

CESSNOCK BASKETBALL

DOMESTIC COMPETITION BY-LAWS

Updated September 2026



Cessnock Basketball Domestic Program

www.cessnockbasketball.com.au

Foreword

Basketball is a family-oriented sport. Cessnock Basketball conducts local competitions to promote enjoyment, fitness, teamwork, sportsmanship and community spirit for all participants. Participants are expected to uphold the spirit of these By-Laws, with fun, inclusion and healthy recreation taking priority over a win-at-all-costs approach. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to make decisions that give effect to the intent of these By-Laws where a literal interpretation would not achieve their purpose.

1. Registration

1. All players must pay the annual registration fee to Cessnock Basketball, which confirms their registration with Basketball NSW (BNSW) for participation in competitions.
2. It is the responsibility of each player, or their parent/carer where the player is under 18 years of age, to ensure their registration remains current and financial at all times. Cessnock Basketball may refuse participation in any sanctioned event to an unregistered or non-financial participant.
3. Any team that plays an unregistered player will have the game recorded as an unnotified forfeit.

2. Behaviour

4. Cessnock Basketball adopts and supports relevant Basketball Australia, Basketball NSW and State and National initiatives, including the BNSW Zero-Tolerance & Sports Rage Policy and the BNSW Code of Conduct. Compliance with these policies is a condition of entry to the stadium.
5. Breaches of these policies may result in the person responsible being required to leave the premises and/or being subject to sanctions determined by Cessnock Basketball.

3. Teams

6. All teams must appoint a team manager who is 18 years of age or older.
7. The team manager is responsible for ensuring the team and its members comply with these By-Laws.
8. All teams must have at least seven (7) fully paid and registered players at all times unless an exemption has been approved.
9. Cessnock Basketball may merge or remove teams that do not maintain seven (7) fully paid and registered players.
10. To be eligible to play, each player must be registered with their name and applicable details in the approved online registration system.
11. Any player additions or roster changes during the competition must be registered with and approved by Cessnock Basketball.
12. Teams must complete online registration and pay the applicable team entry fee within the designated team entry period.
13. In exceptional circumstances, Cessnock Basketball may accept a team into a competition after the team entry period has closed.
14. Submission of a team registration does not constitute acceptance into the competition. A team nomination is not confirmed until the draw is published by Cessnock Basketball.
15. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to refuse admission of any team or player into a competition where it considers this necessary for the operation, safety or integrity of the competition.
16. All teams and players entering a competition are committed to paying all applicable game fees.
17. Team names and uniforms must be acceptable to Cessnock Basketball and are subject to its approval.

4. Score-Bench Duties

18. Each team must provide one score-bench official for its game.
19. A team that fails to provide a score-bench official will concede five (5) points to the opposing team, with those points to be added to the opposition score at half-time.
20. Substitute players may perform score-bench duties in senior competitions.
21. Scoring will be completed using the designated online scoring system or, where unavailable, a paper scoresheet.
22. All players must be added to their team in the designated online system before each game. If the system is unavailable, players must be listed on the paper scoresheet.
23. In the event of technical difficulties, the designated court official will determine the appropriate course of action to allow the game to proceed fairly.

5. Finals

24. At the conclusion of the regular competition season, finals will generally be conducted as follows:
Bronze Final the 3rd placed team plays the 4th placed team. Grand Final the 1st placed team plays the 2nd placed team.
25. Play-off games will generally be conducted for teams that do not qualify for the finals.
26. For Finals, each team is entitled to two (2) timeouts per half, with the clock stopped for all timeouts.
27. The final two minutes of the second half in junior competitions, or the final quarter in senior competitions, will be fully timed where the score is 10 points or less.
28. In the event of a draw, additional periods of three (3) minutes will be played until a result is achieved.
29. To be eligible for finals, a player must have played in at least 50% of scheduled round games. Cessnock Basketball may grant an exemption on a case-by-case basis. Requests must be submitted in writing before finals.
30. Teams may not use fill-in players in finals games.

6. Forfeits

31. Teams should provide at least 24 hours' notice where they intend to forfeit a game.
32. All forfeits will be recorded as a 20–0 win to the opposing team.
33. A team that forfeits three (3) times may be removed from the competition.
34. Teams that do not have at least four (4) eligible players on court within five minutes of the scheduled game commencement will forfeit the game.

7. Fill-In Players

35. Players may fill in only for teams in a higher division or competition. In age groups or competitions where there is only one division, players may fill in for another team within that same division.
36. Fill-in players may be used only to bring the total number of players to a maximum of five (5).
37. If a regular team member arrives, the fill-in player must immediately substitute out and may not return to the game.
38. The purpose of fill-in players is to ensure games proceed, avoid forfeits and keep participants playing, rather than to recruit standout players for a competitive advantage.
39. Fill-in players are not permitted in finals under any circumstances.

40. Fill-in players must comply with uniform requirements. Penalties may apply for non-compliance as outlined in these By-Laws.

8. Game Fees

41. Game fees may be paid in full upfront or in two instalments where a competition runs across terms.
42. Where instalments are selected, they will be collected by direct debit where possible.
43. Players who are not up to date with their game fees will be deemed ineligible and may be removed from the game.
44. Game fees will generally be charged on a per-player basis unless Cessnock Basketball determines otherwise.

9. Withdrawing from Competition

45. A team or player may withdraw from a competition by providing 14 days' written notice.
46. A withdrawing team or player must pay all game fees for the current instalment period, including fees falling within the notice period.
47. A team or player will not be accepted into another Cessnock Basketball competition until all outstanding monies have been paid.

10. Grading

48. Team performances will be assessed during approximately the first 3–5 games of the competition, after which Cessnock Basketball may communicate any regrading.
49. The decision to regrade teams rests with Cessnock Basketball and does not require the consent of the teams involved.
50. Where teams are regraded, they will retain the competition points they have accumulated and those points will transfer to the new division.

11. Senior Competitions

51. A junior player must be turning 16 years of age during the relevant competition year to participate in a senior competition.
52. Where a junior player does not meet the age requirement, they may participate in a senior competition only where written parental or guardian consent has been provided and the Cessnock Basketball Board has approved the participation in writing.
53. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to refuse or withdraw approval for a junior player's participation in a senior competition where it considers this necessary for safety concerns.

12. Social Mixed Competitions

54. Senior Social Mixed is intended to provide a friendly and social basketball environment, with participation focused on enjoyment, inclusion and community rather than competitive outcomes.
55. Senior Social Mixed will not have fixed teams. On each competition night, players will choose and divide themselves into four (4) teams for that night's games.
56. Junior players from Under 16 and above are permitted to participate in Senior Social Mixed, subject to all applicable registration and eligibility requirements.

57. A male player may take a defensive position in front of a female player but must not attempt to block her shot. The male player's feet must remain on the floor and their hands must remain within their cylinder. An infraction may result in the referee awarding the shooter two (2) free throws.
58. Social Mixed games will be played using a size 6 basketball.

13. Games

59. All applicable game fees must be paid before a team can commence a game.
60. Junior games are played in four quarters, with Cessnock Basketball determining the timing rules applicable to each competition.
61. Senior games are played in four quarters, with Cessnock Basketball determining the timing rules applicable to each competition.
62. Competition points are awarded as follows: 3 points for a win; 2 points for a draw; 1 point for a loss; 3 points for a bye; 3 points for a win by forfeit; and 0 points for a notified forfeit.
63. If teams finish on equal competition points, their position will be determined first by the team with the fewest forfeits and, where forfeits are equal, by the superior for-and-against points differential.

14. Uniforms

64. Players must be uniformly attired by the start of Round 3 unless proof of purchase of uniforms has been provided for the entire team.
65. From Round 3, a player who is not wearing the approved uniform without an exemption will result in five (5) points being credited to the opposing team. These points will be added by the court supervisor or referee coordinator at the earliest convenient time.
66. Singlets must have permanently attached legal numbers on the front and back.
67. Singlets should be numbered 0–99 in accordance with FIBA guidelines.
68. Shorts must not have pockets, zippers, belts, loops or similar features. Players may not take the court wearing shorts with these features.
69. All players must wear suitable non-marking shoes.
70. New players registering after Round 3 may play their first game out of uniform. The player must be in uniform, or proof of purchase must be provided, before their next game.

15. Personal Safety

71. All jewellery, including watches, must be removed before a player takes the court.
72. Players with long fingernails or acrylic nails must cut them, tape them, or wear appropriate gloves. Tape must be soft fabric type and gloves must not provide additional reach or grip.
73. Braids, including plaited ponytails, must be secured where they could cause harm to another player. Referees may require a plaited ponytail to be rolled into a bun or removed and worn as a loose ponytail, provided it does not conceal the player's number.
74. Players may wear bobby pins and one-touch or snap clips to secure their hair. Barrettes, bandanas, metal headbands and clips larger than a bobby pin or snap clip, particularly decorative items, are not permitted where they create a risk of injury.
75. Non-abrasive, pliable hair items may be permitted where they pose no safety risk. This includes headscarves or other fabric articles worn for religious or cultural purposes and secured by bobby pins or snap clips.

16. Zone Defence

- 76. The intent of the zone-defence provisions is to improve individual offensive and defensive skills, develop understanding of help-side defence, avoid encouraging shooting beyond a player's physical capability, and support coaches and team managers in teaching sound defensive principles.
- 77. Teams in miniball competitions must play defence according to man-to-man defensive principles in either the full court or half court.
- 78. Teams in junior competitions for athletes under 14 must use man-to-man defensive principles in the quarter court, but may use extended zone defence in the full court.
- 79. The first breach of the applicable zone-defence requirement will result in a team warning. Subsequent breaches may result in a bench technical foul on the team using the zone defence.

17. Multiple Divisions / Age Groups Participation

- 80. Players may participate in higher divisions or age groups where they meet the eligibility requirements and participation does not compromise the integrity of the competition.
- 81. Players may not play down into lower divisions or age groups unless expressly approved by Cessnock Basketball for development or competition-balance purposes.
- 82. Players may participate in only one team per division or age group unless Cessnock Basketball grants approval.
- 83. Participation in multiple divisions or age groups must not create an unfair advantage or adversely affect the integrity of the competitions.
- 84. Cessnock Basketball may assess unfair advantage by considering skill disparity, team balance and the overall impact on competition integrity.
- 85. Players participating in multiple divisions must satisfy the finals eligibility requirements separately for each team.
- 86. Cessnock Basketball may approve or decline multiple-division or multiple-age-group participation having regard to competition integrity, player welfare and fairness.
- 87. Requests for participation in multiple divisions or age groups must be submitted in writing and approved before the commencement of the competition.
- 88. Where a player is approved to participate in multiple divisions, a 50% discount will be applied to the applicable fees for the player's second division. The discount applies to the second division only.

18. Appeals and Disputes

- 89. Players, teams and officials may raise concerns regarding decisions made by Cessnock Basketball.
- 90. Concerns should be submitted in writing within a reasonable timeframe after the decision is communicated.
- 91. Cessnock Basketball will consider the concern and determine whether any further review or action is warranted.
- 92. The process and timeframe for any review will be determined by Cessnock Basketball.
- 93. Decisions made by Cessnock Basketball regarding disputes or appeals are final.

19. Interaction with Referees

- 94. Coaches, players, team managers, spectators and other participants must not approach referees during or after a game regarding decisions made on court. This requirement is particularly important for the protection of junior referees from undue pressure, criticism or confrontation.
- 95. Concerns about refereeing decisions should be directed to the designated court supervisor or referee coordinator after the game in a calm and respectful manner.
- 96. Concerns may also be submitted in writing to Cessnock Basketball for review where appropriate.
- 97. A breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, suspensions or removal from the venue. Repeated or serious breaches may result in longer-term sanctions or bans.

20. Interaction with Court Officials

- 98. Coaches, players, team managers and spectators may approach court officials regarding administrative or game-related matters, provided they do so respectfully and at an appropriate time.
- 99. Aggressive, confrontational or disrespectful behaviour towards court officials will not be tolerated.
- 100. Non-urgent matters should be raised before or after the game rather than during gameplay. If an issue arises during the game, it should be addressed by the team manager during a natural break in play.
- 101. If an issue cannot be resolved on the day, it may be submitted in writing to Cessnock Basketball for further review.
- 102. Disrespectful or inappropriate behaviour towards court officials may result in disciplinary action, including a verbal warning, ejection from the venue or further sanctions, including potential suspension from future competitions.

21. Team Manager Role and Communication

- 103. Team managers coordinate and manage their teams but are not official representatives of Cessnock Basketball and do not have authority to make decisions or commitments on behalf of Cessnock Basketball.
- 104. All official matters, including player withdrawals, disputes, complaints and appeals, must be communicated directly to an authorised Cessnock Basketball representative.
- 105. Communication made solely to a team manager will not be recognised as official notice to Cessnock Basketball and may result in delays or issues for which Cessnock Basketball accepts no responsibility.
- 106. Team managers are responsible for ensuring their team members are aware of and comply with these By-Laws.
- 107. Where uncertainty arises, team managers must seek clarification from an authorised Cessnock Basketball representative.
- 108. Failure to follow official communication protocols may result in delays or misunderstandings for which Cessnock Basketball will not be held responsible.

22. Gender-Specific Competitions

- 109. Cessnock Basketball may conduct gender-specific competitions, including girls-only and boys-only competitions, to promote participation and support fair and equitable competition.
- 110. Participation in gender-specific competitions is limited to players meeting the applicable gender classification unless an exemption is granted.

111. Players of any gender may participate in mixed competitions provided they meet all other competition requirements.
112. Requests for exemptions must be submitted in writing and will be considered by Cessnock Basketball on a case-by-case basis, having regard to competition integrity and fairness.
113. Cessnock Basketball may consider player safety and relevant Basketball NSW guidelines when determining exemptions.
114. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to determine whether a competition is classified as girls-only, boys-only or mixed.

23. Representative (Rep) Players in Domestic Competitions

115. For these By-Laws, a 'rep player' is a player who has been selected for and actively participates in an external representative basketball program, such as Basketball NSW Waratah League or an equivalent program, during the current calendar year.
116. Cessnock Basketball values balanced and competitive competitions. Rep players are encouraged to participate in domestic competitions; however, teams should not be composed entirely of rep players where this would compromise competition integrity.
117. Teams are discouraged from excessive stacking with rep players where this creates a material imbalance in competition.
118. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to review and adjust team compositions where a significant imbalance is identified. This may include regrading teams, requiring roster changes or splitting teams where appropriate.
119. Cessnock Basketball will monitor team compositions and game results. Concerns about team balance may be raised in writing and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
120. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to make final determinations regarding team composition and participation to uphold the fairness and integrity of the competition.

Administrative note: Where these By-Laws refer to a competition year, the relevant year is the calendar year in which the competition is conducted.