



Winter Classic – Rules of Operation

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Contents

1	Overview.....	4
2	Scope.....	4
3	Document Author and Approving Authority	4
4	Nominations.....	4
4.1.	Age Groups Offered	4
4.2.	Eligibility to Participate.....	4
4.3.	Team Nominations	4
4.4.	Number of Divisions	4
4.5.	Team Withdrawal Penalty.....	4
5	Players.....	5
5.1.	Age Eligibility	5
5.2.	Registration	5
5.3.	Team Size	5
5.4.	Minimum Player Requirement	5
5.5.	Restrictions.....	5
5.6.	Finals Participation	5
6	Format of Pools	5
7	Team Control	5
8	Referees	6
9	Timekeeper and Scorer Responsibilities	6
10	Equipment.....	6
11	Mouth Guards	6
12	Playing Rules	6
12.1.	Game Duration	6
12.2.	Draws/Overtime.....	7
12.3.	Forfeit Points	7
12.4.	Shot clock	7
13	Competition Standings	7
13.1.	Championship Points Allocation	7
13.2.	Classification of Teams and Determination of Rankings for Finals	7
14	Protests	8
15	No Zone Defence	8

Winter Classic – Rules of Operation



15.1.	Under 12 and Under 14	8
15.2.	Dispute Procedure	9
15.3.	Game Day Reference	9
16	Tribunal	9
17	Items not Provided For	9
17.1.	Matters Outside the Rules	9
17.2.	Decisions Outside the Rules	9

1 Overview

The Winter Classic Rules of Operation are the responsibility of Basketball WA. Basketball WA recognises the need to maintain up-to-date rules that ensure fair and consistent gameplay.

2 Scope

These rules apply to all Winter Classic related grading games.

3 Document Author and Approving Authority

These rules are subject to the Competition Rule Change Procedure (BWA-COMP-PRO-001).

The BWA Chief Basketball Officer (CBO) is the approver of these rules. Suggestions for changes should be communicated to the BWA Head of Junior Competitions.

4 Nominations

4.1. Age Groups Offered

The following age groups are offered in the Winter Classic competition:

- Under 12
- Under 14
- Under 16

4.2. Eligibility to Participate

Any Basketball WA affiliated association is eligible to enter teams.

4.3. Team Nominations

Team Nominations will be called for by Basketball WA each year by the end of May at the latest. Associations will be notified the maximum number of teams no later than early February each year.

4.4. Number of Divisions

Basketball WA is responsible for determining the number of divisions in each age group.

4.5. Team Withdrawal Penalty

The nomination fee is non-refundable once the nomination due date has elapsed.

Once the official fixtures have been completed and distributed, Associations will incur a fine for withdrawing any teams. Penalty for withdrawal after official fixtures are distributed: \$300.00 per team. There are no grounds for appeal of this penalty.

5 Players

5.1. Age Eligibility

To be eligible to participate, all players must be under the prescribed age as at the 31 December of the year in which they will be participating in the Winter Classic.

5.2. Registration

All players must register via the online player registration form before participating in any game.

Associations are responsible for ensuring player registrations.

5.3. Team Size

A maximum of 10 players can play for a team in each game.

5.4. Minimum Player Requirement

A minimum of 6 players must be present for a match to commence.

5.5. Restrictions

Player transfers and 'playing up' rules are enforced per the current WABL Rules of Operation.

WABL players must play for their 2025 WABL teams. There are no mid-season clearances permitted.

Country Association teams cannot have any 2025 WABL players.

5.6. Finals Participation

Players must play at least a third of qualifying games to participate in the finals.

6 Format of Pools

The formation of pools will be determined by the number of teams nominating and the court time available for each weekend.

Semi finals or Crossovers may be played prior to the Grand Finals if time and court space permits.

7 Team Control

Each team nominated must contain a registered coach and manager to be responsible for the players on and off the court.

8 Referees

Referees will be supplied and paid by the nominating Association. Non-appearance of any nominated referee at the time and the court rostered may result in the team concerned being eliminated from the competition. A fine of \$200.00 per offence will be levied by Basketball WA.

The referee may not be a player from the same division.

Associations are responsible for the payment of their referees.

9 Timekeeper and Scorer Responsibilities

The home (left) team will supply a timekeeper (scoreboard), and the away (right) team will supply a scorer (tablet).

10 Equipment

All scoring devices and time-clocks will be supplied by the host stadium.

Teams will supply their own Basketballs. The game ball must be a Spalding, specifically:

- Spalding TF 1000 (Legacy/Precision)
- Spalding Elite

The game ball should prioritise quality over bounciness, especially for Under 12 games. The Referees have the final say in the determining the ball.

Ball sizes:

- Size 5 for Under 12
- Size 6 for Under 14 Boys
- Size 6 for Under 14 Girls and above
- Size 7 for Under 16 Boys and above

11 Mouth Guards

All players must wear a mouthguard to participate in the Winter Classic.

12 Playing Rules

The BWA Winter Classic will be conducted as per the FIBA Rulebook with the following modifications:

12.1. Game Duration

45 minute time slots comprising of:

- First Half - straight fifteen (15) minutes running clock from main clock.
- Half Time - three (3) minutes

- Second Half - straight thirteen (13) minutes running clock from the main clock, with an additional 2 minutes fully timed from own clock.
- Time Outs - one per half each team.
- Approx 5 minutes between games

12.2. Draws/Overtime

- If the score is tied at the end of a round robin game, the draw will stand.
- If scores are tied at the conclusion of a Cross Over game, there will be as many periods of 2 minutes of Overtime as necessary to break the tie.
- One (1) Time-out per team each extra period.
- There will be one (1) minute intervals between each extra period

12.3. Forfeit Points

If a team is not ready to play 5 minutes after the scheduled starting time a forfeit will be declared, with the result of 10-nil win to the opposition.

12.4. Shot clock

Shot clock will not be utilised in the Winter Classic.

13 Competition Standings

13.1. Championship Points Allocation

- Win: A win is awarded 2 championship points.
- Loss: A loss is awarded 0 championship points.
- BYE Round: A regular season BYE is considered a win and awarded 2 championship points.
- Washout: In the event of a washout, both teams will be awarded 1 championship point each.

13.2. Classification of Teams and Determination of Rankings for Finals

Ladder ranking order

1. Ladder points
2. Head-To-Head (refer below)
3. Percentage

Head-To-Head (H2H) Calculations

- If there are two teams equal on ladder points, the result(s) of the game(s) between the two teams involved will be used to determine the placing.
- If more than two teams are equal on ladder points, a mini ladder will be established considering only the results of the games between the teams that are tied.
- Eligibility Check: H2H ranking is only applied if all tied teams have played each other an equal number of times. If not, the next ladder ranking method will be applied.

Tiebreakers

The following tiebreakers are applied in order:

- Point Differential: Total points scored minus points conceded in mini ladder
- Points For: Total points scored in the mini ladder
- Overall Point Differential: Point differential in the general ladder
- Overall Points For: Total points scored in the general ladder

Points difference is calculated by points scored for; minus points scored against.

- If ties persist after all tiebreakers, the next ladder ranking method will be applied.
- The H2H tiebreaker process repeats from the beginning if any team is eliminated during calculations.

14 Protests

- All protests must be in writing and accompanied by a \$100.00 cash bond within 10 minutes of game conclusion.
- Teams may only appeal at the conclusion of a game. Refusal to take the court during an active game will result in forfeit.
- Protests must be lodged with Basketball WA at the front desk. During this process, all Basketball WA staff must be approached in a calm and respectful manner.
- The bond is repayable if the appeal upheld.
- Basketball WA decisions are final.

15 No Zone Defence

15.1. Under 12 and Under 14

Zone defence is not permitted in all Under 12 and Under 14 age groups

15.2. Dispute Procedure

If a referee or coach believes the opposing team is playing zone defence, the referee coach should be consulted. Should a referee coach not be available, the games controller should be consulted.

The designated official will:

- Observe the game to determine whether a zone defence is being used.
- Advise on the appropriate course of action if a zone defence is confirmed, which may include awarding a technical foul and applying the relevant penalty.

15.3. Game Day Reference

Game day staff are to reference Basketball WA's "No Zone Defence Rule" guides on the WABL website.

16 Tribunal

The Winter Classic conducts tribunals in accordance with the Basketball WA tribunal by-laws. Should a tribunal be required, a three-member panel will be convened as early as possible.

All communications related to a tribunal will be made by Basketball WA through the Association.

17 Items not Provided For

17.1. Matters Outside the Rules

Any matter not covered by the scope of these rules, if it comes within the objectives of Basketball WA, shall be dealt with by Basketball WA.

17.2. Decisions Outside the Rules

Basketball WA reserves the right to arrive at decisions outside these rules, in special circumstances and upon written application.