



Basketball for All

Action Plan 2025-2027

**Growing and Supporting
Disability Inclusion in Basketball**



BASKETBALL
New Zealand

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Kia ora, welcome

Basketball for disabled people was one of eight transformational areas identified in the Basketball New Zealand (BBNZ) Strengthen and Adapt Plan (2021).

The improvement opportunity identified was to ensure greater alignment with organisations that deliver basketball to disabled people so that they are an integral part of delivering on basketball’s vision of hoops in the heart of every community.

This Strengthen and Adapt project gained funding support from Sport New Zealand and was commenced at the start of 2023 with the appointment of the BBNZ National Disability Inclusion Lead role to drive the development and implementation of this Basketball For All Action Plan.

The objective of this Action Plan is to normalise, integrate, support and promote participation by all people in the sport of basketball.

The plan identifies 12 Actions that Basketball New Zealand commits to lead and implement over the next two years. It provides supporting information that has been developed through extensive consultation, support and delivery across the basketball and disability communities.

It’s also designed as a guiding document and resource for our 35 member Associations and other community basketball providers to inspire and empower them to take the next step in providing inclusive basketball opportunities for everyone in their communities.

The need and opportunity in front of us is massive. This is a call to action for our sport, it begins with an inclusive attitude and small steps, so let’s go...

Dillon Boucher
Chief Executive

Introduction

Basketball in New Zealand continues to experience strong growth, especially amongst youth and the sport appeals to all genders, ages, ethnicities and cultures.

Awareness and acceptance of disability is also on the rise and including everyone in the game is not only the right thing to do, but it also reflects Basketball New Zealand's values of Mana (Respect), Tika (Integrity) and Hono (Connected).

Our Statement of Strategic Intent has four pillars: Participation, Performance, Fan Experience and Diversity and people with disabilities already make valuable contributions in each of these areas. It's up to us to support, include, value and grow opportunities for all New Zealanders in basketball.

We define disability as any long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder the full and effective participation of disabled people in society on an equal basis with others.

We intend to work towards removing barriers to give disabled people not only greater choice and control over their own lives but to also contribute to the game of basketball. This document combines the voices of over 300 individuals and organisations and we intend that this diverse group of people see their voices in this plan.

We also acknowledge the use of tangata whaikaha (people who are determined to do well) in reference to disabled people as this acknowledges the strengths (kaha) of a person rather than focusing on what people cannot do. This language aligns with the New Zealand Disability Strategy and current best practice in this area.

Being a large and growing sport that is popular and accessible across all parts of the community, basketball has the opportunity lead the way through inclusion and to help drive social change to bring about a more fair and equal society for all New Zealanders.



Basketball for All: Hoops in the Heart of Every Community

Why it matters

Inclusive basketball builds stronger, more diverse communities, grows our player base and enhances basketball as one of New Zealand’s top sports. Basketball is a game that is accessible to anyone. From players to coaches, referees, administrators and fans of the game, we are all part of the same basketball whānau.

Three key principles

<p>1</p> <p>Equity of Experience The same quality effort, experience and resourcing for every participant</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Visibility Promote and celebrate all participants in the game</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>Outreach Inviting everyone in and making them feel welcome and valued</p> 
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Our BBNZ values in action

MANA RESPECT

Providing the same quality for every participant is an easy way to show respect

Adapting rules and structures to include all abilities

Valuing each person’s unique contribution to the game

TIKA INTEGRITY

Promoting and celebrating all participants

Showcasing diverse abilities in our communications and events

Gathering and using accurate data to drive inclusive decision-making

HONO CONNECTED

Inviting people in makes everyone feel welcome and valued

Collaborating with existing disability organisations

Creating inclusive and united environments across our basketball activities

Basketball NZ’s Commitments

- 1 Create leadership opportunities and a voice for disability and inclusion.
- 2 Celebrate inclusion on our communication channels.
- 3 Have accurate data on the disability community.
- 4 Grow funding for disability projects.
- 5 Support Associations and community providers.
- 6 Make our participation programs, coach and referee development and resources inclusive.
- 7 Promote and provide regular, diverse and inclusive competitions and pathways.
- 8 Develop and support workforce opportunities and support for people.
- 9 Create inclusive, welcoming, and safe environments across the basketball system.
- 10 Consult, identify, plan, and support Regional Action Plans with targeted regions.
- 11 Build a good practice resource hub for quality Inclusion opportunities.
- 12 Embed inclusion as a priority for the basketball system.

It’s been a privilege to meet such a supportive bunch of people who are so welcoming when I didn’t fit anywhere else.

– Manaia

Simple steps to get started

- Invite disabled people to try basketball, coaching, or refereeing
- Be flexible with rules and team structures
- Modify existing resources with creativity
- Partner with local disability organizations
- Promote your inclusive activities on social media
- Apply for funding specifically for inclusive programs

Inclusion starts with attitude...



Why Basketball needs to be more inclusive

There are many reasons for Basketball New Zealand, member Associations, schools and community providers to prioritise inclusion of disabled people in the game, including:

Positive Impact

24% of the NZ population self-identifies as having a disability – that's well over 1,000,000 people! (Source: Sport New Zealand). The benefits of being involved in basketball for disabled people and their whānau is magnified as they are often disadvantaged in mainstream society. A little bit of effort goes a very long way.

Sustainable Growth

Being more inclusive allows us to grow our overall participation by players, coaches, officials, supporters and providers. By actively connecting and servicing a wider community, basketball providers can better deliver on their objectives and grow funding to support wider participation. Engaging with and actively involving the disability community strengthens organisations and programmes through different skills, abilities and perspectives. This helps organisations be adaptable, flexible, and creative in the ways that work, recognise opportunities and solve problems to grow and develop the sport.

Inclusive ways of working are good for everyone

Being more inclusive allows us to grow our overall participation by players, coaches, officials, supporters and providers. By actively connecting and servicing a wider community, basketball providers can better deliver on their objectives and grow funding to support wider participation. Engaging with and actively involving the disability community strengthens organisations and programmes through different skills, abilities and perspectives. This helps organisations be adaptable, flexible, and creative in the ways that work, recognise opportunities and solve problems to grow and develop the sport.

Societal Change

Disabled people are often segregated and excluded from mainstream sport, schools and society. The nature of basketball allows us to show the people in and around our sport how easy it is to be inclusive and to lead societal change in this area. Kiwis aims to be a fair and accepting society for everyone, it's time for us to show it!

We are all part of the same community and basketball brings us together.

The Opportunity

Good inclusion principles are good basketball principles

Principles that create safe, inclusive environments are the same principles that we are aiming for not only in basketball but in all sports in New Zealand namely:

- 1 Participant focused
- 2 Responsive to the needs of the community
- 3 Development and improvement focused
- 4 Equal game time and opportunity to play
- 5 Games based approach to training and development
- 6 Allow for problem solving and decision making
- 7 Participation in a wide variety of sports and activities

Inclusion is easy

- Being inclusive can be as easy as simply extending an invitation – both on and off the court.
- Basketball is one of the simplest and easiest games to play on the planet. This is part of why it appeals to everyone.
- We already modify the game by using different sized balls, hoops, rules and formats – it's easy to adapt our game for anyone to play.

Existing Foundation of Participants

- We are indebted and thankful to the many passionate people and organisations that have been providing adapted forms of basketball including Deaf Basketball New Zealand, Wheelchair Basketball New Zealand, Special Olympics, Halberg and Parafed groups.
- These existing providers service a small percentage of the disability community and these people and organisations have worked towards proving adapted and inclusive forms of basketball with little to no support.
- This is a great starting point for basketball to be able to offer opportunities for existing players to be more involved in the game.
- There is an opportunity to combine our basketball knowledge and systems with existing networks and participants to grow our collective reach and impact.

Disability providers need more support and help

Existing disability and inclusion providers offer:

- Expert knowledge of their participants.
- Ready-made access to this part of the basketball community.

However, they often lack:

- Resources like people, court space and funding.
- Expert basketball knowledge and understanding of what quality basketball looks and feels like.
- Regular, weekly opportunities to play and participate.

Funders are prioritising disability and inclusive sports

- Sport New Zealand Tū Manawa funding through the regional sport trust network identify disability and inclusion as a priority area.
- Community and gaming funders look favourably on applications that aim to grow disability participation opportunities and cater for inclusion.
- Many current providers are successful in their funding applications but do not have the time, energy or know-how to apply for more funding.

We can lead the way, make a difference in people's lives and grow our game.



Our Vision: For a more inclusive future

Our Vision

When we are in basketball stadiums we can see people with diverse abilities participating in all levels of the game.

The Impact

Players

Players are valued for their abilities and what they can do, rather than what is assumed they can't do. They are invited into teams and leagues and are welcomed, accepted and have equal opportunity to participate as peers.

Referees

People with a wide variety of backgrounds and abilities are encouraged, invited, and promoted to grab a whistle and be included in referee training, courses and/or development. When necessary, delivery is simplified to focus on competence rather than theoretical knowledge or formal qualifications.

Coaches

People with disabilities are actively recruited, encouraged, and supported to be coaches. They are integrated into the national coach development framework the same way as their able-bodied peers.

Supporters

Access, encouragement and support is provided for all people to attend games as spectators and supporters. Value is shown through social media, accessible venues, and equitable promotion and seating.

Styles of the Game

Basketball providers are proactively and consistently providing inclusive teams and/or leagues for anyone to participate in, where gender, age and ability are not the focus. There are weekly opportunities for disability inclusion basketball around the country.

Part of Decision-Making

Disabled people are actively recruited, encouraged, and supported for paid and voluntary roles within basketball organisations, sit on advisory groups, and are elected onto boards. The value of diverse perspectives in operations and decision-making is widely valued and acknowledged across the basketball community.



Action Plan Principles

The BBNZ 'Basketball for All' Action Plan is based on three Action Principles:

1.

Equity of Experience

The same quality effort, experience and resourcing for every participant

2.

Visibility

Promote and celebrate all participants in the game

3.

Outreach

Inviting everyone in and making them feel welcome and valued

Our 12 Commitments

We are committed to leading and actioning initiatives to grow opportunities for all New Zealanders to participate and enjoy basketball.

Basketball New Zealand will:

1. Create leadership opportunities and ensure a strong voice for disability and inclusion.
2. Celebrate inclusion on our communication channels.
3. Ensure we have accurate data on the disability community.
4. Grow funding for disability projects that are developed and delivered by BBNZ, Associations and other disability partners.
5. Support Associations and community providers to make it easy to provide inclusive basketball.
6. Integrate inclusive content into participation programs, coach and referee development and resources.
7. Promote and provide regular, diverse and inclusive competition and pathways.
8. Develop and support workforce opportunities and support for people in the disability and inclusion community.
9. Champion creating and fostering inclusive, welcoming, and safe environments across the basketball system.
10. Consult, identify, plan, and support Regional Action Plans with targeted regions.
11. Build a good practice resource hub for quality Inclusion opportunities.
12. Embed inclusion as a priority for the basketball system, supported by strong partnerships

Measures of Success

BBNZ will develop measures and a monitoring and evaluation process to support delivery of these commitments.

1. Equity of Experience

The same quality experience for every participant

#	Commitment	BBNZ Actions	Suggested & Encouraged Partner Actions
1	Support Associations and community providers to make it easy to provide inclusive basketball	i. Develop a simple one-page visual guide for Associations and community providers that provides an easy 'how to' guide for providing inclusive opportunities . ii. Develop a template of different modified versions of the game with operational blueprints.	a. Be flexible and creative with how you use existing resources. b. Look at off-season options and adapted opportunities. c. Invite existing groups and teams into your leagues, competitions and events. d. Use your existing infrastructure to modify existing offerings to suit inclusive principles.
2	Integrate disability and inclusion content into coach and referee development and resources	i. Inclusion is integrated into these new frameworks and resources. This is supplemented with targeted modules and programmes modifications from partners like Paralympics NZ (LevelUp) and Halberg (Coachmate).	a. Invite disabled people to try out refereeing or coaching. b. Support and promote opportunities to coach and referee adapted forms of the game. c. Encourage referees and coaches to pursue national and international pathways.
3	Promote and provide competitive pathways and regular competition	i. Develop and promote visible, clear and understood pathways for players. ii. Review, identify and develop opportunities for regular national and regional competitive opportunities, integrated into existing BBNZ events wherever possible.	a. Provide players and teams with weekly practices and games. b. Create an inclusive league open to everyone regardless of age, gender, or ability. c. Promote competitive opportunities offered by BBNZ and other inclusive providers. d. Promote international pathways and competitions.
4	Develop and support workforce opportunities and support for people in the disability and inclusion community	i. Review and identify potential roles and opportunities for the disability and inclusion community. ii. Seek new funding opportunities to support this initiative including a BBNZ support fund.	a. Combine Disability and Inclusion roles with other areas such as Women & Girls and Community Development. b. Tap into volunteers from this area of the community

Simple Steps to Create Positive Change

1. Support Associations and community providers to make it easy to provide inclusive basketball

- Inclusive basketball means players with disabilities train and play in the same facilities at the same time as mainstream basketball.
- Players should wear the same uniforms as everyone else. This creates a sense of belonging and shows that everyone is part of your community.
- Basketball for disabled people is the same as for non-disabled people with some easy to do adjustments or modifications. This could look like modifying some rules and restrictions on the age and gender of the players and how teams/leagues are structured.
- Be intentional about creating a welcoming and supportive environment that creates a sense of belonging, provides appropriate skill development and the challenge of healthy competition

2. Integrate disability and inclusion content into coach and referee development and resources

- When running development courses and workshops for referees and coaches, consider who else you could invite into this space. Reach out to disability providers in your community to see if they have anyone who might be interested in attending.
- Utilising adaptive basketball as a teaching tool when teaching philosophies such as Good Sports and Balance is Better is a great way for coaches to more easily understand how to apply these philosophies.
- Provide quality referees for adaptive basketball formats as you would any other form of the game. Quality referees are integral to the quality of experience for participants. Again, these opportunities are also beneficial for the development of referees.

3. Promote and provide competitive pathways and regular competition

- When reviewing your basketball offerings, consider how you could integrate a more inclusive offering. This could be creating space for an inclusive team, partnering with other providers to establish an inclusive division, or creating new offerings entirely.
- Able-bodied players can enter the game at the grass-roots level and progress through different levels of competition. These opportunities to progress should exist for all.
- If you have performance players with a disability in your community, make them visible. Promote disability and inclusion teams as equals of able-bodied representative teams. Promote and celebrate your players with disabilities who do well and gain national selection.

4. Develop and support workforce opportunities and support for people in the disability and inclusion community

- Disabled people are just like anyone else and many would very much like the opportunities to be involved in the game outside of playing. This might be through refereeing, coaching, managing teams, as supporters, score bench officials, coordinators, and on committees and boards.
- Traditionally disabled people have been denied access to roles like this and if we are to be an inclusive sport, we need to be reaching out and inviting people into these roles will help our entire basketball community.



2. Visibility

Promote and celebrate all participants in the game

#	Commitment	BBNZ Actions	Suggested & Encouraged Partner Actions
5	Create leadership opportunities and ensure a strong voice for disability and inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review existing governance, leadership and advisory groups to identify opportunities to improve representation and diversity of thinking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consult with the disability community, establish an advisory group b. Include disabled people on committees and board c. Appoint disabled people to leadership roles
6	Celebrate inclusion on our communication channels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop a communications plan that ensures regular promotion and coverage of disability and inclusion stories Across Basketball New Zealand's main social media pages and Inclusion Basketball NZ page. ii. Develop a storytelling template. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Post about your inclusive activities and the people involved on your social media. b. Mention your inclusive activities in newsletters, posters and other forms of communication. c. Invite people from your inclusive basketball community to awards functions and have the same awards for them as everyone else.
7	Ensure we have accurate data on the disability and inclusion community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review our data and digital systems to ensure they are fit for purpose in collecting and using data and insights on the disability and inclusion community. ii. Promote and support D & I providers to utilise these technology systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gather data through your member management system (GameDay) with questions about disability and inclusion amongst players, coaches and referees. b. Take photos and videos as evidence. c. Use surveys and informal interviews to gain insight and data.
8	Grow funding for disability and inclusion projects developed and delivered by BBNZ, Associations and other disability and inclusion partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify potential funders and new funding opportunities ii. Develop targeted funding bids for disability and inclusion projects iii. Develop template resources for Associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Apply for funding specifically for running your inclusive basketball programs. b. Seek funding for paid delivery roles, player participation opportunities and people development activities. c. Use data, evidence and participant voices in funding applications. d. Include mention of your inclusive approach in able-bodied applications.



Simple Steps to Create Positive Change

5. Create leadership opportunities and ensure a strong voice for disability and inclusion.

Grow the community voice and representation. Talk to people in the disability community. Talk to the players, their parents, their teachers, their friends and whānau. Ask them what works and doesn't work for them. Create committee roles and empower people to make decisions and contribute in ways that suit them.

6. Celebrate inclusion on your communication channels.

Develop clear principles and objectives for social media and communications channels and coverage. Use photos, videos and promote players, teams and events in the same way that you do for the rest of your participants. Word of mouth is powerful and social media is a quick, easy and free way to reach a wide range of people who talk to each other. There is no need to hold this part of the community up front as 'special' or use different language or style.

7. Ensure your organisation has accurate data on the disability and inclusion community.

Keep records of how many participants with disabilities are part of your basketball community. Identify the tools you have at your disposal to identify this E.g., Gameday, CoachMate. Consider what information you're not capturing - what other organisations are operating in your region - what information do they have that could help you.

Review and develop systems and processes to capture, identify and include participants with disabilities in overall statistics as well as keeping records on how many participants with disabilities are part of your basketball community.

8. Grow funding for disability and inclusion projects developed and delivered by BBNZ, Associations and other Disability and Inclusion partners.

There is a clear opportunity to grow funding for disability and inclusion basketball. Template resources can help associations and providers apply for funding to help grow and provide basketball for this part of our community. BBNZ can also provide funding support to help disability and inclusion projects.

3. Outreach

Making everyone feel welcome and valued

#	Commitment	BBNZ Actions	Suggested & Encouraged Partner Actions
9	Champion creating and fostering inclusive, welcoming and safe environments across the basketball system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop and promote a simple resource to help Associations and community providers feel confident and capable of creating and promoting inclusive environments and programmes, including community application guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Your attitude is everything, show manaaki and be welcoming. A little bit of extra attention will go a long way. b. Access BBNZ guides, resources, and case studies to learn what may work best for you. c. Include everyone but don't lose focus on your target group (those who are excluded from mainstream sport).
10	Consult, identify, plan and support Regional Action Plans with targeted Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify key Associations and facilitate a regional approach that identifies actions, roles and responsibilities, collaborating with key regional stakeholders. Support the development, monitoring, delivery, and evaluation of these Regional Action Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invite people in and listen to what they want and need. b. Tap into existing players, volunteers and groups. c. Build collaborative partnerships across your community. d. Develop simple action plans to connect and guide stakeholders and collaboration.
11	Build a good practice resource hub for quality Inclusion opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop templates to help capture and document success stories with case studies and resources that build a community disability and inclusion toolbox 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Capture and share success stories with case studies, photos and video content. b. Share what you learn with others in your basketball and sporting community.
12	Strengthen the basketball system so that disability and inclusion is embedded as a priority and supported by capable organisations and strong partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. As part of the BBNZ System Review Implementation plan to improve the capacity and capability of key stakeholders. ii. Scope options for shared service models and/or governance structures. iii. Embed clear roles and responsibilities and delivery requirements into the new member Association service level agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Purposefully plan for inclusive games, leagues and opportunities to be involved in the game. b. Set aside time, court space and resources to plan for and to deliver inclusive basketball.



Simple Steps to Create Positive Change

9. Champion creating and fostering inclusive, welcoming and safe environments

BBNZ, member Associations and community providers need to take simple proactive steps to create safe and supportive environments for the disability and inclusion community to feel confident and comfortable being part of.

These simple steps include finding where people with disabilities are already playing in your community, inviting people in, listening to what they want, and taking action to provide this. This takes commitment and effort but the benefits to both participants and organisations are huge. It all starts with providers and attitude is everything. Show manaaki - be welcoming.

10. Consult, identify, plan, and support Regional Action Plans

Due to the great variance of resources, staffing and availability of other organisations to partner from region to region, varied approaches are required for each region to improve opportunities and outcomes for disabled people. BBNZ needs to help identify key regional stakeholders and facilitate an approach that suits the different needs of each region.

Collaboration and partnerships are key to getting started and to making any programme or initiative successful. When you work together with others who have knowledge and experience in this area the outcomes have proven to be far greater. This requires trust and relationship building.

11. Build a good practice resource hub for quality Inclusion opportunities.

Identify, document, celebrate and share success stories from across the disability and inclusion community.

Contribute your experiences and insights to help build a toolbox of case studies, resources and practical information for the basketball community to improve disability and inclusion participation opportunities.

12. Strengthen the basketball system so that disability and inclusion is embedded as a priority and supported by capable organisations and strong partnerships.

BBNZ will lead the implementation of the Basketball System Review in 2024-25. A key objective of this project is to support and strengthen the capacity and capability of Associations and other key stakeholders. The project aims to establish clear roles and responsibilities including inclusion commitments and delivery requirements.

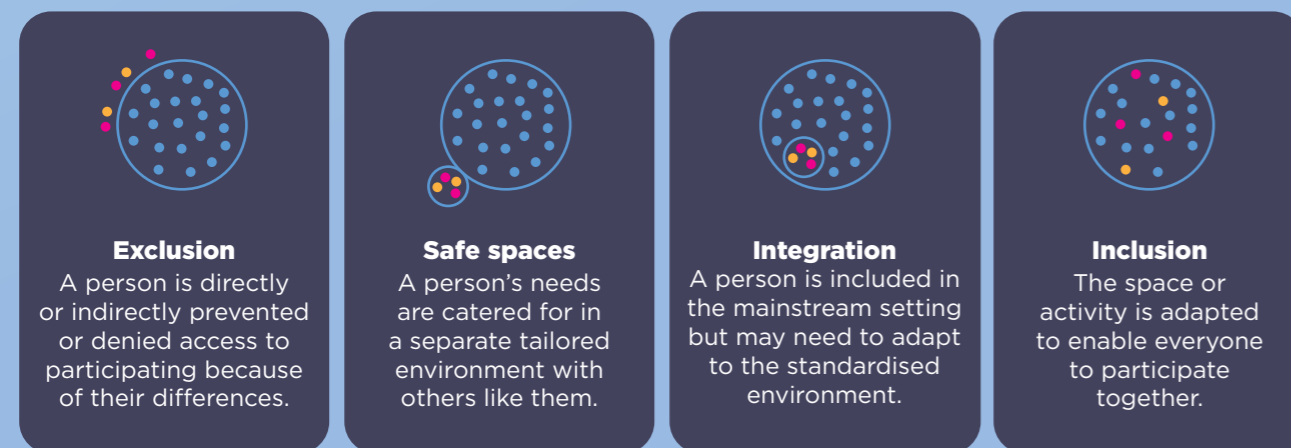
BBNZ will consult and engage with key inclusion partners to determine what organisational approaches may help achieve the best outcomes for participants and communities. This may include Service Level Agreements and scoping options for shared service models and/or governance structures.

Appendices



Key Definitions

Inclusion is the ongoing exercise of valuing diverse groups by creating safe, welcoming and collaborative environments in which everyone can fully participate and thrive. It's about proactive behaviours, options and actions to make people from all backgrounds, ages and abilities feel that they belong. There are different ways to help participants feel included. The best thing to do is to provide choice and ask what works for them.



Source: Sport New Zealand, <https://sportnz.org.nz/inclusivity-hub/what-is-dei/>

Diversity is the differences between people – their characteristics, attributes, backgrounds, and the perspectives they bring. Diversity of thought and a variety of perspectives and experiences leads to increased creativity, innovation and better decision-making at a strategic and operational level

Disability is defined as any long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder the full and effective participation of disabled people in society on an equal basis with others. The experience of disability is influenced by the nature of a person's impairment. Gender, age, ethnicity and culture can also have a profound and sometimes compounding effect on an individual's experience of disability.

Associations are Members of Basketball New Zealand who are recognised as the Regional Sport Organisation for Basketball within their defined area.

Community providers are organisations that deliver basketball and other sport participation opportunities to local and regional communities. They may be clubs that are affiliated to an RSO or independent or unaffiliated organisations.

Associate Members are another category for organisations affiliated to BBNZ that currently includes Wheelchair Basketball NZ and Deaf Basketball NZ

BBNZ Roles & Responsibilities

What you can expect from us:

Accountability

Walking the walk! Help and support with staying on track when it comes to backing up what you say with actions on and off the court.

Connections and Introductions

Help finding who is out there in your local community and introductions to people already providing opportunities in your local community.

Education

Online and in-person education about ways of working, how to get started, language guides and the foundational knowledge that you need to get started on creating ways to make your basketball offerings more inclusive and accessible to all.

Resources

Create, provide and distribute resources that help Associations, partners and community providers meet the needs disability and inclusionbasketball community.

Research

Staying up to date and communicating with you about the trends, research and best practice that will help you to stay relevant and responsive to this part of our basketball community.

Advice and Support to Existing Providers

Guidance, help, support and encouragement when it comes to embarking and maintaining course on your inclusive basketball journey. Help with Governance for existing organisations that provide adapted and specialised forms of the game (Deaf Basketball NZ, Wheelchair Basketball NZ).

National Opportunities to Participate

Providing inclusive national events for your local participants to aspire towards and the opportunity to participate and compete alongside and with people from around the country, just like everyone else.

Lead by Example

BBNZ will act in ways that conform to and support our three key principles of visibility, equal quality of experience and outreach to the community. Associations, providers, the wider sports community and New Zealand society should be able to see where BBNZ is making a difference.



Case Studies

Waikato Wheelchair

Highlights

Rapid growth over one year from 6 players to over 30 players. Positive impact on the lives of young people through a sense of belonging and achievement

- Collaboration is key.
- Focus on young people while including their whanau as well as older, more experienced players
- Pathways to participation from have-a-go to weekly trainings and opportunities to play in competitions and tournaments locally and nationally
- Listen to people and give them what they want
- Establish opportunities for people to play organised games and competitions

Fulton Hogan League, Nelson

Highlights

Up to 150 player of all abilities playing in weekly games across 3 divisions during an 8 week competition. This league has had over 20 years of continued success.

Partnerships between groups with each contributing different parts of the puzzle:

- Inclusive Sports Trust – People, organisation and administration
- Nelson Giants – Mana, recognition & coaching
- Nelson Basketball – Referees
- Fulton-Hogan – Funding & uniforms
- Schools & the disability community – Players, coaches, score bench officials
- Saxton Stadium – Quality venue

Parent's Perspective – Wheelchair Basketball

My son Dylan has always been passionate about sports, especially basketball, but due to his cerebral palsy, he has been unable to participate in traditional forms of play. It was a challenging realization for both him and our family when we understood that his condition would significantly limit his ability to engage in the activities he loved. However, everything changed when we discovered Canterbury wheelchair basketball. This transformative sport has not only given Dylan a chance to play basketball like he always dreamed but has also opened up a whole new world of inclusivity and camaraderie. Through the game, he has created lasting friendships with teammates who share similar experiences, building a supportive community that encourages one another to push boundaries.

I watched his confidence blossom. Each practice and game became an opportunity for him to showcase his talents and to demonstrate that his disability would not define him. The thrill of competition, the joy of making baskets, and the pride of representing his team have made a profound impact on his self-esteem. Dylan has not only grown as an athlete but also as an individual, learning the values of teamwork, resilience, and determination that extend far beyond the court.

The mobility that comes with being in a wheelchair on the court has given him a sense of freedom that he had missed in other sports. It's inspiring to see him glide across the court, competing fiercely and maneuvering with skill. Ultimately, wheelchair basketball has been a gateway for Dylan, offering him not only the chance to play a sport he loves but also the opportunity to thrive, connect with others, and redefine what it means to be an athlete.

Amy

Impact on the lives of young people

Asher

Prior to playing wheelchair basketball Asher “hated teamwork” and had experienced a lack of trust and general understanding from the wider community. Asher has since learned a great deal about teamwork and how to trust and work together with others. For Asher it's about respect and he sees the best way to be respectful is to invite others into your world.

Katie

Katie has aspirations to become a firefighter while Asher would like to work with children with disabilities to and help them grow and better navigate the world around them. Katie believes that if more people knew about the sport they would be overjoyed. The game has also taught Kaite off-court skills like time management.



Case Studies

TIMA is a basketball provider in Christchurch who has weekly basketball sessions targeted towards young people with intellectual disabilities with everyone being welcome to join. They compete in Canterbury Basketball Association’s Inclusive Basketball League.

TIMA provides my children with a safe space to be themselves without judgment. My children are free to be creative on the basketball court guided by the TIMA team. This is helped as the culture of the sessions are inclusive where mana-enhancing is the model of practice. My children feel valued and have a sense of belonging, they love it! TIMA understands that my children are unique, making them special and caring for them in that way. My children flourish in environments where their wellbeing is valued and they can add their flavour/ personality to the mix, and that is why they attend the TIMA program and we fully support them as a family.

- Jeremy

Our boy is gaining physical exercise, social skills, and enjoyment and belonging. At 10 years old this is the first time we have encountered this. At TIMA he is able to join in at the best of his ability. It doesn't matter if he doesn't understand the rules. He is not 'letting the team down'. He is part of a team of individuals, all at their own levels. He is not the 'different' one.

- Alice

TIMA removes barriers to inclusion which regular sports teams don't seem to manage. Everything in the real world goes at a very fast pace and people with disabilities need time and patience to be able to achieve success. TIMA gives our kids the time and my son and is proud to play basketball at TIMA.

Not only does TIMA provide a sporting outlet, they also allow our kids to socialise and recognise they are part of a team that matters.

- Vanessa

Canterbury Inclusion League

Weekly competition with 5 teams

Keys to success:

- Outreach has created relationships and built trust with the community
- Inviting existing school, Special Olympics and other teams in to play
- Equal recognition with end of season awards and prizes
- Open and welcoming approach
- Interest and input from a variety of staff members and volunteers
- Seeing other inclusion leagues in action and learning from them
- Having a purpose statement





BASKETBALL
New Zealand



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