

# WABL Cap Information

Willetton Basketball Association (WBA)

Updated November 2021

## General Information

1. Domestic Basketball – Currently 491 teams participate in WBA’s junior competitions representing one of the 8 Domestic Clubs (All Saints, Apollos, Bullets, Jets, Puma, Roadies, Tangos and Sparks). This is the grassroots level of basketball.
2. Representative Basketball – WBA enters teams to represent Willetton in the Western Australian Basketball League (WABL) each year.
3. Only players who participate in WBA’s Domestic Competitions are eligible to represent WBA in the WABL competition. This practice is adopted by many other Associations.
4. Representative Players from other associations are permitted and welcomed to play in WBA’s Domestic Competitions.
5. WBA considers it not only important, but a strength of the Association that its Domestic Competitions do not become a Representative Competition. To this end, WBA enforces a WABL Cap that restricts the number of Representative Players that are able to play in a single Domestic Team.

## The Cap

1. The Cap was first introduced in 2014 as a result of concerns from the Domestic Clubs that teams were ‘stacked’ with WABL Players compromising the competitiveness of WBA’s Domestic competitions.
2. The details of the WABL Cap were developed in consultation with the Domestic Clubs.
3. The WABL Cap was introduced in 2014 in the 12 and 14 age groups with the agreement to phase it in to 16s in 2016 and 18s in 2018.
4. Domestic Clubs are reminded of the phased implementation of the WABL Cap when forming teams each season.
5. Over the past 4 years, the WABL Cap has been reviewed by the Domestic Competitions Committee (DCC) in consultation with the Junior sub-committee (JSC) who is the subcommittee responsible for grading players and teams in Willetton’s Domestic Competitions.
6. The WABL Cap will continue to be reviewed into the future.
7. The WABL Cap is reviewed regularly and is supported by all levels of the Association from the JCWG (the 8 Domestic Clubs), the CAC and the Board.

## The Details

1. No more than 4 **Representative Players** may be registered to any single team in an A or B grade Domestic Competition
2. No **Representative Player** may be registered to a single team in any C grade (or lower grade) Domestic Competition without JSC approval.
3. A **Representative Player** is defined in WBA’s Junior Bylaws as a Player who played or was selected in the most recently completed season or competition in the:
  - a. top two divisions of any WABL age group
  - b. State Basketball - SBL, WSBL, Country WA and Metro teams
  - c. Southern Cross Challenge
  - d. an equivalent competition to the above.
4. A Player’s WABL status in 2018 is used when applying the WABL Cap for 2018/19 Summer and 2019 Winter.
5. Division 3 and 4 WABL Players are not considered Representative Players under the Cap.
6. Many other associations have already, or are in the process of introducing a cap on the number of Representative Players in teams in Domestic Competitions.

WBA proudly offers strong Domestic Competitions as a basis for strong Representative teams. WBA’s philosophy is to encourage all its players (domestic and representative) to enjoy the game of basketball at whatever level they choose.

## FAQ

1. **Why only 4 WABL players per team?**

7 or 8 is the preferred number of players per team, 4 WABL players allows at least half the team to be WABL players while still ensuring Domestic Competitions remain as Domestic Competitions.

2. **Why must my child's team that has been together since under 8s be split because of the WABL Cap?**

Many sports make allowances for team changes over the course of many seasons, players being able to play with other kids within their club and association is what community sport is about and allows room for player development. The Willetton program is club based and not team based therefore players are members of club, not a particular team.

3. **My child has made friends in their WABL Team and would like to play with their friends. Why is this not possible?**

All the Players go to school and have other activities where they can form friendships. Representative Players can form friendships with Non WABL Players. Building team and association spirit is rewarding for all and is considered to be good for the players and WBA.

Placing a team of predominantly or all WABL players in a domestic competition against teams that do not have any/many WABL Players creates an 'unbalanced' competition. Prior to the WABL cap, teams with all WABL players had no or limited competition. This was a no-win situation for everyone. Players were either being 'flogged' or 'flogging'.

It is acknowledged that unbalanced competitions can happen for reasons other than where Representative Players play but the JSC tries to form competitions that give the best opportunity for all players to enjoy and compete. The Cap has been introduced gradually to address 'super teams' being nominated in the Domestic Competitions. When players from the same WABL team play against each other rather than with each other they have stronger competition. For example, the top two WABL guards in different teams rather than playing in the same team or the Championship point guard playing against the Division 2-point guard provides a good opportunity for the WABL guard who will be competing for the same position at WABL tryouts.

4. **Would my child have to pay a transfer fee if they transferred to another Domestic Club as a result of the WABL Cap?**

No, the transfer fee is waived under this circumstance.