



Cessnock Basketball Domestic Competition By-Laws

Updated March 2025

# CESSNOCK BASKETBALL DOMESTIC COMPETITION BY-LAWS

Basketball is a family-orientated sport. Cessnock Basketball conducts local competitions to promote enjoyment, fitness, teamwork, sportsmanship, and community spirit for all participants. With this in mind, Cessnock Basketball expects all participants to adhere to the spirit of the rules with fun and healthy recreation as the primary goals rather than displaying a win-at-all-costs attitude.

Given the above, Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to make decisions that give effect to the intention of the by-laws rather than their literal interpretation.

## 1. Registration

1. All players must pay an annual registration fee to Cessnock Basketball that confirms they are registered with BNSW to play in any competition.
2. It is each individual's personal responsibility (or that of their parent/carer if the individual is under 18 years of age) to ensure registration is current and financial at all times. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to refuse participation in any sanctioned event to any unregistered or non-financial party.
3. Any team playing an unregistered player will have the game's result recorded as an unnotified forfeit.
4. Senior teams will incur the penalty outlined below.

## 2. Behaviour

1. Cessnock Basketball adopts various Basketball Australia, Basketball NSW and State and National initiatives, including the BNSW Zero-Tolerance & Sports Rage Policy and the BNSW Code of Conduct. It is a condition of entry to our stadium for the various participants in our sport that they adhere to these.
2. Breaching these policies may result in the person responsible being asked to leave the premises and/or sanctioned by Cessnock Basketball.

## 3. Teams

1. All teams must have a team manager 18 years or older.
2. It is the responsibility of the team manager to ensure the team and its members abide by these by-laws.
3. All teams must have seven (7) fully paid-up and registered players at all times unless an exemption has been given.
4. Cessnock Basketball may merge or remove teams that do not have seven fully paid-up and registered players.
5. To be eligible to play, all players must be registered with their name and applicable details in the approved online system.
6. Any player additions or changes to team rosters during the competition must be registered and approved by Cessnock Basketball.
7. Teams are required to complete online registration and pay the applicable entry fee during the designated team entry period.
8. In exceptional circumstances Cessnock Basketball may admit a team to a competition outside of the team entry period.
9. Submission of a team registration does not constitute acceptance into the competition. Team nominations are not considered confirmed until the draw is published by Cessnock Basketball.
10. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to refuse admission of any team or player into a competition for any reason it sees fit.
11. All teams and players having entered the competition commit to paying all game fees.
12. Acceptable team names and uniforms are at the discretion of Cessnock Basketball.

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## 5. Score-Bench Duties

1. Each team is required to provide one score-bench official for their game.
2. Teams failing to provide a score-bench official will concede five (5) points to the opposition team, to be allocated to the team score at half-time.
3. Substitution players may complete score bench duties in senior competitions.
4. Scoring will be conducted via the designated online system or, if unavailable, using paper scoresheets.
5. 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.
6. In the event of technical difficulties, the designated court official will determine the most appropriate course of action to ensure the game proceeds fairly.

## 6. Finals

1. At the end of the regular competition season, semi-finals will take place:
  - The 1st placed team will play the 4th placed team.
  - The 2nd placed team will play the 3rd placed team.
2. The winners of the two semi-finals will play in the Grand Final.
3. In addition to the semi-finals, play-off games will generally be played for teams that do not qualify for the semi-finals.
4. For the semi-finals and the Grand Final, the following timing rules shall apply:
  - Each team will be entitled to call two (2) timeouts per half. The clock will be stopped for all timeouts.
  - The last two minutes of the second half (juniors) or final quarter (seniors) will be fully timed if the score is 10 points or less.
  - In the event of a draw, extra periods of three (3) minutes will be played until a result is achieved.
5. To be eligible for finals, a player must have played in no less than 50% of scheduled round games. Cessnock Basketball has the right to exempt players from this by-law on a case-by-case basis. Requests for exemption must be submitted in writing to Cessnock Basketball prior to finals.
6. Teams cannot use fill-in players for any finals games.

## 7. Forfeits

1. 24 hours notice should be given of a team's intention to forfeit.
2. All teams that fail to give 24 hours notice of a forfeit will incur a penalty of minus three competition points.
3. All senior forfeits, regardless of notice given, will result in the team forfeiting paying a \$100 forfeit fee for that game. If less than 24 hours notice is given, the forfeit fine will increase to \$150.
4. Any fines issued will be sent to the team's registered team manager.
5. Teams that do not have at least four eligible players on the court five minutes after a game commences will forfeit the game. Senior teams will incur the penalty outlined above.
6. All forfeits will be declared a 20-0 win to the opposing team.
7. A team that forfeits three times may be removed from the competition.
8. Teams must pay outstanding fines within 14 days of receiving the fine, or all games will be declared 20-0 wins to the opposing team until the fines are paid.
9. If both teams have unpaid fines exceeding 14 days, both teams will lose three competition points.

## 8. Fill-In Players

1. Players are permitted to 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 other teams within that same division.

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2. Fill-in players may be used only to bring the total number of players to a maximum of five.
3. If a regular team member arrives, the fill-in must immediately substitute out and may not return to the game.
4. The purpose of fill-in players is to ensure games go ahead, avoid forfeits, and keep everyone playing—not to recruit standout players to gain a competitive advantage.
5. Fill-in players are not permitted in Finals under any circumstances.
6. All fill-in players should comply with uniform requirements. Penalties may apply for non-compliance, as outlined in the Uniform section of these by-laws.

## 9. Game Fees

1. Game fees may be elected to be paid up front or in two instalments if a competition runs across terms.
2. If instalments are elected, they will be collected via direct debit where possible.
3. Players who are not up-to-date with their game fees will be deemed ineligible and may be removed from the game.
4. Game fees will generally be charged on a per-player basis unless a decision is made otherwise by Cessnock Basketball.

## 10. Withdrawing from Competition

1. A team or player may withdraw from the competition by giving 14 days notice in writing.
2. A team or player withdrawing must pay all game fees for the current instalment period, including those during the notice period.
3. A team or player will not be accepted into any other competition until all outstanding monies have been paid.

## 11. Grading

1. Team performances will be assessed for the first 3-5 games of the competition, and Cessnock Basketball will communicate any regrading.
2. The decision to regrade teams rests with Cessnock Basketball and does not require the consent of the teams involved.
3. In the event of re-grading, teams will take the number of points they have acquired into the new division.

## 12. Senior Competitions

1. A junior member must be 16 years or older to play in a senior competition or provide written permission from a parent or guardian to Cessnock Basketball.
2. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to deny a player under 16 entry into senior competition.

## 13. Social Mixed Competitions

1. Even more so than other Cessnock Basketball competitions, Mixed Social is promoted as a social competition, and players must play within the spirit of the competition.
2. Social Mixed teams must have a minimum of 3 female players.
3. Social Mixed can have a maximum of 2 male players on the court at any one time.
4. 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 ground, and his hands must be within his cylinder. Infractions of this rule may be penalised by the referee giving the shooter receiving two (2) free throws.
5. Mixed Social will be played with a size 6 ball.

## 14. Games

1. All game fees must be paid before any team can commence a game.
2. All junior games are played in two halves, and Cessnock Basketball will determine the timing rules to apply to each competition.

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3. All senior games are played in four quarters, and Cessnock Basketball will determine the timing rules to apply to each competition.
4. Teams are awarded competition points 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 via forfeit.
  - 0 points for notified forfeit.
  - -3 points for an unnotified forfeit.
5. If teams finish on equal competition points, their position will be determined by the following:
  - The team that has the least number of forfeits or if they are equal;
  - The team that has the superior for-and-against points differential.

## 15. Uniforms

1. Players must be uniformly attired by the start of round three of the competition, unless proof of purchase of uniforms is provided for the entire team.
2. Players not in the correct uniform, without an exemption, will incur the following penalties starting round three:
  1. five points will be credited to the opposing team for each player out of uniform. These points will be totalled and credited to the opposing team by the court supervisor/referee coordinator only and added at the earliest convenient time.
3. Players in each team must have the same coloured/designed singlets and the same coloured/designed shorts.
4. Singlets must have permanently attached legal numbers on the front and back of the singlets.
5. Singlets should be numbered 0-99 per the guidelines outlined by FIBA.
6. Shorts may not have pockets, zippers, belts or loops etc. Players cannot take the court with any of these in/on their shorts.
7. All players are required to wear suitable non-marking shoes when playing.
8. New players who register after round three (3) of the competition can play their first game for the team out of uniform. That player must be either in uniform, or proof of purchase must be provided before their next game.

## 15. Personal Safety

1. All jewellery (including watches) must be removed before players taking the court.
2. Players with long fingernails or acrylic nails need to cut them, have them taped or wear appropriate gloves. The tape must be soft fabric type & gloves must not provide extra reach or grip.
3. Braids – (includes plaited ponytails) If a player has their hair braided and it swings freely from their head when running/jumping etc, it may cause harm to another player if struck by the braid. Referees must instruct players with plaited ponytails to either roll the plait into a bun, or remove the plait and play with a loose ponytail (as long as the ponytail does not hide the player's number).
4. Players are permitted to take the court wearing "bobby pins" and/or "one-touch" or "snap" clips to hold their hair back. These items pose no threat of injury to any player on the court. Players will not be permitted to wear barrettes, bandanas, headbands made of metal, or clips larger than a bobby pin or snap clip, especially those present for decorative purposes only. These items do pose a threat of injury due to their increased sizes. If items in a player's hair are made from a non-abrasive, pliable material, they may be permitted to be worn, provided they



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pose no threat of injury. This includes headscarves or other fabric articles worn for religious or cultural purposes held in place by bobby pins or snap clips.

## 16. Zone Defence

1. The intent of this rule is to:
  - improve the individual offensive and defensive techniques of players.
  - improve the player's understanding of "help side" defence as played in man-to-man defence.
  - not promote players shooting from beyond the range that they are physically capable.
  - make coaches and team managers aware of the importance of playing man to man defensive principles and to put in place a process to support coach development in teaching defensive principles.
2. Teams in miniball competitions must play defence according to man-to-man defensive principles, in either the full court or half court.
3. Teams in junior competitions for athletes under the age of 14, must play man to man defensive principles in the "quarter court", however may play extended zone defences in the full court.
4. The penalty for teams breaching clauses 16.2 or 16.3 is:
  1. One the first instance, a warning applied to the team.
  2. Any subsequent breaches, a bench technical foul on the team playing the zone defence.

## 17. Multiple Divisions/Age Groups Participation

1. Players may participate in higher divisions or age groups, provided they meet the eligibility criteria and do not compromise the integrity of the competition.
2. Players cannot play down into lower divisions or age groups unless explicitly approved by Cessnock Basketball for development or competition balance purposes.
3. Players may only participate in one team per division or age group unless granted approval by Cessnock Basketball.
4. Participation in multiple divisions or age groups must not create an unfair advantage or disrupt the integrity of competitions.
5. Cessnock Basketball will assess unfair advantage based on factors such as skill disparity, team balance, and overall impact on the integrity of the competition.
6. Players who participate in multiple divisions must meet the finals eligibility requirement separately for each team.
7. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to approve or deny participation in multiple divisions or age groups based on competition integrity, player welfare, and fairness.
8. Requests for participation in multiple divisions or age groups must be submitted in writing and approved prior to the commencement of the competition.

## 18. Appeals and Disputes

1. Players, teams, or officials may raise concerns regarding decisions made by Cessnock Basketball.
2. Concerns must be submitted in writing within a reasonable timeframe after the decision is communicated.
3. Cessnock Basketball will consider the concern and determine if any further review or action is warranted.
4. The process and timeframe for any review will be determined at the sole discretion of Cessnock Basketball.
5. All decisions made by Cessnock Basketball regarding disputes or appeals are final.

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## 19. Interaction with Referees

### 1. No Approach Policy:

- Coaches, players, team managers, spectators, and any other participants are not permitted to approach referees during or after a game regarding decisions made on the court.
- This is particularly enforced for junior referees, who must be protected from undue pressure, criticism, or confrontation.

### 2. Raising Concerns:

- Any concerns regarding refereeing decisions must be directed to the designated court supervisor or referee coordinator after the game in a calm and respectful manner.
- Concerns can also be submitted in writing to Cessnock Basketball for review if deemed necessary.

### 3. Consequences for Breach:

- Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to warnings, suspensions, or removal from the venue.
- Repeated or serious breaches may lead to longer-term sanctions or bans.

## 20. Interaction with Court Officials

### 1. Respectful Communication:

- Coaches, players, team managers, and spectators may approach court officials regarding administrative or game-related matters, but must do so respectfully and at appropriate times.
- Aggressive, confrontational, or disrespectful behaviour towards court officials will not be tolerated.

### 2. Appropriate Timing:

- Non-urgent matters should be raised before or after the game, not during gameplay.
- If an issue arises during the game, it should be addressed by the team manager during a natural break in play.

### 3. Raising Concerns:

- If an issue cannot be resolved on the day, concerns may be submitted in writing to Cessnock Basketball for further review.

### 4. Consequences for Breach:

- Disrespectful or inappropriate behaviour towards court officials may result in disciplinary action, including verbal warnings, ejection from the venue, or further sanctions as deemed appropriate by Cessnock Basketball, including potential suspension from future competitions.

## 21. Team Manager Role and Communication

### 1. Non-Representative Status:

- Team managers are responsible for coordinating and managing their team but are not official representatives of Cessnock Basketball.
- Team managers do not have the authority to make decisions or commitments on behalf of Cessnock Basketball.

### 2. Official Communication:

- All official matters, including but not limited to player withdrawals, disputes, complaints, and appeals, must be communicated directly to an authorised Cessnock Basketball representative.
- Communications directed solely to a team manager will not be recognized as official notice to Cessnock Basketball and may result in delays or issues for which Cessnock Basketball accepts no responsibility.

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## 3. Responsibility of Team Managers:

- Team managers are responsible for ensuring their team members are aware of and comply with the by-laws.
- Where any uncertainty arises, team managers must seek clarification from an authorised Cessnock Basketball representative to avoid misinterpretation.

## 4. Failure to Follow Communication Protocols:

- Failure to adhere to official communication protocols may result in delays or misunderstandings, for which Cessnock Basketball will not be held responsible.

## 22. Gender-Specific Competitions

1. Cessnock Basketball may conduct gender-specific competitions, such as girls-only and boys-only competitions, to promote participation and ensure fair and equitable competition.
2. Participation in these competitions is limited to players of the corresponding gender classification unless an exemption is granted.
3. Players of any gender are eligible to participate in mixed competitions, provided they meet all other competition requirements.
4. Any requests for exemptions must be submitted in writing to Cessnock Basketball and will be considered on a case-by-case basis, ensuring the integrity and fairness of the competition is maintained.
5. Cessnock Basketball will consider relevant factors such as the safety of players, the integrity of the competition, and guidelines from Basketball NSW.
6. 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

1. A “rep player” is defined as any player who has been selected for and actively participates in an external representative basketball program (e.g., Basketball NSW Waratah League or equivalent) within the current calendar year.
2. Cessnock Basketball values balanced and competitive competitions. While rep players are encouraged to participate in domestic competitions, teams should not be composed entirely of rep players, as this may compromise competition integrity.
3. Teams are discouraged from stacking with rep players, as this is unfair to non-rep players, who may be discouraged by the competition imbalance, and unfair to rep players, who benefit more from challenging and balanced competition.
4. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to review and adjust team compositions where a significant imbalance is identified. This may include:
  - Re-grading teams.
  - Requiring changes to team rosters.
  - Splitting teams where appropriate.
5. Cessnock Basketball will monitor team compositions and game results. Concerns about stacked teams can be raised in writing and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
6. Cessnock Basketball reserves the right to make final determinations regarding team composition and participation to uphold the fairness and integrity of the competition.