop Pillars and focus points for the next 3 years. Each Member will have the opportunity to provide feedback throughout the process and we will ensure communication via EDM's, Social Media and through the Stadium to ensure all have the opportunity to contribute and provide feedback and ideas for the next chapter of this association.

EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Staffing

I want to give my sincere thanks to all the Office Staff that contribute to the daily running of the Illawarra Basketball Association. Currently just under 3,000 members and to have 4 Full-Time Staff as well as 2 Part-Time it is a great testament to the hard-working nature of this group of individuals that have contributed to the success over the last 12 months.

It would be remiss of me not to mention and give thanks to the former EGM of the IBA Oscar Forman.

Oscar assisted me in the transition into the role at the Start of March and remained open to assisting me at times and challenges throughout the early stages. Oscar's contribution over the past 2 years has been significant and I give thanks to him for this time, effort and passion for the IBA.

In 2024, we had some staffing changes throughout, Maddison Delaney moved on to a new role with the Illawarra Hawks in community. Maddison's contribution to the Programs has been first class and her commitment and passion for Female Participation and Pathways will see Maddison no doubt have great success in these areas in the future.

We welcomed Simon Makres back to the Senior Competition role, Simon's experience and knowledge plus his ambition for the success of our association is a credit to him and we are so grateful for his skillset being back on board with us.

Tom Marsh has also returned in the role of Referee Coordinator, Tom has already made some

inroads and with the assistance of the crew here midweek of Caitlyn, Kerrie, Courtney and Mark our refereeing program is in good hands.

Our newest recruit is Mackenzie Bates, Mackenzie joins us with a wealth of experience in community sport in the role of Administration Officer whilst Mackenzie has a strong background in marketing and social media and her expertise in these areas will be used and will be vital for the growth and development of the club's social footprint moving forward.

I want to take the opportunity to thank not only the Full/Part-Time staff of the IBA but to give thanks to all of the casual staff which includes and is not limited to Court and Referee Supervisors, Bench Officials, Referees and all the coaches that volunteer their time at both local and representative level to benefits the up-and-coming athletes of this association.

Sponsors

The Illawarra Basketball Association is fortunate enough to have so many wonderful partners within the local community but also external to the Illawarra Region. We are grateful for the continued support from program naming rights, to court naming rights as well as companies that have supported us by purchasing boxes for NBL1. We are fortunate and appreciate all within that assist with seeking out these sponsorship funds to keep the costs as low as possible. We have some exciting news to come in the next couple of weeks about a new major junior partner. All sponsors can be seen on our website with Logo's and links on display.

Nest Egg

We introduced a charitable arm to the association and through donations and sponsorship were able to fund 8 applications for financial hardship. This is an area that will have a focus for 2023/24 as we continue to strive to reduce barriers to participation for families. There will be another announcement seeking support from businesses and individuals before opening the next round of applications. We give thanks to the Illawarra Hawks who contributed \$5,000 to assist our families and members.

Building

Thanks to NSW Government Grants, stadium upgrade works were able to continue in 2023/24. The seating around the stadium was reenforced and also given a nice coat of paint in the club colours. We received 2 new scoreboards as well which have been installed on Court 1. We continue to work with the Local Government and Wollongong City Council at ways to improve safety and increase productivity around the Snakepit. The other addition thanks to Tracey and the team at Ford Gateway was the Water Station which is utilized on a daily basis by many user groups at the IBA and external.

Further upgrade works planned for 2024-25:
Improve the safety of the Mezzanine level as well as fire safety upgrades to the Stadium.

Finance

Please refer to the signed financial statements provided on the IBA website.

Competitions

Both Simon and Eric have worked hard with the competitions, we continue to have players unfortunately unable to play due to court space, in which we are working hard to look at ways of allowing further participation. There seems to be a growing trend in disciplinary issues across all levels which is disappointing, however we are working to upskill our supervisors and referees in ways of dealing with this conflict and are hoping that with appropriate punishments we can eradicate this current trend. We give thanks to the Wiso who have come on board as Champ league Sponsor which is great and gives us a High Level that hopefully all of our current members can hopefully reach.

Below are the team numbers by season during the 2023/24 financial year.

JUNIOR LOCAL COMPETITION

	Girls Teams	Boys Teams	Total Teams
2022	24	121	145
2022/23	29	158	187
2023	34	147	181

SENIORS LOCAL COMPETITION

	Women's Teams	Men's Teams	Unisex Teams	Total Teams
2022	14	55	13	82
2022/23	16	55	12	83
2023	20	56	14	90

Player & Coach development

Basketball Illawarra is committed to helping players and coaches grow through our pathway by offering various programs for everyone. In the representative program we focus on long-term player development, providing pathways for those eager to excel. We've introduced programs like Walking Basketball for the elderly, keeping them active, healthy and looking to battle social issues such as loneliness. For the little ones, Mini Hawks teaches 3 to 5-year-olds the basics of physical literacy and playing whilst also encouraging turn taking. Local players can join the Hawks Development Program to enhance their skills, while the Hawks Performance Program offers a high-performance setting for dedicated athletes. All these programs prioritise quality coaching whilst trying to remove price as a barrier as much as possible.

2023/24 Development Programs Key Stats

Term 3 2023

Aussie Hoops – 170

Aussie Hoops Gametime - 44

Mini Hawks – 28

Hawks Development Program - 146

Hawks Performance Program - 133

Walking Basketball - 12

Term 4 2023

Aussie Hoops – 158
 Aussie Hoops Gametime - 73
 Mini Hawks – 21
 Hawks Development Program - 119
 Hawks Performance Program - 139
 Walking Basketball - 10

Term 1 2024

Aussie Hoops – 182
 Aussie Hoops Gametime - 86
 Mini Hawks – 30
 Hawks Development Program - 117
 Hawks Performance Program - 101
 Walking Basketball - 11

Term 2 2024

Aussie Hoops – 133
 Aussie Hoops Gametime - 65
 Mini Hawks – 32
 Hawks Development Program - 109
 Hawks Performance Program - 77
 Walking Basketball - 12

Development Program Coaches

Aussie Hoops + Gametime	Hawks Development	Hawks Performance
Alannah Curtis	Alannah Curtis	Ben Bagoly
Adella Hopkins	Bradley Ballinger	Cindy Bonham
Alina Pasakarnis	Ella Dent	David Cabanillas Garrido
Adura Pasakarnis	Eric Hackett	Ella Dent
Charlotte Giles	Jackson Paulic	Eric Hackett
Cooper Delaney	Jalen Blanchard	Jackson Paulic
Ella Dent	Max Driscoll	Kevin White
Emerson McCrea	Mek Geist	Maddison Delaney
Emily Paulic	Mitch Sultana	Mek Geist
Hannah Campbell	Noah Pagotto	Mitch Sultana
Isaac Turton	Patrick Connolly	Noah Pagotto
Maddison Delaney	Philip Dopud	Philip Dopud
Massimo Hobbs		Tom Cranney
Mek Geist		
Mia Yardley		
Miller Bonham		
Noah Pagotto		
Robbie Lavallo		
Sienna Curtis		

2024 Basketball NSW Events & Representative Athletes

State Performance Program (SPP)	
Girls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alina Pasakarnis • Addison Bonham • Molly Coble • Taylah Curtis • Maya Hopkins • Lillian Ragan • Laura Fitzwilliam • Emerson McCrea • Leki de Bol • Zara Suka • Grace Lane 	Boys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Turton • Aki Langford • Riley Saville • Luka Cuda • Josh Spark

Southern Cross Challenge (SCC)	
Girls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addison Bonham • Taylah Curtis • Grace Lane • Zara Suka 	Boys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riley Saville • James Lezcano • Boys • Riley Saville • James Lezcano

ACJBC (Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup)	
Girls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kalani Chambers • Emily Clark • Emily Kingston • Sophie Barlow • Lily Wildner • Alina Pasakarnis • Molly Coble • Maya Hopkins • Laura Fitzwilliam • Lillian Ragan • Emerson McCrea 	Boys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Musgrave • Lucas Campbell • Edem Dowling • Darcy Stepanovski • Lachlan Butler • Solomon Liu • Chayce Te Nana • Aki Langford • Luka Cuda

U16 Country State Team

<p>Girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addison Bonham • Alina Pasakarnis • Molly Coble • Taylah Curtis • Maya Hopkins (Reserve) • Zara Suka (Reserve) • Olivia Pupovac (Reserve) • Laura Fitzwilliam (Reserve) • Maddy Delaney (Assistant Coach) • Michael Turton (Head Coach) 	<p>Boys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rory Milross-Rose • Solomon Liu • Riley Saville (Reserve) • James Lezcano (Reserve) • Tom Cranney (Head Coach)
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U18 Country State Team

<p>Girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerson McCrea • Lillian Ragan 	<p>Boys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luka Cuda • Aki Langford • Josh Spark • Eric Hackett (AC)
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U20 Country State Team

<p>Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy Bonham (AC) 	<p>Men</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brad Ballinger • Josh Dent
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All Schools

<p>Girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addison Bonham • Taylah Curtis • Lillian Ragan • Lauren Gatwood (AC) 	<p>Boys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aki Langford • Oliver Keene
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U13/14 TAP (Talented Athlete Program)

<p>Girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleanor Musgrave • Heidi Cliff • Nicola Holland 	<p>Boys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Musgrave • Lucas Campbell • Edem Dowling
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ella Whittle • Kalani Chambers • Emily Clark • Indy Bradley • Lily Wildner • Sophie Barlow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lachlan Butler • Sebastian Patricio
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U12 Jamboree

U12 Jamboree	
<p>Girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betsy Higgins • Bridie Lawson • Eleanor Taylor • Mackenzie Sims • Lucy Malesevic • Maisie Fasseen-Cox • Lynx Spain • Kirra Oxman • Theia Vincent • Paris Cox • Zahra Celebi • Emily Broahead • Arianna Perotti 	<p>Boys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harris Mushet • Hamish Mearns • Flynn Courtney • Tane Tuphi • Selasi Dowling • Noah Richardson • Max Avery • Harlan Menghi • Liam Hockey • Zac Heffernan • CJ Agno • Taylan Eroglu • Marcos Salera • Sonny Luu • Liam Clark • Madin Upton

Illawarra Representative 2024 Annual Awards

Award	Recipient
• Jack Robinson Coaches Award	• Jackson Paulic
• Junior Female Referee of the Year	• Maeve Whitten
• Junior Male Referee of the Year	• Jackson Varadjanin
• Junior Female Athlete of the Year	• Addison Bonham
• Junior Male Athlete of the Year	• Luka Cuda
• Junior Team of the Year	• U16 Girls JPL
• Junior Coach of the Year	• Luke Musgrave

IBA Rep Team Accomplishments

2024 Junior Premier League

2024 U16 GIRLS - STATE CHAMPS RUNNERS UP

Qualified for State Finals

UNDER 18 BOYS JPL

UNDER 16 GIRLS JPL

UNDER 16 BOYS JPL

UNDER 14 BOYS JPL

UNDER 12 BOYS SJL1

UNDER 12 GIRLS SJL1

Qualified for STATE CUP

UNDER 18 BOYS SJL 1

2024 SOUTHERN JUNIOR LEAGUE

U12 Girls SJL 1 - Champions

U18 Boys SJL 1 - Champions

U12 Girls SJL 2 - Runners Up

John Martin Country Tournament

Winners

Under 18 Girls Division 3

Under 18 Boys Division 2

Under 12 Girls Premier Division

Under 14 Girls Division 2

Under 18 Boys Premier Division

Runners Up

Under 16 Boys Division 2

Under 18 Girls Division 2

Under 12 Girls Division 2

Under 14 Girls Premier Division

Match Officials – Tom Marsh

General Overview

A full-scale review of the program was conducted at the commencement of the new referee program managers employment (Tom Marsh) in June 2024. Overall, the referee program has been sustained at an acceptable level however deficiencies were noticed in crucial aspects of the program that required immediate action to build foundations for sustainability into the future. It is important that IBA recognises the dedicated effort that Caitlyn Bloomfield and Kerrie Nolan have put into the referee program over the past 2 years.

The game of basketball continues to see unprecedented growth and the operational priority of the program is to ensure that said growth can be harnessed and the surplus of basketball activities at the domestic and representative level be serviced adequately for the foreseeable future.

Human resources amongst the program have been stretched and over-exerted in an agreeable manner throughout the referee program team for 2024. During September an influx of 30 beginner referees were channelled through the green shirt training program and pathway and the leadership team has been working on developing these new officials to a sufficient standard to relieve the excessive workload from our current base of officials.

At the representative level, the program remains strong. With some honourable achievements from our referees performing in the BNSW Waratah Leagues and NBL1. 2023 and 2024 saw challenges in supporting referee numbers for our junior representative program and thanks to the hard work of Caitlyn Bloomfield we now see a healthy number of supporting referees for our representative program.

Participation

- 30 new referees have attended a beginner referee course
- 30 referees have been nominated for the BNSW junior representative leagues, supporting our 23 teams.
- 9 returning senior representative referees support our 3 senior representative teams, with a cohort of developing talent in the pipeline looking to make their debut on the state representative stage over the coming years
- As of November 2024, 80 badged officials and 20 beginner officials cover 100+ domestic games each week

Operations

- Review of administrative processes and systems has identified the benefits of integrating a new referee management software to manage the logistics of the referee program including the weekly rostering and financial management of referees.
- Refinement of duties amongst the leadership team and the alleviation of unnecessary administrative tasks will deliver a lighter workload which will in turn see our supervisors more present and available for our referees and members, improving the basketball experience for all involved at IBA.

Development

- Ongoing training and assessment of officials ensures the continuity of the referees pathway and offers clarity and satisfaction for the official as they progress through their career.
- In partnership with BNSW, referees who show aspiration and are excelling with their referee career have been identified for a state development pathway on the junior and senior representative platforms.

- During the 2024-2025 representative off-season, 3 high-performance programs will be developed recognise and categorize our referees into structured groups to offer an enhanced development and community experience for our high performing referees.
- 2025 will see a number of development opportunities for officials with a range of training and learning opportunities being held over the year for all experience levels of referees.

Servicing of the game

- We would like to take the time to thank our officials for their approach to servicing of the game. A priority in our approach to the game is the assurance to deliver a safe and enjoyable basketball experience for all. Intention from the referees are aligned with the right values and a cultural directive from the leadership team to continue to referee with a service attitude will be reinforced indefinitely amongst the program. Calling of the game is at an acceptable standard at the moment however technical knowledge and game management skills including communication and conflict resolution is an aspect that will be focused on to improve the referee program's ability to deal with adversity and improve our resilience and ensure the game of basketball is played within the best spirit possible at IBA.

The IBA referee program would like to thank all members for their patience and co-operation as we look to strengthen our foundation as service people of the game and work towards a great basketball experience for all members at the club.

From a Bench Officials perspective, we would also like to congratulate Keira Rostirolla on here recent award at the BNSW Awards Night.

Future

I truly am excited about the future of the association, with some very strong candidates with a variety of port folio's as well as a very strong volunteer base and Staff that have the best interests of the Association at hand, I am confident the future is bright. With a strong strategic plan to be put forward in 2025 and a strengthening relationship with Wollongong City Council and the Illawarra Hawks we are looking forward to the future.

Nathan Loveday
Executive General Manager