

From the WBC meeting held September 2017, it's been recognised that there are three broad categories in the women's game in New Zealand:

1. Teams who are adequately resourced, highly committed, and who wish to compete at a high level in a 'national league', or hybrid, type format.
2. Teams who wish to compete in the WBC but are struggling to do so at the highest level due to being under resourced, and for whom a less demanding structure would be more manageable, until such time as they can build more capability.
3. Teams who aspire to enter the WBC but have either dropped out or have not yet managed to pool enough resources to enter.

The 2018 WBC will cater for all three groups simultaneously by establishing three tiers within the competition, allowing all teams to compete at the following various levels:

#### **TIER ONE**

- Entry is non-automatic.
- Entry is subject to teams being able to meet the minimum standards.
- Teams are asked to submit an application which demonstrates capacity to meet the minimum standards.
- There is scope in the future to expand the number of teams in Tier One and/or to move to a full national league home/away format.

Minimum standards for teams would be as follows:

1. Appoint a Campaign Manager that will be responsible for marketing, communications, sponsorship, funding, promotions, social media etc. This person MUST NOT have any team related function such as coach, manager, player;
2. Participate at no cost to the players;
3. Participate with minimum financial risk;
4. Provide a home playing venue that holds a minimum of 150 spectators. The spectator seating will increase over the next two years;
5. Assemble a competitive team that is likely, in BBNZ's judgement, to enhance womens basketball in New Zealand;
6. Work collaboratively with local basketball associations.

Competition Format:

- Consist of up to six teams.
- Teams would play each other twice:
  - once at the WBC Tournament 1 (5 games)
  - once during Home/Away (5 games)
- All regular season games set teams seeding for the finals.
- WBC Finals weekend format the same at 2017.
- There is no requirement to play other tiered teams in between the two tournaments however teams may wish to play friendlies to assist their finals preparation.
- The format is subject to change and dependant on the total applications received.

Time Frame:

- Applications must be received by Friday, 8 December 2017.
- Tentative draft draw circulated prior to Christmas and dependant on receiving applications on time.
- Administration dates to be confirmed January 2018.
- Confirmed applicants to pay the non-refundable deposit by Wednesday, 28 February 2018.

Entry Fee:

- \$4,000+GST

Rules:

As per the WBC Rules and Regulations. The confirmed rules and regulations will be released in 2019.

**TIER TWO**

- Entry is non-automatic.
- Entry is subject to teams being able to meet the minimum standards.
- Teams are asked to submit an application which demonstrates capacity to meet the minimum standards outlined.
- Tier Two is considered a way for teams to build capability in order to advance to Tier One.

Minimum standards for teams would be as follows:

1. Participate with minimum financial risk;
2. Assemble a competitive team that is likely, in BBNZ's judgement, to enhance womens basketball in New Zealand;
3. Work collaboratively with local basketball associations.

Competition Format:

- Consist of up to six teams.
- Teams would play each other at the WBC Tournament 1 and at the WBC Finals Weekend
- Round robin regular season at Tournament 1 sets teams seeding for the finals.
- WBC Finals weekend format the same as Tier One.
- There is no requirement to play other tiered teams in between the two tournaments however teams may wish to play friendlies to assist their finals preparation.
- The format is subject to change and dependant on the total applications received.

Time Frame:

- Applications must be received by Friday, 8 December 2017.
- Tentative draft draw circulated prior to Christmas and dependant on receiving applications on time.
- Administration dates to be confirmed January 2018.
- Confirmed applicants to pay the non-refundable deposit by Wednesday, 28 February 2018.

Entry Fee:

- \$2,000+GST

Rules:

As per the WBC Rules and Regulations. The confirmed rules and regulations will be released in 2019.

**TIER THREE**

- Entry is non-automatic.
- Entry level teams who want to start playing in the WBC but are not yet ready to commit at a higher level. Allows them to attend, play and develop.
- Entry is subject to teams being able to meet the minimum standards.
- Teams are asked to complete the expression of interest application.

Minimum standards for teams would be as follows:

1. Participate with minimum financial risk;
2. Assemble a competitive team that is likely, in BBNZ's judgement, to enhance womens basketball in New Zealand;
3. Work collaboratively with local basketball associations.

Competition Format:

- Consist of up to six teams with a minimum of four teams.
- Teams would play each other at the WBC Finals Weekend only.
- There is no requirement to play others tiered teams prior to the finals however teams may wish to play friendlies to assist their finals preparation.
- The format is subject to change and dependant on the total applications received.

Time Frame:

- Expression of Interest applications must be received by Friday, 8 December 2017.
- In receipt of accepting the EOI, teams must confirm participation by Wednesday, 4 April 2018.
- Administration dates to be confirmed January 2018.
- Confirmed applicants to pay the non-refundable deposit by Wednesday, 2 May 2018.
- Draw available June/July.

Entry Fee:

- \$1,000+GST

Rules:

As per BBNZ National Championship Tournament Rules and Regulations.