



## **Welcome**

Welcome to the first week of invitation only trials to represent the Inner West Bulls in the Basketball NSW Metropolitan Junior League in 2024. As you would have seen, we have had record numbers of players trial, and the calibre, talent and skills of those players has been incredibly high, so congratulations on making it through to this stage.

After this week, we have one final week of invitation only trials on Sunday, November 12. All Players will receive information on their invitation to this trial by this coming Wednesday, November 8. After the trial all players will be notified of final selections by Friday November 17. If you have not received notification by Saturday morning, please contact us. We know everyone is excited, but if you could assist by not making contact before that time, that would be super appreciated!!

In order to prepare you for the upcoming season, please find below some important information. It is important that you read, understand and are happy to comply with the below before players make themselves available for selection on next Sunday. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to let us know.

At the Bulls, the experience of our players, both on and off the court, is at the very heart of everything we do . . . and just quietly, the parents have a ball too!! So . . . Run with us!!

## **About the Bulls**

Our Association is built around the core belief that grass roots sports play an incredibly important role in our community, and are fundamental in providing a range of opportunities for kids both on and off the court. We believe that active, social, fit kids, translate into healthy and happy kids, and that the sporting arena provides many great opportunities for kids to learn, build resilience, and create strong connections. We believe in creating a community that not only involves kids as players, but also strong adult role models in the areas of coaches, managers, parent supporters and administrators. Our organisation is diverse, inclusive and supportive, providing opportunities for participants on a social level through to an elite level, and values participation, competitiveness and the pursuit of excellence.

At the Bulls we value hard work, team spirit, sportsmanship, competitive and a "never say die" attitude. At the heart of everything we do at the Bulls are our players. We encourage passion, hard work and loyalty in our players, we encourage them to enjoy their basketball, make lifelong friends, make the most of every opportunity, and we encourage them to mentor those coming behind them. The Bulls are a family club. It might be the kids that are playing, but it's the whole family that is involved! We have worked hard to build a community where everyone feels



welcome, included and “part of the family”. We celebrate our victories and we work on our challenges. We love our families to coming together and its a great experience to be a part of!

We run one of the largest contingents of representative players of any Association in NSW, with 24 teams due to hit the courts in 2024. At the Bulls our pathways programs are incredibly important, so we run teams for both girls and boys, from under 12s to under 18s, and then into the senior programs with Youth League and NBL1 teams. We were excited to be announced as a Foundation Association in the inaugural NBL1 East competition in 2022, and we run the largest Youth League program in the state, with 3 mens teams and 1 women teams in the competition.

### **Our Coaches**

We are incredibly lucky at the Bulls to have some of the best coaches in the country looking after our kids!! Our coaches have played for Australia, in the WNBL, at State level, coach basketball for a living . . . you can't get better than our crew!! And whilst they all know their x's and o's, they also understand that they have an incredibly important job in mentoring and guiding our kids both on and off the court. Each team is also manned by an assistant coach, and a manager. If you need anything at all, it is the manager that is your first point of contact. Our superstars could not be in better hands!

### **Position Acceptance**

All participants in Trial 4 will receive notification of the outcomes by Friday, November 17. Players chosen to represent the Bulls in 2024 will then need to accept their positions within 7 days, by Friday, November 24. This will include making the first payment towards the 2024 representative fees, of a \$400 non refundable position acceptance payment. Unfortunately positions that are not accepted at the 7 day mark, may be offered to other players. Also players who take up positions, and subsequently relinquish them, will not be eligible for selection for the Bulls in 2025.

### **Beginning the season**

Post selection, coaches will be in contact to organise the first week of introductory training in the week commencing November 27. Then on Sunday December 3, all representative teams attend the club wide Bulls Muster.

### **Training**

All Bulls Training will begin formally for all teams in early January (although some teams may elect to train in early December). Managers will be in contact to advise day, time and venue. Team will train twice per week.



## **Primary Registrations**

Players chosen in the Bulls representative program must list their primary BNSW registration with us. If not currently listed with the Bulls, players must change this upon renewal to continue to be eligible.

## **Local Competitions**

Bulls representative players must play in our local competitions, either currently or after selection. This commences with the Summer League 2024, starting in late January. All players will be send details to enrol.

## **Development Players**

Development Players are invited to train with the teams, but only get a playing opportunity if a player is absent or injured, at the coaches discretion. Whilst this is not guaranteed, playing opportunities do generally arise over the course of the season, either in league games or tournaments.

## **Registration Fees**

Registration fees for 2024 are \$1450 for full players and \$450 for development players, which is inclusive of BNSW entry fees, playing and training court hire costs, referee fees, entry fees into the Coastal Classic and Nunawading Spectres Kings Birthday Tournaments, tournament and finals warm up shirts, water bottle, elite training opportunities, and pre season assessments in strength and conditioning, physiotherapy injury management and athletic testing at the Bulls Muster. In addition, all players receive a season pass to our NBL1 games, and all parents receive membership to our sponsors, Wests Ashfield Leagues Club. Fees can be paid in instalments, and the NSW Government's Active Kids vouchers can be accepted as payment.

The only other costs for the season are uniforms (which are unchanged from the 2023 strip), merchandise, and travel and accomodation costs for the Tournaments.

## **Uniforms**

All players need the representative uniform kit comprising of playing strip of reversible singlet, reversible shorts, warm up top and training singlet. There are other pieces of merchandise also available, including hoodies, backpacks, sports bags and towels. All players will be issued with a Bulls water bottle, so there is no need to purchase these, unless you would like more than one! Playing singlets will be ordered at the Bulls Muster, and players can submit number preferences (but please note that these can not always be accommodated due to clashes within teams, and



BNSW regulations in relation to allowable numbers). All other items can also be ordered at the Bulls Muster, and through the online store at [innerwestbulls.dkmbblue.com](http://innerwestbulls.dkmbblue.com).

### **Player and Family Commitment**

At the Bulls, commitment, team spirit, respect and good sportsmanship are very important to us. We would ask you to acknowledge and agree to the fact that along with inclusion in representative basketball programs, comes a number of conditions and commitments, importantly including financial, behavioural and time commitments, that we expect you to support. Additionally, we ask that players make themselves available for all games throughout the season, and all tournaments. This is especially important for games at the end of the season, and during the finals. If you will not be available for any game, you must advise your coach at the earliest possible time - this is especially important for players thinking of travelling to the USA on selection tours in July.

### **Need help?**

If you need help with anything at all, please do not hesitate to email [michelle@innerwestbulls.com](mailto:michelle@innerwestbulls.com) or ask any of the Association officials! We are more than happy to help!! Also our current Bulls kids and families are great sources of information . . . please do not hesitate to have a chat with them on the court or on the sidelines!

### **Looking forward to a cracker season!!**

### **Run with us!!**

## **2024 Dates**

### **Bulls Muster**

*Full day covering club/team meetings, athletic performance testing, injury assessment testing, skills testing and uniform fitting.*

*Sunday December 3*

### **Bulls Jersey Presentation and Media Day**

*A fun day for the players, and the whole family, where the players are presented with their Jerseys for the 2023 season, and have their team and individual photographs taken.*

*Sunday, January 28*

### **Coastal Classic Tournament**

*Two day tournament held at various locations in the Central Coast against Sydney and Country Associations. Teams will normally organise to travel and stay together (Team Manager will advise)*

JPL/Division 1 teams: Saturday February 17 and Sunday February 18

Division 2 and below teams: Saturday February 3 and Sunday February 4

Games start early Saturday morning, so plan to arrive night before, and can be played up until 3pm Sunday afternoon, so plan to leave after that

### **Metropolitan Junior League Pre-Season**

*Playoffs to determine divisions for the season*

Week 1: Saturday February 24 and Sunday February 25

Week 2: Saturday March 2 and Sunday March 3

Week 3: Saturday March 9 and Sunday March 10

Saturday games in generally take place in the afternoon and don't infer with school sports

### **Metropolitan Junior League Rounds**

*The big dance!*

Round 1: Sunday March 17

Round 2: Sunday March 24

Round 3: Sunday April 7

Round 4: Sunday April 14

Round 5: Sunday April 28

Round 6: Sunday May 5

Round 7: Sunday May 12

Round 8: Sunday May 19

Round 9: Sunday May 26

Round 10: Sunday June 2

Round 11: Sunday June 16

Round 12: Sunday June 23

Round 13: Sunday June 30

Round 14: Sunday July 7

Games generally played in the mornings, but can be up until 3.00pm Games played all over Sydney, depending on teams in your draw

## **Nunawading Spectres Kings Birthday Tournament**

*Two day tournament held at various locations in the South East Area of Melbourne against NSW, VIC and SA Associations. Teams will normally organise to travel and stay together (Team Manager will advise)*

Saturday June 8 - Monday June 10

Games start early Saturday morning, so plan to arrive night before and can be played up until 3pm Monday afternoon, so plan to leave after that.

## **Metropolitan Junior League Finals**

Semi Finals: Sunday July 21

Grand Finals: Sunday July 28

State Cup: Saturday August 17 and Sunday August 18

## **End of Season Presentation and Celebration**

*A fabulous night for the whole family where we celebrate the achievements of our players and teams in the 2024 season.*

Saturday September 21

**And lots Social events to be advised!! We love a good party!!**

**BASKETBALL IS A TEAM SPORT AND IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU ARE AVAILABLE ON ALL OF THESE DATES SO AS TO NOT LET YOUR TEAM MATES DOWN.**

**If you need to be excused from any date, you should speak to your coach ASAP.**