



## FINALS ROUND INFORMATION

As per [this latest covid update](#), the 'Finals Round' is an opportunity for senior teams to get together and round out the covid effected Autumn season. In May, WBA modelled and reviewed extending the season, changing finals dates, and reshaped qualification rules. After speaking to key stakeholders and carefully considering feedback from teams, WBA have decided to keep the [Playing Dates](#) as published. In doing so, it was impossible to play a traditional two-week semi-finals and grand-finals schedules, so this format has been created as an alternative.

WBA cater for various teams and individuals, ranging from some players that play socially and exercise multiple times a week and may not be results driven, to players that focus on their one competitive match of the week and drive for success and results. The feedback and summary of issues we collated that are associated with changing the season dates include:

- Some teams had organized to go away in the second week of school holidays knowing finals would have finished in the first week, and wanted to see family and friends after being in lockdown again.
- Many teams contacted me about player qualifications, and requesting a few players are permitted to play due to lost rounds.
- Some teams are not continuing and expressed disappointment that the Autumn season concluded without a match.
- New teams entering Spring also expressed disappointment that they would need to wait longer to commence if the season started a couple of rounds later.
- Teams that finished just outside the top four felt it was unfair they missed out because in the last couple of rounds they felt they still had good chances to make the top four ladder spots for finals.

Due to various issues not limited to the examples above, extending the season or changing the playing dates was not an option. The Finals Round will hopefully be fun but still competitive as it's against equally even teams on the current ladder, and for anyone not returning for Spring it's a nice chance to finish up.

Schedules are now available online for games commencing this Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June through to next Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July. At this stage, WBA is preparing for an 'Orange 50' reactivation level based on [Basketball Victoria's Return to Sport Guidelines](#). All basketball associations and community sport will expect another update on the lifting of restrictions later this week, and although we cannot confirm if we'll be operating at 'Orange 50' or 'Green Covid-Safe', WBA is planning for Orange 50 based on the current regional settings. Therefore, the following rules must be adhered to:

- **Masks are compulsory** inside the venue. Players may take their masks off when they step onto the court to participate in exercise only, then wear them again when leaving and/or moving around.
- One Hour time slots, allowing 20-minute breaks between games.
- [Entry/Exit Procedures](#) must be followed
- [Arrival/Departure Procedures](#) must be followed
- [Scoring Policy](#) will remain as the latest version, and WBA highly encourage and recommend all scorers wipe the area and equipment they will be using before use.
- No basketballs to be brought into the stadium, warm up balls and game balls will be sanitized by the game officials between matches.

All players registered throughout Autumn who have competed in at least one game may take part in the 'Finals Round.' No new players are allowed to be added on the courtside monitors during this final game.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility during these difficult phases. Any enquiries may contact [seniors@waverleybasketball.com](mailto:seniors@waverleybasketball.com)