

**NEPEAN BLUE DEVILS  
BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

2024 Annual General Meeting

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*Reports*



## **Executive Committee**

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**President:** Eric Johannsen  
**VP Finance:** Pat Chiarello  
**Vice President Girls Competitive:** Brenda Highmore  
**Vice President Boys Competitive:** JC Frechette  
**Vice President Girls Development:** Susan Enns  
**Vice President Boys Development:** Jason Pickering  
**Vice President Girls Recreation:** Tony Leon  
**Vice President Boys Recreation:** Abdulkareem Osman  
**Member At Large:** Pasquale L'orfano  
**Member At Large:** Tim Larocque

## **Past President**

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Jim TeBrake

## **General Manager**

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Heather Sheahan

## **Other Positions**

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**Technical Director:** Eric Johannsen  
**Junior Referee Coordinator:** Gio Donato  
**Score Keeping Coordinator:** Brenda Highmore



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## President

**Eric Johannsen**

### Overview

The 2023-24 season saw a rebound in registration, with about 900 players participating in our Development, Recreational and Competitive programs, along with active Junior Referee and Scorekeeping programs, and growth in summer programs.

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### Accomplishments

#### **Summer Programs**

- In 2023, we ran 6 weekly evening camps (4 for boys, 2 for girls), followed by pre-tryout camps. This year we are adding 2 half-day co-ed camps during the week of August 12-16.
- Last year we ran a brand-new weekly 3 on 3 program at the Minto Recreation Complex, and are doing so again this summer.

#### **Coaching Verification**

- The club implemented tracking of mandated police record checks and safe-sport training for all coaches, with coaches then verified by Canada Basketball.
- For 2024-25 we have a Volunteer Coordinator to take this on, including NCCP certification requirements.

#### **Other Club Policies**

- The NBBA updated the [Financial Assistance](#) policy, released a [Selects Program](#) policy, adopted a policy of [Certification Timelines for Competitive Coaches](#), and updated the [Discipline Committee Policy](#) that was adopted in 2023.
- We developed a club response to OBA exemption fees for competitive coaches, including hosting a Learn to Train clinic in April and plans to host another in October.

#### **Registration**

- The team fee for U11 to U19 competitive players was increased from \$300 to \$400 for the 2023-24 season.
- The NBBA has migrated to TeamSnap Registration 2.0, starting with 2024 summer programs.

#### **Programming**

- The NBBA bid to host an Ottawa-area Juel franchise, then agreed to a 4-way hosting partnership.
- We were able to have second teams for boys at the U14, U16 and U19 levels, U14 selects teams for boys and girls, and a U16 boys selects team.
- Skill sessions were run for U12 girls and boys in the Development program.
- The club again offered weekly scrimmage sessions for coaches and drop-in sessions for coaches-and-kids.



### **Governance & Administration**

- The club has a full and engaged complement of directors, supported by General Manager Heather Sheahan. Almost all board positions are due for election at the 2024 AGM.

### **EOBC**

- The NBBA has a representative on the EOBC, and is a full participant, attending committee meetings, providing facilities and volunteers, and with teams in the EOBA OBL-East and House leagues.

## **Goals and Recommendations**

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- Have gym captains for NBBA gyms being used to host EOBC or other games.
- Recruit a webmaster for the club website.
- Continue to advocate for access to and development of basketball facilities.
- Establish an “app” to manage facility bookings, cancellations and requests, and assess whether we should recruit a facilities coordinator to take that on.
- Assess use of the TeamSnap Tournaments app to run house leagues and tournaments, and assign officials.
- Coaches will not be able to edit team rosters in TeamSnap, the registrar will do that.
- Emphasize recruitment, development, and retention of qualified coaches in order to attract, develop and retain players.



## VP Girls Competitive

## Brenda Highmore

### Overview

I want to thank the members of the executive, players, coaches, and their families for another amazing year. With teams registered in the OBL (Ontario Basketball League) and EOBC (Eastern Ontario Basketball League), Ontario Cups has been a full season of player development and competition. The time and dedication the coaches have spent this year planning practices, drills, and systems accelerated player growth and development. And of course, none of this would be possible without the support (and chauffeuring) of families traveling to and from every practice and across the city and province.

I would also like to thank the volunteers (parents, non-parents and students) who helped with gym setup and score table assignments. This was also my first year being in charge of the training and scheduling of scorekeepers and I appreciate the reliability of all the students throughout the season, giving up their weekends to help the club and teams.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Heather and Eric for all the work they have put in, countless hours behind the scenes, all to promote and grow this club. They both put in an extreme amount of effort in the off-season to make sure the club is up and running in September and throughout the year attempting to troubleshoot any unforeseen problems which may arise to ensure the season runs as smoothly as possible for our coaches and players.

The Girls Competitive Program consisted of 10 NBBA teams playing in different age divisions within the Eastern Ontario Basketball Association (EOBA), Ontario Basketball League (OBL), G-Elite League and the Ontario Basketball Association (OBA). This year with the restructuring of JUEL we did not have a team in that league. Instead, we had our U17 - Harbir's team compete for the first time in the G-Elite League. NBBA teams competed locally and throughout the province, hosting many EOBA championships as well as locally.

### Accomplishments

Teams competed in the following age divisions and had successes this season in both the EOBA's and OBA's:

- U10 Girls - Head Coach: Mary Smith
- U11 Girls - Head Coach: Jamie Kettles
  - EOBL Champions - Silver Medalists
  - Ontario Cup - Division 2 (losing by 1 point) Finished 4th (losing by 1 point)
- U12 Girls – Head Coach: Glenn Gallant



- *EOBL Champions - Bronze Medalists*
- *Ontario Cup (hosted in Ottawa) - Bronze in Division 3*
- U13 Girls – Head Coach: Hassan Ali
  - *EOBL Champions - Participated*
  - Ontario Cup - Gold in Division 7 (going undefeated)
- U14 Girls – Head Coach: Cameron Pelton
  - *EOBL Champions - 4th Place*
  - Ontario Cup - Gold in Division 5 (going undefeated)
- U15 Girls – Head Coach: Kris van der Veer
  - *EOBL Champions - Silver Medalists*
  - Ontario Cup - Bronze in Division 2
- U17 Girls – Head Coach: Mark Uhrbach
  - *EOBL Champions - Silver Medalists*
  - Ontario Cup - Gold in Division 2 (going undefeated)
- U17v Girls – Head Coach: Harbir Bains
  - **EOBL - Gold Medalists**
  - G-Elite (4th) / Mike O'Connor (2nd)
- U19 Girls - Head Coach: Christian Couture
  - Ontario Cup -**Gold in Division 5** (going undefeated)

## **Recommendations**

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- potential of girls 3 on 3 tournament
- Development of coaches play/handbook, also if you are new to EOBL/OBA - what are the requirements throughout the year

## **Conclusion**

Once again it has been a fulfilling year seeing the promotion of girls' sports in Ottawa. It is a very special time in women's basketball, and I look forward to capitalizing on this momentum and finding new ways to promote and enhance the Blue Devils experience for the 2024-2025 season.



## VP Boys Competitive

JC Frechette

### Overview

This year marked my second year as VP, and we have continued to see significant achievements and growth in the Nepean Blue Devils' Boys Competitive Program. Our teams excelled in both EOBA and OBA competitions, a testament to the dedication of our coaches and development programs.

Our club's success, with a total membership of approximately 900 players across all programs, is made possible by the commitment of all our volunteer coaches. It is proof of our effectiveness to our development and recreational programs that continue to support and enhance our competitive teams' performance throughout the province.

We successfully navigated a great basketball season with minimal disruptions, with strong participation across all levels. Our teams competed in numerous tournaments, capture lots of hardware along the way.

Looking ahead, we aim to enhance our coaching clinics, improve gym permit allocation, boost social media presence, and focus on player development. We would like to continue to work towards developing a comprehensive handbook for coaches to further elevate our programing for the upcoming coaches and players.

With these initiatives, we are poised for continued growth and success in the coming season.

### Accomplishments

#### ***Team Performance Overview U10-U19***

**U10 Eric Lapierre:** Achieved a historic win by claiming **Gold** in Division 2, marking the highest finish in club history for their age group.

**U11 Tim Larocque:** Defended their title in Division 7, ultimately securing a **Silver** medal.

**U12 Jason Pickering:** Performed exceptionally well, winning **Silver** in Division 9.

**U13 Neal Walkingshaw:** Competed fiercely but narrowly missed out, losing in the bronze medal game in Division 10.

**U14/U13 Abdi's Team:** Had a commendable season, competing in Division 13 out of 21 in the Ontario Championship.

**U14 Brian Burns:** Took **Silver** in Division 12, showcasing their growth and competitive spirit.

**U15 Ebitimi Amaebi-Okoro:** This team was well represented competing in Division 12 bring home Sliver medal.



**U15/U16 Curtis Gilfillan:** Had a commendable season, competing in Division 10 in the Ontario Championship.

**U16 AAA Ivana Radonjic:** Dominated at the Eastern Ontario Basketball League Championships, securing **Gold**. This success continued at provincial's winning Division 2 Gold medal Championships.

**U17 and U19 Boys:** The U19 Boys #1 (Peak) team won gold in Division 4 at the Ontario Championships; the U19 Boys #2 (Edwards) won gold in Division 5 at the Ontario Championships. The U17 Boys (Miranda) placed 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 4 at the Ontario Championships, they were down 4 key players due to injury.

## Season Highlights

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- This season has been marked by remarkable achievements across all age groups, with historic highs and strong finishes.
- The U10/U16 Teams' record-setting gold medal wins highlights the potential and talent emerging in the club.
- Each team, displayed resilience, strategic gameplay, and sportsmanship, with many securing top finishes in their divisions.
- The commitment of players and coaches alike has fostered a strong, competitive environment, propelling Nepean Blue Devils to new heights.

These achievements not only highlight the competitive spirit and skill development within the boys' teams but also underscore the successful coaching and supportive environment provided by the Nepean Blue Devils organization. This year's accomplishments lay a strong foundation for continued growth and competitive excellence.



## VP Girls Development

Susan A. Enns

### Overview

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During the 2023-24, there were 80 girls participating in the NBBA Girls Developmental Program, along with more than 16 dedicated coaches and parent volunteers. Feedback received from players, coaches, and fans was all mostly positive, the girls had a lot of fun, and the season was a great success.

Registration numbers exceeded expectations at start of the of the season, and increased as new registrations were accepted up to the Holiday Break to increase participation numbers for the health of the program long term.

Below is a breakdown of Development Girls Program Registration:

- Development Girls Program Regular Season – Saturdays at Mary Honeywell Elementary School
  - U8/U10 Development Combined - 52 participants playing on 4 teams.
  - U12 Development - 28 participants playing on 3 teams.
- Development Girls Skill Sessions – Wednesdays at St Patrick School
  - U12 – 19 Sessions with between 15 and 23 registrants per session
- Development Girls April Skills and Scrimmage Sessions – Saturdays at Mary Honeywell Elementary School
  - U8/U10 Development Combined - 27 participants.
  - U12 Development - 14 participants.

### Accomplishments

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Overall, participation numbers for the Development Girls program were significantly higher than the 2022-2023 season. The U8/U10 Program increased by 53% and the U12 remained virtually unchanged year over year.

Recruited an incredibly hardworking and dedicated team of coaches and parent volunteers, many of whom have already expressed an interest in returning next year, either in the Development, Recreation or Competitive Programs. A huge thank you goes to all our hard-working coaches and parent volunteers who made this season such a success!

Published the schedule for the entire season on TeamSnap early in the season to improve communication between all stakeholders. Many positive comments were received from parents and coaches on the administration of the leagues. Big thanks to Heather Sheahan, General Manager, for all her help with the logistics of the season.



The U8 and U10 age levels participated in four 3 on 3 Festivals throughout the season. The first festival was with teams that combined U8/U10 age groups. Working with the coaches, a new format was created for the last 3 festivals, with teams and playing times split into two cohorts based on age. The new format allowed players more playing time, and the condensed timing also increased the players' engagement.

The U12 teams played 5 on 5 games amongst each other in a round robin format, with the U10 Competitive Team also participating in the first half of the season with the Semi Finals and a Championship Final being played on the last weekend of the season. Year-end medals were provided to all Girls Development players.

The U12 Girls Skill Sessions ran throughout the season and were very successful again this year. Big thanks to Coach Tony Leon for running these sessions and helping to improve the skill levels of all the players.

Created the Junior Referee Online Signup Sheet for the Girls and Boys Development Programs. Also created a U12 League Specific Rules Sheet to have on hand during games to reduce the confusion for referees and coaches regarding Development League specific rules.

At the players request, and to continue player recruitment for next season, the second "Bring Your Friend to Basketball" day was held on April 6 for the U8/U10 age groups with 36 young players attending. Thanks to Melissa Keown for joining me to guest coach to run this event. What will now become an annual event, the day is a fantastic way to get more players involved in the Nepean Blue Devils Development Girls program, providing an opportunity for young players to have fun, make new friends, and develop their basketball skills.

Again, at the players (and coaches') requests, April Skills and Scrimmage sessions for both the U8/U10 and U12 age groups were held for the first time this year. They built on the skills the girls learned during the season, with more scrimmage time added at the end of each session. It was also an opportunity for blue, white, purple, and red team members to play with other players that they haven't played with before. The U8/U10 sessions wrapped up with a fun, "Play the Parents" day. The games were 3 on 3, had the parents' hoop set to 10 feet and the kids set to 8 feet, and the parents could only bounce pass. Several requests have already been received to make this an annual event.

## Update on Last Year's Goals and Recommendations

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The following were goals and recommendations for the 2023-24 season as outlined in the 2023 AGM Report that were not discussed above:

- Expand on the Coaches onboarding documents.
  - Completed and distributed to coaches in a virtual meeting at the start of the year, as well as via email for coaches and/or updates that occurred throughout the year.



- Continue to expand recruiting activities.
  - Completed with announcements being published on Community Facebook groups and City Councilor email newsletters, as well as through the coaches' own resources.
- Break out U8 and U10 Development Girls into separate sessions.
  - As registration numbers were high at the start of the season, the age groups were combined so that the caps on the U10 age group could be exceeded and would allow more girls to play overall. A hybrid model of split age groups was implemented in the final 3 festivals of the year.
- Change U12 Girls Sort-outs format.
  - The U12 sort-outs created 3 teams that were agreed to by all coaches, and for the most part, created balanced teams to start. Last-minute additions to the competitive teams from the development program afterwards, however, skewed that balance somewhat.
- Promote diversity in basketball and help those in our community who may be financially challenged by promoting the newly created NBBA Equipment Exchange Facebook Group.
  - Completed, however, how many took advantage of the equipment exchange is unknown.

## Goals and Recommendations

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The following are goals and recommendations for the 2024-25 season:

- Continue the Development Girls Programming as outlined above next season.
- Recruit volunteers to serve as League Convenors in each age group to help with sort-outs and administration.
- As the compete and skill levels are widening between the Girls Competitive and the Development Program players, as well as the fact that rules of play are different in both programs, the U10 Competitive team should no longer participate in the U12 Development League play.
- The NBBA to appoint a Compliance Officer to monitor the Coaches Requirements as outlined in the Association's Canada Basketball verification.
- The U12 teams should only be created after Competitive teams are finalized. In the meantime, the U12 Program should hold sort-outs/skills sessions, and then finalize the teams after Thanksgiving. This would also help the U12 players who are new to basketball and are playing in their first year.
- Continue with the Junior Referee Online Sign-Up Sheet with the entire schedule for the Development Programs published in advance as was done last year.
- The NBBA should document a procedure to formalize the record keeping and documentation of any and all Disciplinary Committee findings.
- Continue with "*Coach and Child Night Gym Sessions*".
- The NBBA to continue to develop an alternate logo that is more "friendly" and "less scary" to the younger Development players.



## VP Development

Jason Pickering

### Overview

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#### 2023-24 Season

Our coaches and other volunteers surpassed expectations and provided a fulfilling season at all age levels. As we did last year, we hosted a number of coaching prep sessions to help acclimate coaches to the organization. This helped set expectations and eased the stress of onboarding. We also successfully implemented/utilized convenors for each age group which reduced the workload.

Please note that the entire machine of boys development would grind to halt with out the amazing Heather Sheahan.

Overall, the parental and player feedback from the year end coaching evaluations was positive with a few exceptions. In summary (more details in a subsequent section) the overall responses to survey questions with regards to the Boys Development program are as follows:

Response Positivity	%
<b>Good or Better</b>	<b>96%</b>
- Excellent	90%
- Good	10%

#### Program breakdown:

- Boys U8 Development (ages 6-7):
  - Participants: 50 Boys
  - Coaches: 8
- Boys U10 Development (ages 8-9):
  - Participants: 63 Boys
  - Coaches: 8
- Boys U12 (ages 10-11):
  - Participants: 93 Boys
  - Coaches: 15

The U8 program did group skills training and skill development play and ended with a 15-20 minute scrimmage.



The U10 program did group skills training and skill development play and ended with a 15-20 minute scrimmage.

The U12 program had a 45 minute practice followed by a 60-75 minute game for the majority of the season.

Two tournaments were held for all age groups.

## Areas of Improvement

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The VP of Boys development acknowledges the following areas of improvement:

1. 1 coaching adjustments / changes based on parent/player feedback
2. U12:
  - a. Teams were not balanced.
  - b. Sort-out process to be revisited.

## Sort-outs

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One of the objectives from the previous seasons was to spend more time on sort-out's. We have done so for the last 2 years. We dedicated 2 full Saturdays. Here are the findings:

- Post sort-out and team creation we received a number of requests for time and location changes (parent requests)
- Conflicting activities with sort-out's, approximately 10% of athletes didn't not attend sort-out's
- The athletes seemed to enjoy the process
- The process had the added benefit of bringing many of the coaches together

Findings:

- Overall team balance was not fully achieved: Player requests (time and location changes, siblings), no shows at sort-out's and evolving player skills/competitiveness and impossibility of accurately measuring actual skill are all contributing factors.
- To mitigate we created tiers in the tournaments to provide a more competitive experience

## Accomplishments

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- Single U8 "Team" wherein we utilized the same blue shirts for all players and used pinnies for scrimmages continues to be successful. This model should be considered for U10.
- Hosted two tournaments for each age group.



- Recruited coaches for U8/U10/U12
- Hosted skills sessions
- Recruited assistant coaches
- Implemented convenors
- Coordinated U8/U10/U12 programs
- Managed ongoing communications with parents and coaches
- Year-end medals provided to all players
- Served as backup coach for U8/U10/U12
- Coordinated with Junior referee group
- Addressed issues as they arose
- Participated in discipline committee

## Key Recommendations

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1. Former player coaching recruitment via website and through current channels (older age group coaches, VPs, FB etc.)
2. Coach training and learning
  - a. Creation of a NBBA philosophy coaches handbook
  - b. Competitive and Developmental coach pairing support
  - c. Host additional pre-season prep sessions
  - d. Create clear expectations of coaches: team & parent communications, attendance
  - e. Provide coach training: FUNdamentals
  - f. Offer “Learn to Train”
3. Additional gym time:
  - a. Increase number of participants
  - b. Season long optional skills night for U10/U12
    - i. An analysis will be required to determine feasibility & cost
4. “Register for updates functionality” (mailing list) for non-registered people to receive updates. This will avoid prospective players missing registration and to avoid the barrage of emails asking when registration will be.



## VP Girls Recreation

**Tony Leon**

### Overview

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This year we were able to secure enough coaches to field 9 recreational teams: U14 Girls (4 teams), U16 Girls (3 teams) and U19 Girls (2 teams) with a total of 102 players.

U14 team #2 were the House League Champions.

U16 team #1 secured the bronze medal at the Year-End-Tournament.

U19 team #2 were the House League Champions.

### Accomplishments

- Recruited coaches for U14/U16/U19.
- Ran the sort outs and oversaw the draft of players to make the teams.
- Attended and participated in EOBL meetings.
- Provided schedule of games for scorekeeper's program.
- Ran skill development sessions for U16 in lieu of Selects.
- Organized the U14/U16 Selects tryouts.

**U14 Recreational Girls** – Going into the sort outs we secured 4 coaches to make 4 teams. Practices were on Tuesdays (teams 1 and 4) and Wednesdays (teams 2 and 3). The teams had to share the gym. However, the Wednesday teams were able to get St. Emily's to use on an alternating basis.

The regular season games and the YET were played at Nepean HS.

Mid-Season Tournament – The league had an inaugural Mid-season tournament, and it was a real success as all 3 Nepean teams medaled. It was held before Christmas December 16-17. The cost of the tournament was \$500 per team, and it was optional to participate.

The YET Finals was won by Nepean 2 over Nepean 3.

The Selects team was coached by Curtis Hollister and they carried 17 players. They played 20 games (18-2) and had 25 practices. They won the Mike O'Connor and the Picton Tournaments and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the EOBA Championships in Hammond. It was suggested that a 2<sup>nd</sup> competitive team could be formed out of this group.

**U16 Recreational Girls** – We were able to secure 3 coaches to run 3 teams.

The games were played at Steve Maclean PS in Riverside South with scorekeepers supplied by our own program.



Nepean 1 won the bronze medal at the House League Finals.

There was not enough interest in the Mid-season tournament, and not enough players tried out for the Selects, so the coaches provided skill sessions on Sundays. Again, attendance was low.

**U19 Recreational Girls** – We were able to secure 4 coaches for the 2 teams with Nepean 2 winning the Gold Medal at the Year-End-Tournament Finals. The league games were played in Kanata first and at Nepean (ACES) in the second half of the season.

The U19 teams did not participate in the Mid-season tournament.

### **COACHING EVALUATIONS**

We received positive feedback during our mid-term coaches' evaluations with most scores being excellent.

With a total of 18 coaches (head + assistant) for 9 teams there was no shortage of supervision and instruction for all the players.

There were complaints that some players on the U14 Selects did not play in the tournaments or if they did only minimally.

## Goals and Recommendations

- Increase the number of U16 teams from 3 to 4 as this group was lacking in participation in the Mid-season tournament and a Selects team.
- Establish a U16 Selects team and begin the sort outs for both U14 and U16 the first week of December.
- Year-end-tournament to be round-robin instead of single game elimination.
- No zone defense and no full court press until January for U14.
- Encourage participation in the Mid-season tournament by recruiting players from all the teams if there are not enough players.
- Run coaching sessions at the beginning of the year for the new coaches.
- No accommodation of friends/coach/team requests.
- Teams will be formed via a draft by the coaches after sort outs.



## VP Boys Recreation

## Abdulkareem Osman

### Overview

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For the 2023-2024 season, the Boys Recreation Program consisted of 21 house league teams representing three different age groups; U14 Boys (10 teams); U16 Boys (7 teams); and U19 Boys (4 teams). There were 117 players registered in the U14 Boys program, 85 registered in the U16 Boys program, and 48 registered in the U19 Boys program. This season, the U14 Boys Recreation program was run in-house. The U16 & U19 Boys Recreation programs played in the Eastern Ontario Basketball League (EOBL) with other organizations like the Ottawa Shooting Stars and Ottawa South Basketball Association. The U16 age groups operated in a “tiered” system, having teams placed in either the “House A” division or the “House B” division based on their collective talent level. Throughout the season, teams were scheduled to have one game and one practice per week excluding any holiday weekends. This allowed approximately 250 players to enjoy the game of basketball in our local community. This season, all age groups wrapped up with a year-end tournament. The U14 year-end tournament lasted for multiple weekends, while the U16 & U19 yearend tournaments took place over a single weekend. Overall, we had a very successful season as many coaches, players, and parents have shared their positive experiences with the club.

### Accomplishments

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- A. Recruited talented coaches for U14/U16/U19
- B. Created equitable teams across all age groups
- C. Coordinated and organized the season schedule for the U14 program
- D. Helped to support the Junior Referees program.
- E. Junior referees officiated all the U14 house league games with great success.
- F. Had gym captains stationed at all U14 & U16 house league games, to help minimize any potential disagreements and maintain gym decorum.
- G. Put together a successful end of year tournament for the U14 Boys Rec program that lasted about 4 weeks.



## Coaching Evaluations

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There were not many coaching evaluations completed for the Boys Recreation Program, however the majority of those received were very positive and encouraging. Both parents and players provided some positive feedback that I then shared with the coaches. I would also like to give a special thank you to all the non-parent coaches who stepped up to help ensure such a successful season.

## Goals and Recommendations

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Some suggestions and recommendations for next year include:

1. Keep the U14 Boys Recreation program in-house, while also considering doing the same for the U16 Boys Recreation program.
2. Continue to run the U19 Boys Recreation Program in partnership with the EOBL.
3. Reach out in July 2024 to the coaches from 2023-2024 season and get their intentions for the 2024-2025 season. This would include U12 boys development coaches moving up to the U14 level.
4. Recommend assigning gym captains to more gyms so that they oversee and maintain the overall quality of the Boys Recreation Program during game days.
5. Continuing to help promote a safe and supportive environment for all referees. Especially the Junior referees who will continue to officiate the U14 Boys Recreation program.
6. Run coaching sessions at the beginning of the year for all coaches, especially the new ones.
7. Hold coaching sessions throughout the season.
8. Continue to recruit NBBA alumni into the coaching ranks.

## Conclusion

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The 2023-2024 Boys Recreation Program was a resounding success, with 21 teams across three age groups engaging in spirited competition and skill development. With 250 players



participating, the program fostered a love for basketball within our local community. Talented coaches were recruited for all age levels, ensuring equitable team compositions and positive experiences for players and parents alike. The U14 program thrived as an in-house league, while the U16 and U19 teams competed in the Eastern Ontario Basketball League, showcasing their skills against other organizations. Notably, the introduction of gym captains and support for junior referees helped maintain a respectful atmosphere during games. Feedback from participants overwhelmingly praised the program, highlighting the dedication of coaches and the inclusive environment cultivated by the organizers.

Looking ahead to the next season, recommendations include maintaining the in-house structure for U14, evaluating the possibility of extending it to U16, and continuing the partnership with the EOBL for U19. Additionally, efforts to support coaches through training sessions and alumni recruitment aim to further enhance the program's quality. In conclusion, the 2023-2024 Boys Recreation Program exemplified the best of community basketball, providing opportunities for growth, camaraderie, and sportsmanship. With careful planning and ongoing support, the program is poised for even greater success in the seasons to come.



## Technical Director

**Eric Johannsen**

### Overview

About 140 coaches stepped up for the 2023-24 season across the Development, Recreational and Competitive programs.

### Accomplishments

- Emphasis on coaching support and development.
- Developed a coaching registration form for 2023-24.
- Ran competitive tryouts as requested (about 7).
- Provided club coaches with access to the Basketball for Coaches Championship Coaching Course on the NBBA Google Drive, including the new Weekly Magazine.
- Ran a [coaching clinic for Recreational Coaches](#) in October, including halfcourt drills for teams sharing a practice gym, and [Practice Resources](#).
- [Attended team practices](#) for 13 recreational/competitive teams to cover for absent coaches or assist with drills, skills and systems.
- Relayed email information to club coaches, e.g., NCCP clinics, Canada Basketball webinars.
- Tracked safe-sport training and NCCP certification levels.
- Coordinated the NBBA response to OBA exemption fees for competitive coaches.
- Organized a Learn to Train clinic hosted by the NBBA in April, with plans to host another clinic in October.
- Periodic emails to club coaches about coaching subjects.
- Expanded the [Coaches Corner](#) on the NBBA website to include [Coaching Hacks](#), which are PDF versions of emails sent to coaches. Added 16 “hacks” this season.
- Added to Hoopsplaybook.ca including blog posts from the Hoopsplaybook Facebook page, e.g., [Press Break Considerations](#), [Conceptual Offence](#), [Help on Dribble Penetration](#).
- Continued to promote and clarify 3-out and 5-out motion, Euro continuity DHOs, and Dribble-drive motion.
- Conducted the mid-year and year-end coaching evaluation surveys of players and parents (86% of the year-end “overall evaluations” of coaches are Excellent, 8% are Good).
- Camp director for the 2023 summer camps, hired coaches and counsellors, shared a curriculum, worked with the GM on logistical and other support.
- Coordinated transition of summer camps to Above the Rim Basketball for 2024.
- Organized the summer 3-on-3 program including hiring convenors (also for 2024).



## General Manager

Heather Sheahan

### Overview

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The role of General Manager includes the positions of Secretary, Facilities Coordinator, Communications, and Registrar.

A special thank you to the NBBA Board and to all the coaches and volunteers. I am happy to say that we have finally, after 3 years, returned to normal programming after the Covid 19 pandemic. It should be noted that it takes approximately 200 volunteers to make the NBBA a successful club. We could not have done this without their time, effort, dedication, and commitment.

The following reflects some of the accomplishments for the year:

### Accomplishments

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- Aided the current NBBA Executive in all matters.
- Ensured that communication to members was done in a timely matter.
- Financial point of contact for NBBA and EOBC for the payment of all referee fees, facilities, and billing.
- Confirmed and recorded all on-line registration deposits.
- Issued all required refunds.
- Arranged for payment of all bills on behalf of the NBBA in a timely and efficient manner.
- Performed financial management responsibilities for the Association including financial accounting (Quickbooks), banking etc.
- Completed monthly bank reconciliations.
- Attended all monthly executive meetings, took the Minutes and distributed them in a timely manner.
- Administered day-to-day activities such as banking, responding to emails and phone calls for the Association.
- Performed all other special tasks that were considered essential by the NBBA Executive.
- Assisted in securing the coaches and managed registration for the 2023 Summer Camps and 3x3 sessions. All camps were well attended.



**NEPEAN BLUE DEVILS  
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- Successfully opened registration for the 2023/24 season and successfully registered 895 players and approximately 140 coaches, assigning the players and coaches to 74 teams.
- Completed all player transfers for the competitive teams and ensured that they were registered with Ontario Basketball.
- Ensured that coaches and volunteers obtained their Police Record Checks.
- Ensured that the Team Managers for the Competitive Teams had all the essential information and support needed to manage the team.
- Issued team fees to all competitive teams.
- Secured gym space to run programming for the 2023-24 season. 15 schools were secured with the OCDSB with approximately 4000 hours of gym time. 10 schools were secured with the OCSB with approximately 1500 hours of gym time. One private school was secured with approximately 300 hours of gym time. I was also able to secure facilities for 3 Ontario Cup weekends hosted in Ottawa by the Eastern Ontario Basketball Association.
- Scheduled practice times for the competitive and recreational teams. Scheduled Sunday games for the competitive teams when required. Kept all affected parties informed of any changes or cancellations.
- Continued to manage relationships with all participating school boards.
- Assisted Dynes Sports with our equipment management and ensured that all coaches received their coach bags and uniforms.
- Ensured that information was passed along to our Social Media Coordinator to be circulated on our social media platforms.
- Ensured that score clocks and shot clocks were on site for all games.
- Collected all coaches' bags at the end of the season.
- Maintained our partnership with MegaCity Promotions to provide the membership with uniforms, club gear, bags and basketballs.
- Began the process of submitting the 2024-25 permit applications to all school boards including a "wish list" for additional space.



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- Assisted with the set up and managed the Summer Camp registration for 2024.
- Issued Honorariums to all coaches.
- Ensured that all Junior Referees and Skills coaches were paid in a timely manner.

### Goals and Recommendations

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- Secure new gym space for the coming season.
- Secure Gym Captains for our facilities where EOBA games take place on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Continue to keep the association informed of NBBA events and information in a timely manner.
- Assist with the recruitment and confirm coaches prior to sort-outs and try-outs.
- Secure another person to ensure that all coaches and volunteers obtain their Police Record Checks.
- Ensure new uniforms are ordered and ready for September.
- Ensure that the coach's bags and first aid kits are ready for September.

### Registrar Registration Table:

The table provided on the following page provides an overview of registration from the 2020-21 season until the 2023-24 season. The registration numbers for the 2020/21 season have not been added due to the inaccurate numbers for the programs due to Covid-19 restrictions. Accurate registration numbers for each program are only determined after the try-out and sort-outs for each program.



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**Player Registration Comparison by Year**

(2021 = 2020-21 Season | 2022 = 2021-22 | 2023 = 2022-23 | 2024 = 2023-24)

\*= Competitive Teams

PROGRAM	TOTAL NUMBER REGISTERED*				NUMBER COMP. REGISTERED				NUMBER REC/DEV REGISTERED				NUMBER OF TEAMS			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
U8 Beginner Girls		13	16	19						13	16	19		2	2	2
U8 Beginner Boys		32	51	50						32	51	50		4	2	2
U10 Intermediate Girls		10	18	33						10	18	33		2	2	2
U10 Intermediate Boys		50	63	63						50	63	63		8	8	2
U10 Girls		11	9	12		11	9	12						1	1	1
U10 Boys		14	14	12		14	14	12						1	1	1
<b>U8/U10 Totals</b>		<b>130</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>189</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>165</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>
U11/U12 Girls		43	55	50		12	22	22		31	33	28		3+1*	3+2*	3+2*
U11/U12 Boys		84	111	121		26	25	28		61	86	93		8+2*	8+2*	9+2*
<b>U11/U12 Totals</b>		<b>130</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>171</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>92</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>121</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
U13/U14 Girls		56	67	73		23	23	23		33	44	50		4+2*	4+2*	5+2*
U13/U14 Boys		89	127	155		21	37	38		68	90	117		8+3*	8+3*	11+3*
<b>U13/U14 Totals</b>		<b>145</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>228</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>		<b>101</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>167</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>
U15/U16 Girls		53	75	43		23	37	13		30	38	30		3+2*	4+2*	3+1*
U15/U16 Boys		115	133	122		38	37	37		77	96	85		8+3*	8+3*	8+3*
<b>U15/U16 Totals</b>		<b>168</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>165</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>115</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>
U17/U19 Girls		24	32	54		15	21	32		9	11	22		1+2*	1+2*	2+3*
U17/U19 Boys		69	74	88		24	28	40		45	46	48		4+2*	4+2*	4+3*
<b>U17/U19 Totals</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>142</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>72</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>N/A</b>		<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>



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## **Junior Referee Program**

**Giovanni Donato**

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### **Overview**

What an exciting season of refereeing basketball with the Nepean Blue Devils. We had a robust group of young and enthusiastic referees. It was so refreshing to have referees of various skill sets and age. This was my first year where we had some University students attend the jr. referee training program.

The Nepean Blue Devils jr. referee program consisted of several, in gym sessions during the fall, where together we learned some of the basic skills needed to officiate the game. These are:

1. The proper technique in blowing a whistle
2. Arm mechanics for fouls and violations
3. Floor positions - (moving from lead to trail)
4. Floor responsibilities and working with your partner.

We also ran a number of online meetings and training sessions where we looked at videos that enforced and supported the gym sessions.

It is our second season using a spreadsheet to help assign games. This amazing tool allowed the jr. officials an opportunity to sign up and work games. The challenges we had with the spreadsheet this year was that some of the officials were signing up for multiple games, and this prevented some jr. officials from working. I had to address this issue with the group. What we did was ask that they sign up for 1 game per week and then set a date where games that were not covered were then open for any officials to work.

I feel very fortunate this season to have worked with such an amazing group of individuals. The attendance during the gym session was much improved. We are lucky to have an executive group that is so accommodating and supportive. Refereeing basketball can be at times very stressful and depending on how the coaches and parents react to the jr. referees can be the difference between these young people returning for another season or quitting the program altogether. It is my understanding that the atmosphere was much improved this season. This is great news.

Congratulations goes to the coaches and parents for being great role models.

THANK YOU!

I continue to seek feedback from the executive, coaches and the jr. officials on how to improve the program.

#### **Some challenges:**

1. Early in the season, officials complained that there were no games to sign up for because a few were signing up for multiple games.
2. More gym time is needed.
3. Similar to last year, it was a challenge to get everyone to come to the gym sessions/google



meets due to busy schedules after the main training session was complete. Attendance dropped for our google meets and gym sessions once the refereeing season started. I have spoken to other organizations to see what they do to resolve this. (Kanata and Shooting Stars)

Thank you for your support and patience as we continue to build our program.

