



## Revamped Women's National Basketball League to Tip off in 2022 - Search is on for Five Franchises

Basketball New Zealand (BBNZ) will revamp its women's national basketball league in 2022 with a creative new model that will include the introduction of private team ownership and league governed player wages per season.

In an exciting move designed to attract leading Kiwi stars and Tall Ferns players back home, along with attracting elite international players from the United States, Australia, Asia and Europe, the new-look league will feature every game being broadcast live on Sky Sport.

Expressions of interest (EOI) have opened for entities wishing to own one of the five new elite-level teams on offer. In an immediate boost for the new franchises, all player wages will be centrally paid by the league.

The revamp will see the former competition's six teams disbanded from the national league and replaced by five new franchises representing designated regions across New Zealand, however basketball associations are welcome to consider being a part of franchise ownership.

The newly designed league will tip-off in July 2022.

BBNZ is now seeking interested entities to own a franchise in the following regions:

- Northern Region
- Mid North Island
- Central Region
- Upper South Island
- Lower South Island

### Franchise Ownership – What You Need to Know

- Franchises must be owned by a legal entity.
- A franchise fee is \$50k and payable once.
- Franchise licenses are for three-year terms with annual reviews and rollover to subsequent terms.
- An annual competition fee of up to \$20k will be in place.
- Franchises can be made up of multiple owners.
- A basketball association can own no more than 33.3% of a franchise (one third).
- If more than one basketball association is involved in one franchise, no more than 40% of the franchise can be owned by basketball associations.
- Each team will play 6 home games and will be encouraged to play those games across the franchise region.

### The New League – What You Need to Know

BBNZ is pleased to provide an opportunity for entities wishing to submit an EOI to participate in the new women's national basketball league. In total, five franchises will be made available for the 2022 season.

- This league will be the pre-eminent semi-professional women's basketball league in New Zealand.
- The league will include a 12-game home and away regular season, followed by a Final 4.
- The season will run for 8 weeks and will be followed immediately by 4 weeks of national team (Tall Ferns) camps and/or international series and/or overseas FIBA competitions.
- Each franchise will be provided with a unique name, brand, and colours.
- Fixed player payments via a governed salary system (per team) will be in place, which will be paid by the league. For more information regarding the salary system please make contact.

**The EOI Process – What You Need to Know**

The first step for those seeking to own a franchise is to submit an EOI to the BBNZ Leagues Operations Manager by the date outlined below.

**What to Address in your EOI?**

Interested entities should address the following in their initial EOI. A panel will initially be assessing each EOI on the following six questions:

1. Which of the five regions will your franchise represent?
2. Where will your home base be located?
3. Where do you propose to play your six home games? Include all venues/cities/towns you intend to play at.
4. Who are the owners of the proposed franchise and what stake (percentage) will each owner hold? Please include as much detail on the ownership group as possible, including any further business interests.
5. A brief summary of your proposed commercial backing and franchise/team resources.
6. Why you believe your EOI offers the best opportunity for a franchise to succeed in your region?

**Who can Submit an EOI?**

Any entities interested in owning one of the five franchises based on the information provided above.

**What Happens After the EOI is Submitted?**

A panel consisting of the NBL General Manager, Chairs of both the NBL Men's and Women's Boards, and two independents with relevant experience will assess each EOI and decide which submissions will be invited through to the Formal Bid phase.

**Formal Bids**

Each submission invited through to the Formal Bid phase will receive a detailed Formal Bid pack, including a copy of the Participation Agreement, key League Rules, and the League Governance Structure.

Formal Bids must be received by no later than the date outlined below.

**Franchise Announcements**

BBNZ will announce the five successful franchises by the date outlined below.

**Key Dates**

1. December 3 - EOI distributed
2. December 17 - EOI due
3. January 14 - Formal Bid due (from those selected to present)
4. January 21 - Franchises decided
5. February - League and Franchises launch, team brands/colours/locations announced
6. July - Season tips off

**Further Information – Contact**

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