



## **Thanks for your interest in basketball at Byron Beez basketball club.**

The following is a list of common questions and answers related to the junior PSB (Primary School Basketball).

### **What are the age groups?**

We can accommodate young players from 9 years old and older, typically in Year 4 and up. Our Primary School divisions typically play on one set day each week. And our divisions are roughly aligned to age groups (although we focus more on skill and physicality than age).

Our youngest group is Pool D on Saturday (or Monday during winter) where our 9 and 10 year olds play in a 3x3 half court format that begins with basic skills (passing, dribbling, etc).

### **How many sessions and when are they?**

We play basketball games once per week, generally in the same weeks as school terms, taking a break for school holidays.

We have two seasons per year:

1. Autumn Season from February to July
2. Spring Season from July to December

Different playing divisions play on different days.

Primary School Boys and Girls - 5 divisions at different times

- Term 1 & Term 4 - Saturday mornings 9am to 12pm
- Term 2 & Term 3 - Monday afternoons 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Highschool Boys

- Pool A & B: Wednesday - 4.50pm to 7.15pm (approx U18s-U16s)
- Pool C & D: Friday - 4.30pm to 7.15pm (approx U16s-U14s)

Highschool Girls

- Thursday - 4.30pm to 6.30pm

Womens

- Thursday - 5.40pm to 7.15pm
- Mens
- Thursday - 6.30pm to 9pm
  - Two divisions Pool A & B

## **Where is it?**

We play at the Cavanbah Centre (the Cav) at 249 Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay.

[Google Maps Link](#)

## **How do I sign up my child or myself?**

We have what we call Musters for the first few weeks of every season - in February and July - where we invite all new players to come down and join us for a few weeks of casual scrimmages. There we meet you, explain how it all works, assess your skill and physicality and find the right division for you to play in. Where we can we find you a team. You're welcome to join a team where you already have friends playing.

Our first guiding principle is 'Mates playing with mates' as that's part of what makes it fun. Our second guiding principle is 'But not at the expense of a good competition.' We don't stack teams because that's no fun for anyone.

## **How much does it cost?**

Basketball fees consist of two parts:

1. Annual Fees to register with Basketball NSW - these range from \$60 to \$95 depending on age group
2. Game Fees for each season, currently \$175 for Juniors and \$190 for Seniors

## **Can we "Try before we buy"?**

Sure can! We understand that sometimes you just never know until you see how your kid likes it. We have a free Trial Membership available to everyone that gives you two weeks to see how you go. Just come down to the Cav and we'll give you a link to follow to register your child or yourself before they step on court.

## **Can I use an NSW gov active kids voucher?**

You sure can. There is a step in the online registration/check out process where you apply your voucher code and it is automatically applied to your fees, so you pay less at the time.

## **My child hasn't played before, is this ok for first-time players?**

Yes, we love welcoming new families to the club and the game we love. In most divisions we have a flexible format whereas many new players can join anytime they like. You're also most welcome to bring friends to help make it more fun.

We like to get you on a court the first day if we can, so that we can see your child's skill level and the competition that best fits with them - and in particular where they would have the most fun.

Everyone who ever played at a high level started somewhere and once stepped on a court with no experience. Nothing to be worried about at all. We've all been there and will be very welcoming,

## **Can I bring my friends?**

Absolutely! Playing with your friends is how most people come to love the game. At Musters we have a lot of luck keeping friends in the same teams. Mid season that's a lot harder as most teams are full and might only have one spot free.

If you have a whole team that wants to play at Byron, that's a lot easier at the beginning of the season than it is during the season. Because we are full up on our court days (ie we can't get any more court time at the Cav) it's often impossible to add an extra team and an extra game to most days. If you are coming as a larger group, we might get you involved in our flexible development squads this season and then add you to the competition as a team next season,

## **Who is in charge / organiser?**

Each competition on each day has a Competition Supervisor. You can introduce yourself when you come down for the first time.

Our Juniors Director is Fletcher Potanin ([juniors@byronbasketball.com](mailto:juniors@byronbasketball.com)).

Our Seniors Director is Jenny Ogle ([seniors@byronbasketball.com](mailto:seniors@byronbasketball.com)).

We are all volunteers here, so we're often very busy (and a bit overwhelmed at the beginning of each season) and so sometimes can't reply to messages quickly. If you don't hear from us

quickly, don't fret. Best to just come on down to meet and talk with the people organising your day.

We welcome all comers and work hard to find a place for anyone who wants to play. And we really welcome parents who are happy to help out and get involved in organising our playing days.

### **Can I drop off and pick up my child at the end of basketball?**

Yes you can, and many parents do, but please DO NOT drop your child if you haven't registered your child first. It is very important that we have your contact details in the event of a mishap. Of course, we love it when other parents stay and get involved. Your kids will, too.

### **When can my child play on a team in a competition?**

All divisions aim to get players into teams in fair competitions as quickly as possible. In our Junior divisions we prefer to start most kids new to the game in a development squad format where we teach them basic skills and drills first. When your child is ready we work hard to match them with other kids and form up new teams, court space and competition team numbers dependent. We can discuss that with you when you come down to introduce yourself.

Most kids are focussed almost entirely on the team and uniform, but that's most often not the best place to start. First we must make basketball fun and introduce the basic skills. Everything falls into place after that.

Every child's speed of development is different. Some kids will be in the development squads all year and love every minute of it. Some kids (more sporty and/or large for their ages and more physical) move straight into teams. We'll know from watching your child on court where they best belong.

### **What background / qualifications do the coaches have?**

All our coaches are dedicated parents volunteering their time, mostly to engage with their own kids and give back. No coincidentally, most of our coaches are folks returning to basketball having played as kids themselves. Anyone can coach basketball, particularly at the younger ages - during games it's mostly about managing substitutions, very little about game instruction. That of course changes the higher the division. We can help parents learn the basics of basketball coaching principles as well.

We also have quite a few Junior Coaches. They are our best high school players who love coaching and giving back. These are most often our best players from our Representative Teams and so bring their higher level skills and training into our younger age groups.

## **Additional Team Training**

Some teams have additional training sessions, some do not. That's up to each team and coach to decide for themselves and amongst the parents.

In our primary and high school divisions we have our lower divisions setup in a way where we form casual teams each week, focussing instead more on skills and development - we find the best way to learn basketball is to have more time on the ball, whereas uniforms, clocks, referees and score boards aren't the best way for most new players to learn and enjoy the game. Then once players are ready (and we know when that is) we form up teams and introduce them into the rostered game format at a level that is competitive with their skills.

For teams that do organise additional training sessions, the Cavanbah Centre is all full up with basketball every day, so we encourage teams to find courts out in the community to use. Indoor courts in the region are highly sought after so get in quick with your bookings. Outdoor courts are readily available - the Cav has three outdoor courts you can book.

## **How do I find out about changes or updates about practice dates and times?**

We communicate four ways mostly,

- WhatsApp chat groups for competitions and teams - most communication happens there
- Facebook posts for club announcements
- Email for newsletters and competition reminders
- Face to face when we see you each week

Each competition has a WhatsApp chat (HSB Pool A, HSB Pool B, etc) where nominated team representatives communicate with us. Then each team has a Team WhatsApp chat where any communication we push out is then relayed to the teams via their WhatsApp chat. We've found this is the most efficient way to spread the word,

## **How will I know if games are canceled?**

From time to time the Cavanbah Centre closes due to unforeseen events (weather, staff shortages, etc) and sometimes our basketball is displaced by very large events (weekend tournaments, etc).

If we hear of anything that will impact playing days, we'll first post it on Facebook. Then we'll send the message out to all our WhatsApp chats. Often we DO NOT have time to email everyone. So keep an eye on social media announcements and WhatsApp chats, please.

### **What if we want to quit basketball mid season?**

We're a small club and so don't have a lot of time to manage lots of admin. So in limited situations if something unforeseen happens in the first few weeks of the season we can find a way to either refund your Game Fees or credit them to the next season.

Annual fees to Basketball New South Wales (BNSW) are non refundable.  
Game Fees are non refundable after a large portion of the season has passed.

Please refer to our website for our policy on Fees and Refunds.

### **Refereeing**

Would your child like to learn how to become a referee? This is a great opportunity for them to continually learn the rules of the game, sharpen their skills and earn some money on the side. We have an incredible Referee Coordinator that helps and guides our young and maybe not so young refs. Even parents can come and learn to become a referee as well. Simply send a message to Bek at [refs@byronbasketball.com](mailto:refs@byronbasketball.com)

### **Representative Competition**

We are fortunate enough to have an incredible pathway for those players wanting to advance their game. The following are our Representative competitions, North Coast Shield, North Eastern Junior League, Junior Premier League and Sunshine Conference. For more information head over to our website and join our [Facebook Group](#)

### **Sponsors**

We are always looking for businesses and/or individuals to collaborate with on an array of sponsorship opportunities. We have over 450 members so far (and growing fast) and it is a great way to get your message out there, plus show your support to your local club. For more information regarding sponsorship reach out to [media@byronbasketball.com](mailto:media@byronbasketball.com)