



Basketball Ireland



ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22



National Committees and Chairs

- National Council of Basketball Ireland – P.J Reidy
 - Elite Performance Committee (EPC) – Tim Rice
 - National Area Board (NABC) – Jason Thornton
- Women's National League Committee (WNLC) – Breda Dick
- Women's Senior Clubs Committee (WSCC) – James Fleming
- Men's National Competitions Committee (MNCC) – Gerry Kelly
- Organisation of National League Clubs (ONLC) – Paul Barrett
- National League Officials Committee (NLOC) – Declan Murray
- Commissioner Table Officials Committee (CTOC) – Roven Fahey
- National Basketball Colleges Committee (NBCC) – Darren McGovern
 - Post Primary Schools (PPSC) – Marie O'Toole
- Primary Schools Mini Basketball Committee (PSMNC) – Richie O'Mahony



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul McDevitt, Chairman

Paul McDevitt, FCCA Registered Auditor & Accountant, has been a partner in McDevitt & McGlynn since 1992. Paul has extensive experience in dealing with SME's and Not For Profit Organisations advising them on taxation, financial, corporate governance and auditing matters. Treasurer of both the NWAB and the NABC, Paul is also a member of Council, representing the NABC. He is also a member of the joint council and board subcommittee, reviewing the current corporate structure of Basketball Ireland and is actively involved in coaching at both club and Area Board level.

Niall Eyre

Niall is an experienced and business-focused HR & Business Transformation Executive with twenty years' national and international HR Director & Global HR Transformation experience. Niall has supported global/regional/country business leaders through organisational change, business transformation, business development, organisation restructuring, leading through change and culture transformation. Niall has provided leadership support to C-Suite Executives in organisations with revenue ranging USD\$5Bn-10Bn

Tony Burke

Tony Burke has been involved in Irish basketball continuously for the past 58 years. The first 14 years of his career were as a player with Corinthians Basketball Club (where he also started his refereeing career), and he finished his playing career with Killester BC. Over the past number of years, he has been a member of various national committees, including the Basketball Officials Council of Ireland, International Affairs Committee and National Referees Committee. He has been a FIBA referee and was also the first Irish FIBA Match Commissioner and the first FIBA National Referee Instructor.

Theresa Walsh

Theresa Walsh is a public servant with vast experience in a variety of administration roles. Theresa has been involved in basketball for over 30 years as an administrator, player, coach, technical officer (at both local and national levels) and as the President of Basketball Ireland, serving in the role for two terms, from 2016 to 2020.

Charles Higgins

Charles is an enthusiastic active coach at club and county level. He is the current Chair of the Clare Area Basketball Board and their representative on the National Area Boards Committee. Charles has both national and international experience in contract and claims negotiation. He is a seasoned professional and adept in working with cross-functional teams. He is a business owner and is proactive in working with volunteer organisations. Charles believes that basketball is a way for kids and adults alike to be part of something that can make them both a team player and an independent thinker.

ATTENDANCE OF 2021 MEETINGS

Paul McDevitt - 11/11
Niall Eyre - 7/11
Tony Burke - 8/11
Theresa Walsh - 10/11
Charles Higgins - 5/5 (appointed 29/5/21)



Michael Ryan

Michael has been involved in basketball in Ireland since his school days at all levels as a player, coach and in the past as a referee. He was previously a member of the BI FinARC committee. Michael is a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Tax Adviser and a member of the Institute of Directors. Michael brings a wealth of experience in financial management and corporate governance to the board. He has recently retired as a partner in a leading law firm and currently acts as a director of a number of companies and serves on the governing body of a third-level educational institution.

Dr. Brendan O' Brien

Commercially focussed founder, CEO and entrepreneur. He has founded and scaled three Irish start-ups and led them to international acquisition. Significant experience in global marketing, business development and sales, with deep expertise in digital transformation, data-derived insights, IoT, new business models, as well as creating and scaling new businesses. Current focus areas are in applying AI/Data Analytics/ML to solve problems in multiple sectors, including Health-care, CleanTech, Mobility and Smarter approaches to education, manufacturing and cities. Active in multiple sports and previously represented Ireland at World and European level in Orienteering & Mountain Running. Currently Director & Chair Finance/Risk at 'The Wheel'. Chairperson of Adventure Racing Ireland. Former High-Performance Director and Chairperson of Irish Orienteering Association. Formerly a board member of multiple organisations in Ireland and the USA.

Dolores Geaney

Dolores has been involved in basketball since school, as a player, coach and referee and subsequently in club basketball in Galway and Dublin, in a player and management capacity. Geaney is currently chair of Meteors Ladies Basketball Club and part of the Irish senior women's management team. Professionally, Geaney has worked in the financial services industry for over 25 years, at company director and C-suite level, focusing on governance, strategy, integration, change management, and regulation. Her experience ranges from Irish financial services companies to global US entities. Geaney's education includes a Bachelors of Financial Services from UCD and a Diploma in Company Direction from the Institute of Internal Directors. She is also a Certified Bank Director, as well as a qualified member of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Susan Johnston

Susan is a former scientist, now management consultant with Deloitte UK, and has extensive experience working with clients across the pharmaceutical industry and public sector. With a specific focus in R&D innovation, Susan has advised clients on strategy development, operating model design and supported large scale programme implementation. Susan has been involved with basketball for most of her life, primarily as a player for Phoenix Basketball Club, but also as a coach, table official and former board member of Basketball Northern Ireland.

ATTENDANCE OF 2021 MEETINGS

Michael Ryan – 9/9 (appointed 15/3/21)

Dr. Brendan O'Brien – 9/9 (appointed 15/3/21)

Dolores Geaney – 2/2 (appointed 4/10/21)

Susan Johnston – 1/1 (appointed 3/12/21)





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2022 AGM. It is great to be able to meet people face-to-face again and I am delighted to welcome you all in person to the Castleknock Hotel.

We have had a very difficult couple of years and probably as a sport we suffered more than others because of the government restrictions. It was great to have everybody back playing for a full season. Hopefully we will never have to return to those restrictions again.

We have had an eventful year on the court. Both our national men and women have been in action in the FIBA EuroBasket qualifiers. Our men's team have two wins out of four and hopefully in the next window in June/July they will come out on top of their meetings with Austria and Switzerland. Our women's put in two excellent performances in their opening games in November 2021 and can take great encouragement from those, as they seek their first win in the next window in November 2022.

Our underage national teams are back in training and getting ready for the various FIBA European Championships over the summer. These competitions are very important for the development of our players and having missed out on the last couple of years, it is great for these young people to be back representing their country. I wish all the national teams well in the coming year.

On the domestic front, we were able to run all of our competitions again. Obviously there were some bumps along the way, but all our clubs, schools and National League competitions were finished and without naming all the individual winners, I would like to congratulate them all on their successes. It was especially satisfying to see all the schools finals back in the Arena and the AICC's in Gormanston.



During the year we appointed a new CEO, John Feehan, and I would like to formally welcome him to Basketball Ireland. John has many years' experience, at both a national and international level and I am looking forward to working with him. I believe that John will bring a fresh approach to our game and continue to advance our standing as the county's number 1 indoor sport.





I want to thank Bernard O'Byrne for his service to basketball over the past 11 years. Bernard joined Basketball Ireland at a difficult time and under his stewardship we came through it and emerged as a stronger entity.

We have a new board member, Susan Johnston from Belfast. Susan agreed to come on board after Lousie Burke had to step down from the board following her new job with Sport Ireland. Susan has already added value to the board and she is currently involved in helping us prepare a new strategic plan.

We have faced a lot of challenges over the last couple of years, but I believe that we have come through it as a stronger NGB. I am very confident that we will continue to grow and that basketball will soon be challenging the 'big- three', in terms of participation and funding.

Our focus going forward is to grow the numbers participating in our sport, improve the quality of our National Leagues, assist our national teams to perform at a higher level and improve the facilities that we use. These are no small tasks, but I believe that we have the staff to achieve these goals and I look forward to working with them to reach these targets.

Paul McDevitt





PRESIDENTS' ADDRESS

Before even considering basketball, I'd like to offer my sympathies to all who suffered loss during the Covid pandemic and I'd like to express my thanks to all frontline workers for their efforts over the past two years.

Following over 18 months without basketball, it was great to see this year's season start when the restrictions were lifted in November. Various guidelines had to be followed and I'd like to thank the 'Return to Play' group, headed by Charles Higgins for their efforts in keeping everything up and running.

A special word of thanks to John Feehan and all the staff at the National Basketball Arena for their efforts, a lot of which are unseen. From speaking to clubs, I'm aware of the importance of the funding they received and I'm also aware of the work put in to secure this funding. My thanks also to the board for their work over the past year.

My compliments to those involved in running both the club and school competitions. It's usually tough to fit all of the games into the season and the fact that competitions were completed even though postponements were required is a credit to our volunteers.

I would like to thank all the volunteers, whether they be coaches, referees, managers and even more importantly the unsung heroes, who just get the job done. For many children basketball is their outlet, and for some, the best part of their week. No one knows the other issues that they may be dealing with, so please make basketball a positive experience for them. I ask you to remember that regardless of ability, each child has something to offer, so please find a spot for them within your organisation.

If I can be of any help to any clubs, schools, committees, please just ask. I'm more than happy to travel anywhere to help promote the game and would be delighted to be of assistance to your organisation.

Best of luck to all for the coming season, where hopefully we'll be able to have a full season, restriction free.

PJ. Reidy





PRESIDENTS' LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Joe Naughton

Joe's involvement in basketball in Galway started in the early 1980's as a player and coaching Keltic Ladies Team in Division II of the National League for four years. He also coached various teams in different clubs and schools over the years in the Galway Local league. He has had many successes over the years locally, which culminated with the Coláiste na Coiribe Boys team winning the U19 'B' Schools Cup in 2019.

He has also served on the Galway Area Board since the early 1980's and held various positions, including Chairperson until 2021. Joe's other love within the game of basketball is officiating, both as a referee and a commissioner. He has refereed at all levels, schools, local area leagues and National League. It was during his time as a National League referee that he became involved in the NRC at committee level.

He became the National Referees Appointments Officer approximately ten years ago and since that time has been appointing referees to the National League games and all other national competitions.



Charles Higgins

Charles has been involved in basketball for many years as a volunteer and as a coach. He coached local and county teams from mini ball to adults and is the Chair of Clare Area Basketball Board for the last four years. Charles is a long-standing member of the NABC, a member of the EPC and sits on the Board of Basketball Ireland. During the COVID pandemic he had a major role as Chair of the 'Return to Play' committee with other members. He believes that basketball is about community and without all of us, basketball would not be as great as it is.





John Hayes

John's daughter, Jillian, took up the game when she entered the local Mercy secondary school, her coach Evelyn Herne, a teacher at the school, noticed that he attended all their games and asked him to help driving to games. Within a year he was fully involved with the school programme as a fundraiser and team manager. At the same time, he got involved with Wildcats, a club which was born out of that same school programme and that marriage is still alive and well to this day. John took over as general manager of Wildcats in his 2nd year involved and stayed in that office right up to two years ago. He still enjoys cleaning and setting up the gym for games and doing commentary for the Super League team's home games.

John has had many years of enjoyment in the sport, including acting as the great Tom Collins's side kick with the school's league and cup programmes. He spent time on the board of Basketball Ireland. On four occasions he was head of delegation with Irish schoolgirls national teams, who completed in competition in the USA and had the privilege of doing head of delegation with School teams competing in the ISF on several occasions, and with many underage international teams competing in European competition. He was manager of the Irish-senior mens team for one European tournament in Denmark and as recently as last year was Head of Delegation with the U20 women in Hungary. He is most grateful for all the wonderful times the game of basketball has given him, it started with supporting his daughter Jillian and these days he gets the same enjoyment watching her daughters Kate and Sarah playing for the Mercy, plus Waterford Wildcats and Ireland.



CEO ADDRESS

I'd like to begin by formally thanking the basketball community for the warm welcome that I've received since joining Basketball Ireland as its CEO in November 2021. I have been hugely impressed with how the sport has bounced back after an extended absence due to Covid-19. It couldn't have been done without the dedication of the army of volunteers that we are blessed with across the country.

On behalf of Basketball Ireland and the Board, I'd like to thank Sport Ireland and the Government for the support they gave to our sport during the pandemic, without it basketball would have had far greater challenges, instead we have emerged stronger. I'd also like to praise the hard work put in by the staff at Basketball Ireland during the pandemic, along with their continued application. There is great optimism for the future, our Board's vision to support the move to compete in FIBA EuroBasket has been rewarded with excellent performances by our men's and women's teams, as we compete with Europe's best. It's great to see TG4 back the sport by showing our international sides in action, in addition to our InsureMyHouse.ie National Cup finals - that coverage helps inspire future generations, thanks to visibility on national TV.

I had the pleasure of getting around the country to watch some National League and National Cup games during the 2021/22 season and I'm delighted that from next season every game will be streamed live, thanks to our partnership with Joymo and the creation of a new dedicated OTT platform, via the Basketball Ireland website. It will give fans worldwide access to the top quality basketball that we have to offer every week in Ireland.

Finally, I'd like to personally thank the Board for the support they've given me since my appointment. At the time of writing, I am only in the role for six months and I am excited to see what the next 12 months and beyond will bring. I'm determined to push the sport forward, working in partnership with you all.

John Feehan, CEO Basketball Ireland



FinARC Report

The Finance Audit and Risk Committee (FinARC) is a sub-committee appointed by the Board to assist it in its responsibilities for ensuring the adequacy of Basketball Ireland's internal control and governance arrangements. FinARC may, subject to the approval of the Board, obtain outside independent professional advice as the committee consider necessary.

In 2021, FinARC had seven meetings, with work ongoing between meetings as well. The members of FinARC until February 2021 and the meetings attended/held were Ken McIntyre (Chair, 2/2), Tim Murphy (2/2) and Theresa Walsh (2/2). The membership of the committee then changed and from March 2021.

The members of FinARC after February 2021 and the meetings attended/held were Michael Ryan (Chair, 5/5), Tim Murphy (5/5), Brendan O'Brien (4/5) and Louise Burke (4/5) *. Meetings of FinARC were also attended by relevant members Board and of the BI executive.

(*Louise stepped down from FinARC when she resigned from the Board of Basketball Ireland).

Matters that were addressed by FinARC in 2021 included, Ongoing review of the finances of BI and its performance compared to budget. Review of proposed budget for the forthcoming year. Ongoing work in relation to BI Risk Register and the Governance Compliance register. Follow up on Board evaluation process in relation to roles/actions arising from the review. With the assistance of the Executive, the committee reviewed the impact that Covid restrictions would have on BI's activities and on its income and expenditure.

The proposed allocation of Covid funds to clubs was also reviewed. The Committee reviewed the scope of the Annual Audit with the External Auditors and examined the outcome of the external audit and the reports of the External Auditors. It examined and reviewed the Mid-Term Financial Report of the CFO. It reviewed the submissions in relation to BI's core grants. It reviewed the BI Employee Manual and the HR procedures adopted by BI. It finalised the review of the terms of reference of the Committee. It reviewed the financial implications of the participation of the senior men's and women's teams in the FIBA EuroBasket qualification competitions.

Matters discussed by the committee in relation to all items under its remit, together with any recommendations, are communicated by FinARC to the Board in a report to the Board of BI following each meeting of FinARC.

Michael Ryan



FINANCIAL REPORT

Basketball Ireland / Arena Consolidated (Combined) View

Income & Expenditure

Sport Ireland Core Grant
Sport Ireland Women-in-Sport Grant
Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Fund Grants
Sport Ireland - NGB Resilience Grants - Schemes II, IV and V
FIBA Europe Hosted Events - Small Countries and EuroBasket 2021
International income - Misc.
FIBA Europe Grants
Other Grants [OFI Grant for 3X3 Basketball/ Aspire Graduate Grant]
Camp income
Total Sponsorship Income incl. Uniforms contract
Other 3X3 Grants and income
Competitions + National Finals Gate Income
Registrations income
Courses income
Referees Equalisation Fees
Misc. Merchandise Income
National Draw Income
Arena Income (excl. Shop Sales)
Arena Shop Sales (incl. Merchandise)

2021 Actual Audited	2020 Actual Audited
€740,000	€740,000
€10,300	€50,000
€101,451	€40,000
€277,955	€50,000
€168,880	€0
€4,055	€840
€40,827	€40,000
€20,591	€2,313
€0	€0
€90,069	€83,000
€0	€0
€16,837	€105,135
€296,479	(€1,195)
€36,170	€9,760
€41,889	€35,684
€13,815	€8,038
€4,352	€14,371
€101,488	€119,424
€72,047	€59,985
€2,037,205	€1,857,355
€1,943,348	€1,776,207
€3,857	€81,148

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT LINE / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR

Basketball Ireland / Arena Consolidated (Combined) View

Cash Flows 2020 - 2021

(Bank Current Accounts)
Opening Consolidated Bank Current A/cs
Consolidated Surplus/ (Deficit) for Year
Add : Depreciation Charge
Less: Capital Grant Amortisation
Working Capital Movement for Year
Capital Repayments - All Loans and Department of Sport
New Term Loan Receipt - Bank of Ireland
Capital Expenditure (net of Grants Rec'd)
Closing Consolidated Bank Current A/cs

2021 Actual Audited	2020 Actual Audited
€840,215	€165,405
€3,857	€81,148
€107,085	€104,239
(€5,767)	(€5,767)
€39,814	€20,939
(€21,187)	(€20,047)
(€104,310)	(€45,702)
€1,389,707	€840,215

Consolidated Balance Sheets

Fixed Assets
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)
Bank of Ireland Term Loan [from 2019]
Long-term Deferred Capital Grants
Net Assets / (Liabilities)

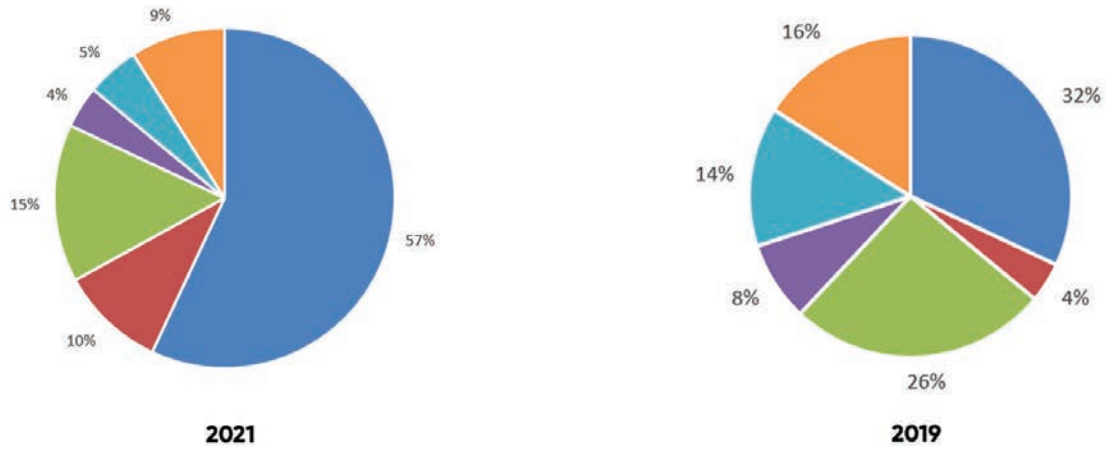
2021 Actual Audited	2020 Actual Audited
€2,427,249	€2,445,968
€105,958	(€41)
(€10,702)	(€31,889)
(€471,896)	(€456,386)
€2,050,609	€1,956,752
€2,050,609	€1,956,752

Represented by

Capital and Reserves

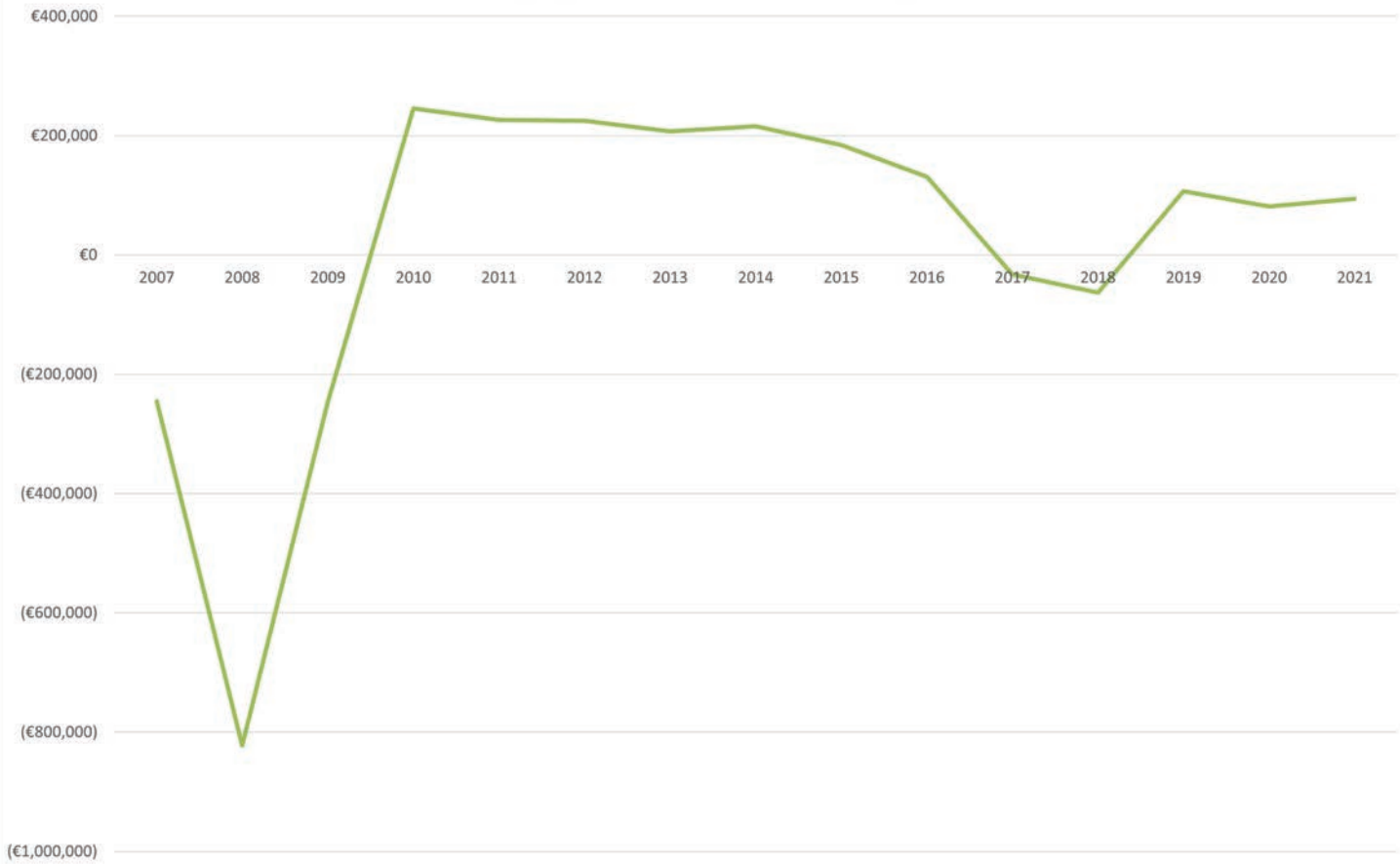
FINANCIAL REPORT

CONSOLIDATED REVENUES SPLIT 2021 VS 2019



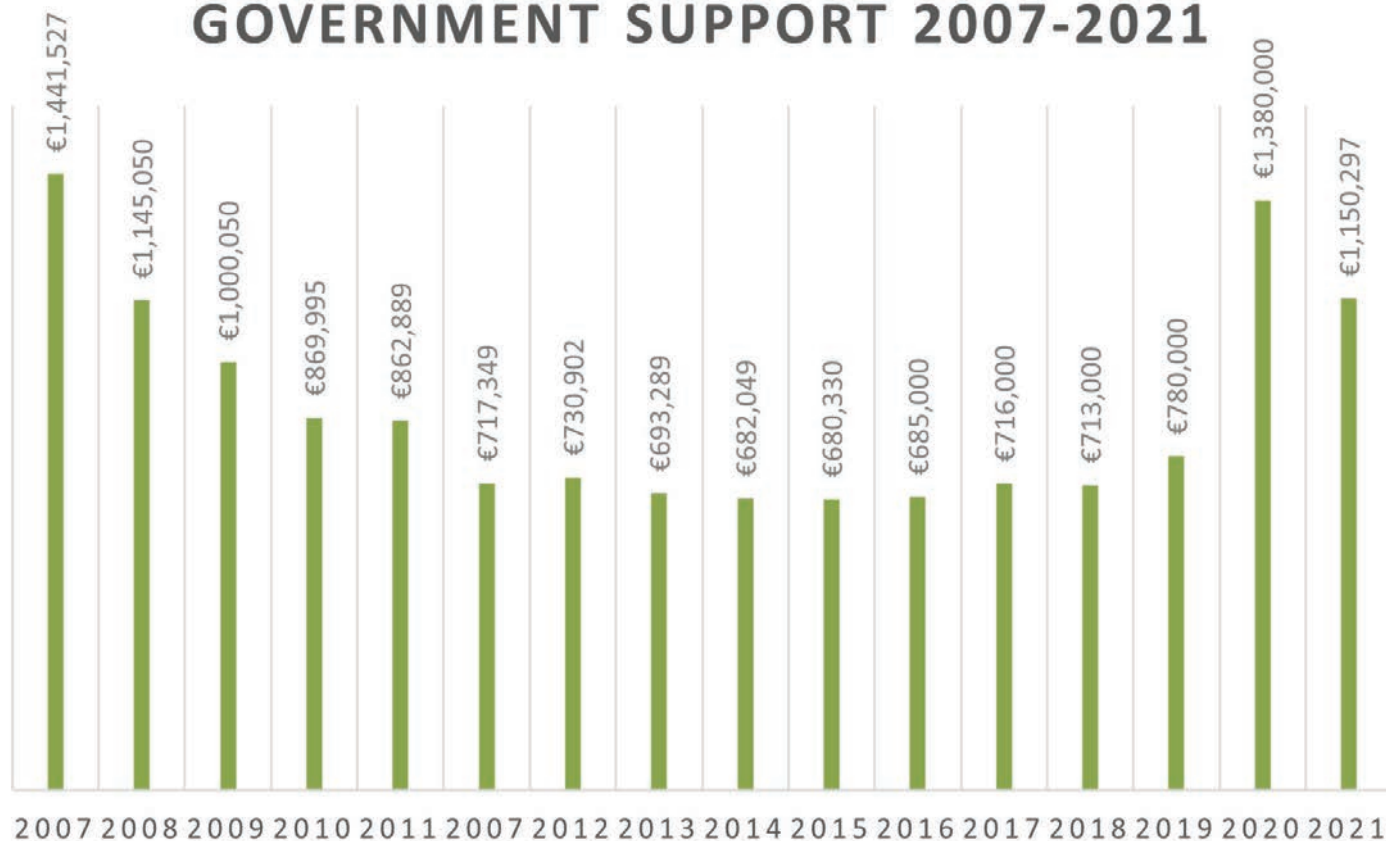
- Sport Ireland Grants
- FIBA Europe Events & Income Grants
- Registrations/ Competitions/ National Finals Income
- Sponsorships
- Other Income (Courses/ National Draw/ Camp/ Referees Equal. Etc.)
- Arena Total Income

Surplus/Deficit For The Year 2007-2021

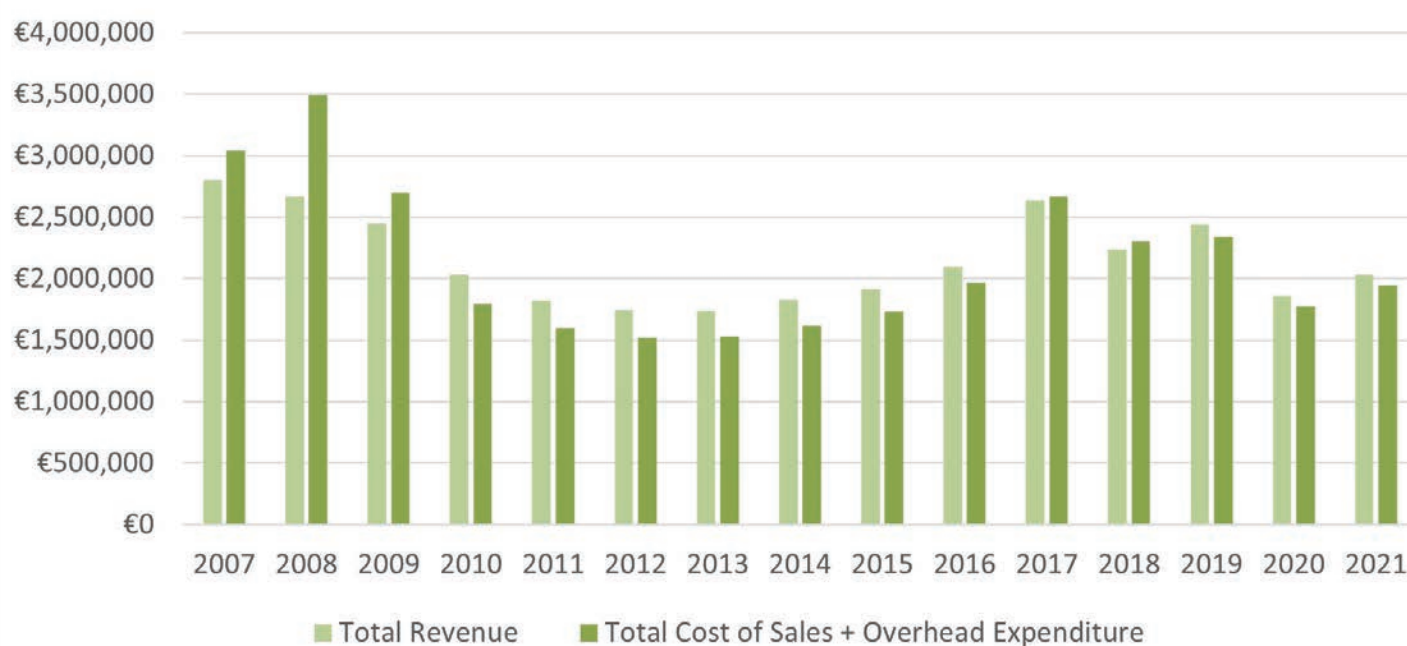




GOVERNMENT SUPPORT 2007-2021



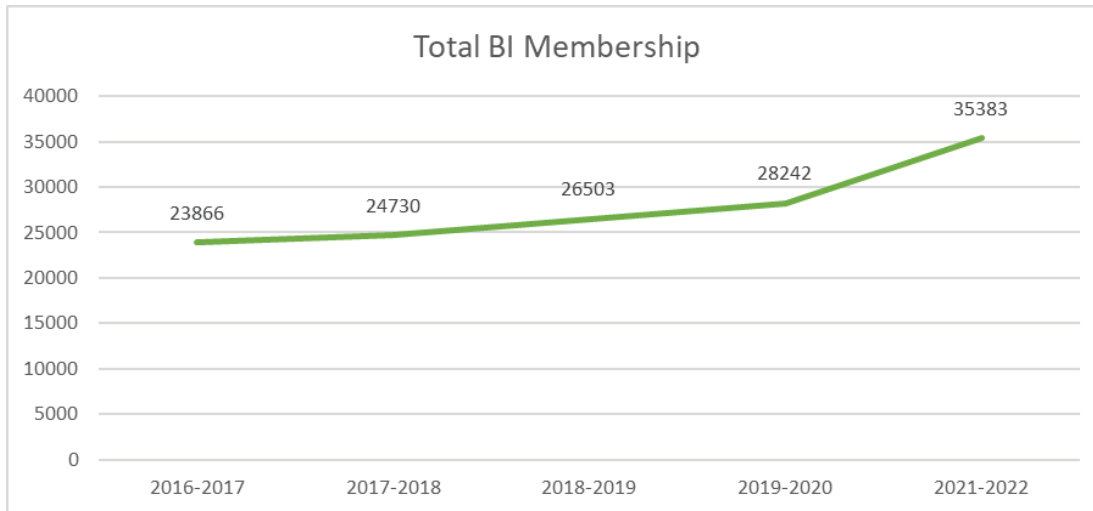
Total Revenue v Total Cost Of Sales + Overhead Expenditure (2007-2021)



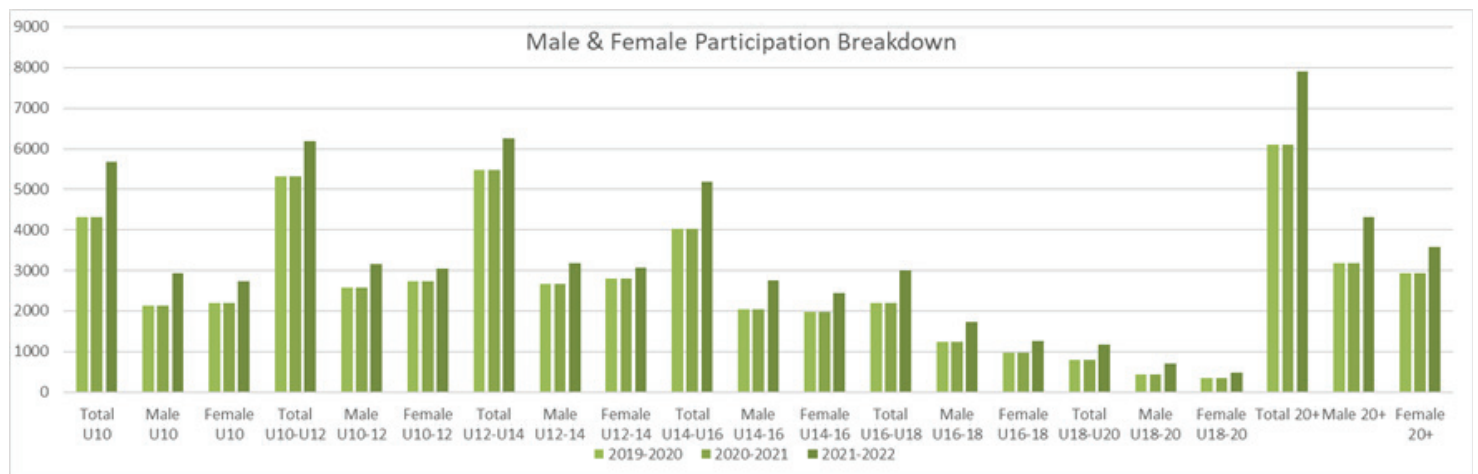
MEMBERSHIP

Basketball Ireland has continued to enjoy significant growth in membership numbers.

The total membership numbers are inclusive of both players and registered technical members and volunteers. Basketball Ireland's membership has grown 48% between the 2016-17 season and the 2021-2022 seasons. Basketball continues to enjoy a close to equal split in membership based on gender across all categories. The total number of registered members for the 2021/22 season was 35,383 – 47% of which are female.



The graph below depicts the total Basketball Ireland club membership from the 2019/20 season to the 2021/22 season by age category. There are three bars in each age category, which represent the total registered membership numbers over a three-year period, based on age and gender.



As shown by the above information Basketball Ireland has continued to grow, even during the recent tough times and the closure of our sport. The introduction of some new membership categories, such as SOCIA-Ball, Masters players and our Inclusive membership have significantly contributed to this, along with the hard work of our Development Officers, who work on the grassroots development of our sport. Basketball Ireland clubs, volunteers and area boards have also significantly contributed to the growth of BI membership, with their extremely dedicated work in their local communities. I look forward to working with you all again for the upcoming season.

Daryl Lambe, Basketball Ireland Registration Officer.



MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

With Covid-19 casting a long cloud over the sport for an elongated period, Basketball Ireland implemented its plan to emerge stronger from the pandemic. The Media and Communications department headed the build and roll-out of a new website, which launched in August 2021, just before we hosted the FIBA European Championship for Small Countries in Dublin. For the first time we could stream our games directly from our homepage, something which we implemented for the tournament and subsequent fixtures and events.

The Ireland.basketball website was accompanied by a fresh new look for the organisation, with our re-brand. The logo, designed by Adam Ingle, is far more dynamic, vibrant and illustrates our sport far better.

Our international sides were first to get back to playing, following the relaxation of government restrictions and hosting the FIBA European Championship for Small Countries gave Basketball Ireland a flagship event to herald the return to the court. Our senior men delivered success, winning the tournament, our first major title at senior level since 1994. With the tournament held behind closed doors Basketball Ireland provided content in the form of press releases, video news releases and audio to media, to keep them fully up-to-date and while our social channels had huge numbers, among them the 2.39 million impressions on Twitter for the month of August.



Overall, our social media numbers continued to increase, since January 2021 Instagram followers have grown 29.8% to 19,100, Facebook followers increased 11% to 29,645 and Twitter followers have risen 13.3% to 15,800. Basketball Ireland also launched its TikTok in 2021 and it has almost 7,000 followers, with huge scope for further growth.

Our partnership with TG4 strengthened, it saw the station broadcasting both men's and women's FIBA EuroBasket qualifiers in November, with further international games to come in 2022 on the station. The InsureMyHouse.ie National Cup games on the station proved to be hugely popular too, the Paudie O'Connor Cup final between The Address UCC Glanmire and DCU Mercy was the sixth most-watched programme on TG4 that week, with a reach of 211,000, while the delayed broadcast of the Pat Duffy National Cup final between Garvey's Tralee Warriors and C&S Neptune achieved a 186,000 reach.

Our media coverage increased, our InsureMyHouse.ie National Cup draw took place live on RTE 2FM's Game On, our senior international sides featured multiple times on RTE Six One as they competed in FIBA EuroBasket, with extensive, excellent coverage throughout the year in the Examiner, Echo, Independent and many other media outlets nationwide.

Nathaniel Cope, Head of Communications, Media and Digital





JOYMO

Our 5-year OTT partnership with Joymo, formally signed at the start of May, is the conclusion of many years of dialogue with the company. It is a significant step for our National League, with every game from the InsureMyVan.ie and MissQuote.ie Super League and Division 1 broadcast live, giving fans a one-stop shop for all the action.

The InsureMyHouse.ie Pat Duffy and Paudie O'Connor National Cup finals will remain free-to-air with Basketball Ireland's TV partner, TG4, next season. A range of ticketing options will be available, including individual game passes and an all-game season pass, giving fans the chance to follow their favourite club and never miss a minute of basketball action. Full pricing details to be announced at a later date.



Speaking at the time of the announcement, Basketball Ireland CEO, John Feehan, said: "This is huge news for basketball here in Ireland, as the growth of the sport continues apace. We have 50 National League teams and now you'll be able to watch every game live from the InsureMyVan.ie and MissQuote.ie Super League and Division 1, along with the InsureMyVan.ie National Cup, in one place. Joymo has worked with a number sporting bodies globally and brings a huge depth of expertise in the OTT field and they will be building a tailor-made user-friendly platform for Basketball Ireland. This agreement will also see extensive promotion of our domestic game through video clips on social media, as we continue to increase our digital footprint and showcase the thrilling basketball served up by our clubs across the country."

Michael Emery, Joymo CEO, added: "We are thrilled to partner with Basketball Ireland and look forward to building a 'Home of Basketball' streaming proposition for fans of the leagues, teams and sport in this market. Basketball Ireland is a progressive sports body that truly understands the needs of its participants, partners and consumers. Collectively, we have a strong shared vision and ambition for what direct-to-consumer streaming can achieve in terms of fan engagement, data integration and monetisation potential.

"We are excited to empower Basketball Ireland to take greater ownership of their IP, reward fans with more live events and better-quality coverage and create additional commercial opportunities that can make a fundamental difference to the way the sport is promoted and administered in Ireland."

Founded in Norway in late-2017, Joymo enables rights holders to broadcast their valuable content direct-to-consumers, connecting their events and competitions with a global audience.

Joymo's unique solution enables content creators to retain full ownership of their data, control on-page and in-vision advertising, whilst its in-built micropayment functionality provides a seamless fan experience.



COMMERCIAL AND BRAND

CFM Group

In September 2021 Basketball Ireland agreed a three-year deal with Irish-owned CFM Group. It included the league naming rights for our National League, with our men's National League rebranded as the InsureMyVan.ie Super League and Division 1 and the women's National League now called the MissQuote.ie Super League and Division 1.

Basketball Ireland's prestigious National Cup is now called the InsureMyHouse.ie Cup at all levels of the game.

The agreement with CFM also sees the company support Ireland's national teams, InsureMyVan.ie became the lead sponsor of the men's team and MissQuote.ie the lead sponsor of the Ireland's U20 women and a supporting partner of the Irish senior women's team.



Joymo

Our National Leagues received a further boost, following the 5-year agreement signed in May with Joymo. It means that every game will be streamed live via an OTT platform from the 2022/23 season, this will further strengthen the visibility of our sport, our leagues and clubs, making them more appealing commercially in the process.

Basketball Ireland is looking forward to working with Joymo and forging a strong relationship with them, to the benefit of basketball in Ireland.

Basketball Ireland Rebrand Launch

In August, Basketball Ireland unveiled our new branding, which includes an updated logo and colour scheme.

This rebrand rejuvenates Basketball Ireland, keeping it relevant in current times and more directly aligning ourselves with the Irish identity. It also reflects our efforts to continuously represent the Irish basketball community to the best of our abilities, both internally and abroad.



COMMERCIAL AND BRAND

National Draw

Basketball Ireland has once again made the National Draw available to all clubs to use as a fundraiser. It has proven to be a great success. Over 30,000 tickets have been distributed for sale by participating clubs. The prize winners for this year's National Draw will be drawn on July 3rd at the FIBA EuroBasket 2025 Pre-Qualifier between Ireland and Switzerland at the National Basketball Arena.

	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	Total
Income Ticket Sales	145,610	140,620	133,480	150,997	139,700	96,470	21,760	828,637
								-
Admin Fee to BI	- 14,561	- 14,062	- 13,348	- 15,100	- 20,955	- 14,470	- 4,352	- 96,848
								-
Retained by Club	131,049	126,558	120,132	135,897	118,745	82,000	17,408	731,789
BI Income:								-
Admin Charge	14,561	14,062	13,348	15,100	20,955	14,470	4,352	96,848
Expenditure:								-
Licence Fee	4,500	1,220	1,220	1,070	1,257	1,290	1,365	11,922
								-
Print & Post	1,783	3,111	4,750	3,587	3,339	3,139	2,815	22,524
								-
Prizes	16,400	15,350	15,400	15,400	16,000	17,800	18,300	114,650
								-
Patron Donation	- 8,122	- 5,619	- 5,259	-	-	-	-	- 19,000
								-
BI Expenditure:	14,561	14,062	16,111	20,057	20,596	22,229	22,480	130,096
								-
Surplus/ Deficit	-	-	- 2,763	- 4,957	359	- 7,759	- 18,128	- 33,248

Finally, to all our partners including Kappa, Molten, Pinergy, Gotham Drywall Inc, and DeCare, we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Bruce Wood, Head of Commercial and Brand



SCHOOLS

Following on from the enforced absence of schools basketball due to the covid pandemic, it was fantastic to see competitions back up and running for the 2021/22 season.

With some Covid restrictions still in place, schools' basketball faced many challenges throughout with a condensed season at all levels. Special thanks must go to all the PPSC Regional Organisers, who met these challenges head on and ran and fulfilled fixtures on time. We also had to wait to have full crowds back in the National Basketball Arena for finals, but as the season progressed and restrictions eased, our capacity grew as each competition came to its conclusion.

With over 800 schools playing competitive basketball, it continues to be one of the most popular sports in Irish schools. The PPSC run league competitions for Minor, Junior, U16 and U19 at four different grades, A, B, C and D. The D league continues to be focused on developing basketball in new schools entering for the first time. Basketball Ireland managed cup competitions for the PPSC at U15, U16 and U19 last season.



Special mention must go to Jim Hughes and the team in SPSL Rathmore Kerry. They won the U14A and U15A Pinergy All-Ireland Schools Cup, both the Minor and Junior A Boys All-Ireland League, while also being league and cup winners this season. A big thank you also to Pinergy, who sponsored our Schools Cup competitions 2021/22.



While schools are currently being graded and regraded for the upcoming season, we all look forward to another exciting season ahead. Two schools have qualified for the International Schools Finals which will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, in September 2022. Congratulations and best wishes to both St. Joesph's (The Bish), Galway who will participate in the boys competition and Loreto Dalkey, who will compete in the girls section.

Paul Dempsey

INTERNATIONAL

Although 2021 was a difficult year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it brought, there has been some outstanding performances by the international programme.

Senior Teams

The Irish senior men's national team, coached by Mark Keenan, captured the gold medal on home soil at the FIBA European Championship for Small Countries, after defeating 2018 champions Malta, 97-66. Led by team captain Jason Killeen, the team finished the tournament a perfect 4-0 and had an average winning margin of 36 points. This was the second gold medal won by the senior men at the FIBA Small Countries tournament, after they won the event back in 1994. Jordan Blount and John Carroll were named to the tournament's All-Star Five.

The senior men were drawn in the FIBA EuroBasket 2025 Pre-Qualifiers, after winning the FIBA European Championship for Small Countries. They are in Group A with Switzerland, Austria and Cyprus. Four teams – the three group winners and the two best-ranked second-placed teams – will qualify from this for the FIBA EuroBasket 2025 Pre-Qualifiers Second Round. They currently have a 2-2 overall record, after two wins versus Cyprus. They also have losses against Switzerland, who Ireland pushed to their limit in Fribourg and Austria at the National Basketball Arena.



The Ireland senior women's team, coached by James Weldon, also had a solid performance in the FIBA Women's European Championship for Small Countries in Nicosia, Cyprus. They won their first three games, then faced a clinical Luxembourg side in the final, losing 69-59. After ranking tied first in blocked shots, second in rebounding, third in assists, and third in efficiency, Claire Melia was named in the tournament's All-Star Five.

After the success of the FIBA European Championship for Small Countries, the senior women's team were entered into the FIBA Women's EuroBasket 2023 Qualifiers. They are in Group I with Belarus, Czech Republic and the Netherlands. There are 10 groups in total in the qualifiers, with the 10 group winners and the four best second-placed teams advancing to the FIBA Women's EuroBasket 2023.

In their first game of the group, they fell 82-60 to a strong Netherlands team away in Amsterdam. Next up was the Czech Republic at home in the National Basketball Arena on November 14. While Ireland lost 70-54, they were within reach of the Czechs for the majority of the game.

In addition to the 5v5 competitions on the senior side, both senior 3x3 teams competed in the FIBA Europe Cup Qualifier in Constanta, Romania in June. The men lost to Lithuania, Georgia, and Romania, while the women lost to Sweden, Ukraine, and Romania, with the Sweden and Romania games very tightly contested.



In addition to the 5v5 competitions on the senior side, both senior 3x3 teams competed in the FIBA Europe Cup Qualifier in Constanta, Romania in June. The men lost to Lithuania, Georgia, and Romania, while the women lost to Sweden, Ukraine, and Romania, with the Sweden and Romania games very tightly contested.

Underage Teams

The underage programme saw four of the six teams play in the FIBA Youth European Challengers during the summer of 2021. Due to COVID-19, these tournaments were an alternative format of competition to replace the traditional format of the normal FIBA European Championship.

The Under 20 women's team, head coached by Martin Conroy, faced four Division A opponents in their six-team group in Sopron, Hungary. While the team did not earn any victories in the tournament, the ladies battled all the way to the buzzer in each game against very formidable opposition and gave incredible effort. The experience was a good test for the Division A tournament in summer 2022. The team was led by Molly Moffitt and Abigail Rafferty.





The Under 18 men's team, head coached by Paul Kelleher, travelled to Levice, Slovakia to compete. The team made steady progress, as they improved in each game against some tough competition. Killian Gribben led the team with a breakout performance. Statistically, he was the most efficient player in the tournament and was in the top 5 overall for the tournament field in numerous statistical categories, while averaging 16.8 points/game, 12 rebounds/game, and 3 assists/game. Darragh Ferguson also had an exceptional tournament, leading the team in scoring (20.8 points/game), which also ranked him as the third-highest scorer in the tournament overall.



The Under 18 women's team, head coached by Tommy O'Mahony, faced four Division A teams in their six-team group in Klatovy, Czech Republic. The highlight of the tournament was the 87-64 victory over Hungary. Lucy Coogan had a huge game, hitting 7 of 8 three-point shot attempts and scoring 29 points.

The Under 16 women's team travelled to Piešťany, Slovakia to compete in their tournament which, featured some traditional rivals. Niall McDermott stepped in as the acting head coach for Andy Gill for the tournament, due to a COVID-related absence. The highlight of the tournament was a closely contested loss to Luxembourg.

Tim Rice, Chair of the Elite Performance Committee (EPC)





NATIONAL LEAGUE

Following the cancellation of the 2020-21 season due to Covid, the 2021-22 season was always going to be challenging on many fronts. With most clubs being inactive for the best part of 18 months, there were many obstacles to be overcome, amidst a lot of uncertainty as to whether the season would start on time, or even go ahead at all.

There were plans to have a pre-season Summer League to help teams get back playing and preparing for the season ahead, however these were cancelled due to the severity of Covid at that time. The scheduled start date for the league in mid-September was put back to the weekend of the 8th-10th October.

After an 18-month break, eventually the season was up and running, with 50 teams competing across the four National Leagues. However, it was not all plain sailing, as each week was a challenge in itself to get as many games played as possible. Each weekend saw games cancelled due to the virus and in particular the leagues were hit hard over the Christmas break, with only two out of a scheduled 20 games going ahead. This put extra pressure and worry on the InsureMyHouse.ie National Cup semi-finals weekend in Cork and the finals weekend in the National Basketball Arena. Thankfully all teams managed to make it through the Cup weekends and there were some cracking games, as always.



The Address UCC Glanmire completed a fantastic treble in the Women's Super League, winning the MissQuote.ie Super League, InsureMyHouse.ie Paudie O'Connor National Cup and MissQuote.ie Champions Trophy. NUIG Mystics completed the double in Women's Division 1, winning the InsureMyHouse.ie Women's Division 1 National Cup, beating Griffith College Templeogue in the final and success the MissQuote.ie Division 1 League Playoff final against Ulster University, clinching promotion to the Super League in the process. Ulster University ended up the season with silverware and denying Mystics the treble, by beating them in the end of season League Cup final.

Garvey's Tralee Warriors secured a fantastic double, by overcoming C&S Neptune in both the InsureMyVan.ie Super League playoff final and the InsureMyHouse.ie Pat Duffy National Cup final. Tradehouse Central Ballincollig won the South Conference, with an overall record of 15-1, but fell to C&S Neptune in the semi-finals of the league playoffs. North Conference winners DBS Éanna, were beaten by Garvey's Tralee Warriors.

The fact that the season was completed and was so competitive is a huge tribute to all of the many club volunteers, who worked tirelessly to help get their teams ready, have their training and game venues prepared and compliant with all COVID guidelines.

John Walsh, National League Manager



3X3 BASKETBALL

The summer of 2021 saw Basketball Ireland build on their previous 3x3 promotion. Basketball Ireland Development Officers ran open sessions across the country to provide as many opportunities as possible for engagement by our basketball community. Some of these sessions were competitive, but a lot were social 3x3 events that allowed people to come along and play, even if they didn't have a team. Most of the event's run were FIBA-endorsed, which count towards Ireland's international ranking.

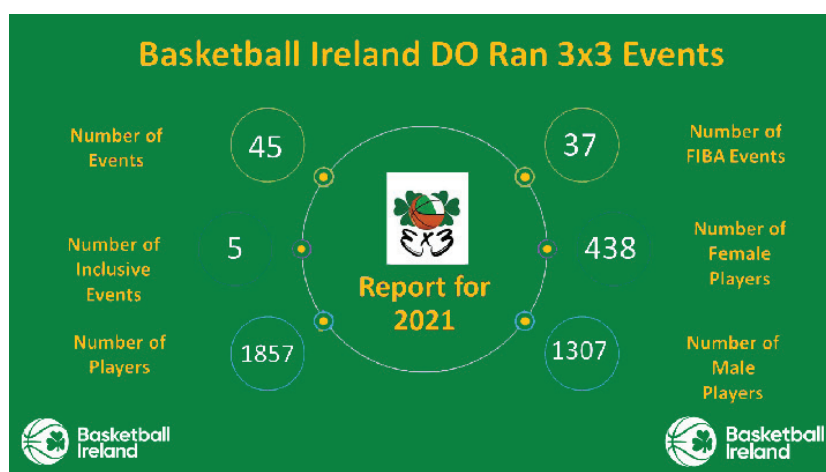
In the summer of 2020 Basketball Ireland ran twenty FIBA endorsed events and as you can see in the graphic below, that almost doubled last year. Over 1,000 extra playing opportunities were utilised from 2020 and both the male and female numbers participating doubled.



The Development Officers also ran webinars for clubs and area boards to allow them to set up events on the FIBA system and that saw six clubs run multiple events over the summer, separate from the Basketball Ireland ones. This is an integral part of the 3x3 strategy, and it is hoped many more will jump on board in 2022. Basketball Ireland also ran five inclusive events in conjunction with the Irish Wheelchair Association, the first time in many years this has happened.

This summer will see both our senior and U17 female and male international teams compete in the FIBA Europe Cup and for the first time ever, while a 3x3 residential national camp will take place in Limerick in July. This summer will see more events spread across the country, with a focus on junior and inclusive events. Any club, or person interested in running their own event should contact their local Development Officer for any help needed

Patrick O'Neill, National Coaching Officer Basketball Ireland



ACADEMY BASKETBALL

The aim of our national, regional and provincial academies is to increase the number of underage players being consistently taught skills recommended as best practice.

Ultimately, we are developing more skilled players and an implemented style of play that produces better outcomes and results at international level, both short-term (highest finish possible at the FIBA Youth European Championships) and long-term (higher retention of a pool of talented players and improved results at senior international level).

We also feel this will lead to an increased pool of players at National League level. We have worked hard to supplement the coaching these players receive at school and club level. Putting the players in a pathway of playing with and against players from other clubs, whether it be regional or provincial level at camp, U15's at Easter and U14's in May, or the U15 Provincial Tournament in May, allowed us to challenge the players according to their level and ability.

The Under 14 Regional and Under 15 Provincial Academy has just completed its first full season since 2018 /2019 due to Covid-19. Due to Covid, we decided to have larger numbers in all academies where possible. We had a very knowledgeable and dedicated group of coaches who went about the task of developing our next generation of players in a very professional manner. 44 coaches were involved in the academy structure this year, working with 400 players at U14 regional level and 250 players at U15 provincial level.



This longer development phase should assist the U16 national team coaches with their selection process, by providing them with a larger pool of fundamentally sound and proficient players to choose from.

With this great help and a thanks to our academy coaches, players, the players club/school coaches and parents, we feel that overall, from a basketball perspective, the academies met a lot of pre-season goals, while also helping us identify key areas of focus. Also, we have been able to identify areas or improvement within our structures to help the continued growth of Irish basketball.

This process will take time as National Head Coaches, Martin McGettrick (Girls) and Colin O'Reilly (Boys) plan and improve structures as the academies develop. One of the main focuses for next year, will be to increase the cooperation and communication between the academy structure and the main stakeholders within Basketball Ireland, NABC, PPSC, clubs, schools and parents, as well as review content and increase the resources available to the coaches and players.

Matthew Hall, Basketball Ireland Senior Technical Officer



CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Basketball Ireland was delighted to launch Centres of Excellence partnerships with a number of educational institutions during the 2021/22 season. This has been a huge step forward, allowing our elite level teams to access some of the best facilities in the country for their training sessions.

Centres of Excellence have been established at the University of Ulster Jordanstown, NUI Galway, Technological University of the Shannon at their Limerick Campus, Letterkenny IT, Waterford IT and most recently, Trinity College Dublin. This move has also allowed Basketball Ireland to increase the number of Development Officers around the country. A dedicated Basketball Development Officer is located at each of these locations, with the exception of WIT, who will also have someone on board next year. These Development Officers will help the growth of basketball in their areas.



Niamh Kenny, Sarah Kenny and Luke Rock at the announcement of Trinity College as a Centre of Excellence

Matthew Hall, Basketball Ireland Centre of Excellence manager, welcomed the new arrangement and said: "Centres of Excellence are something we have been working towards for quite a long time and will allow us to grow the sport in the coming seasons. The facilities are top quality and have allowed our elite level players in particular access to such things as shooting machines, expert strength and conditioning facilities and purpose-built video analysis, to name but a few. While these relationships are very new from both sides, the future looks very bright as we build on these partnerships and hopefully increase the standard and visibility of our sport. "

As basketball becomes more popular in Ireland it's hoped that the Centre of Excellence programme will grow and increase the accessibility of courts and facilities to basketball players of all standards.

Matthew Hall, Basketball Ireland Centre of Excellence Manager





FIBA NATIONAL INSTRUCTORS REPORT

This past season posed many challenges for refereeing across the country, from recruiting new members, training existing ones and retaining existing members. This is relative to all levels of refereeing. Returning after the Covid break, we noticed that many referees had decided that it was “their” time to leave and try different challenges.

At the highest level, National League, we lost experience and expertise with the likes of Lynda Cassidy, Ines Freire, Mark Gilleran, Sara Guebaili, Canice Kelly, Eddie Cooke, to name but a few, deciding not to return. Another challenge faced this past season was not just that referees were not returning, but many of those who did, limited the weekends they were available and how many weekends they would travel. This led to smaller groups of officials being available at weekends to the National Appointments Officer and as a result less experienced officials being appointed to games/leagues that they may not normally have been.

Crowd restrictions in the first half of the season also led to challenges with getting assessors into games to assess referees. As a result, more emphasis was put on video analysis, with referees having to put aside time to self-evaluate their own performance and then receive feedback from our team of video analysts. A number of online mentoring sessions took place with small groups of officials interacting with a different mentor each session. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our FIBA referees, who acted as the mentors on this programme.

While the challenges of recruitment, retention and development of referees will continue to be the main issues we face as a sport going forward, I have been calling for change in how refereeing is structured in Ireland. The present structure which was good in its day is no longer servicing the needs of today. I hope over the coming weeks and months to see substantial changes in this regard.

To tackle referee education, in conjunction with the NRC, a Referee Trainers Education Programme was introduced online. Over thirty people are participating, with six of the eight modules completed. The aim is to increase consistency in the delivery of key messages during the grassroots education of referees.

On the international front, we are continuing to excel. We have increased the number of FIBA referees from three to five. Over the last six years we have increased our FIBA allocation by 150%. Special mention to both our new FIBA referees Jamie Dooley and Niamh Callaghan.



Emma Perry





The quantity and quality of games our FIBA referees are being appointed to is also on the increase, with the average numbers of games officiated rising from two to five games per official. FIBA qualified referee Emma Perry has also officiated in FIBA EuroBasket, which is at the top end of European competition. This is a first for an Irish female official.

In conjunction with CTOC, a number of online training sessions were organised for potential FIBA Commissioners and Table Officials. This was to provide training and a support team to prepare candidates for their FIBA exams. We were delighted to see that with proper preparation and support, all table official candidates were successful in gaining their International FIBA License. A bonus saw Paula Mullins Cleary become Ireland's first female FIBA Commissioner, when she too was successful in her Commissioner exams.



Paula Mullins Cleary

This is my final season as FIBA National Instructor, so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and supported me over the last six years. I'd also like to wish my successor, whoever that may be, the very best of luck in taking referee education at all levels in Ireland to the next level.

Paul Dempsey, FIBA National Instructor



NRC REPORT

The NRC executive was pleased to co-ordinate with the FIBA National Instructor Paul Dempsey in the running of the first ever Referees Trainer Education Programme. 40 people attended the module sessions.

NRC committee member Jim Dudley organised with Sport Ireland to run a tutor course over three weekends, Louise O'Toole, Ken Prendergast, Joe Keenan and Peter James Coughlan completed the Officials Developers course. It was highlighted at this course the lack of standardised syllabus for the training of basketball referees in Ireland. The NRC feel that new syllabuses from Intro to Grade 1 need to be created, so that the training of referees is greatly improved. We welcome Basketball Ireland's new 'Helpside' platform and we'll be working with them, as we seek to bring about a new digital online learning syllabus for the training of referees in Ireland, which will help address those issues.

The NRC committee aimed to run an NRC Academy for young officials and to run monthly online seminars for all referees. However, there was little initial appetite for these two initiatives from local area associations, which resulted in them never materialising, but it is something we shall be revisiting.

The NRC is looking to strengthen our relationship with local Area Associations. Over the year, the NRC dealt with several conflicts and disputes in local area associations. These issues were very time consuming and draining. Lessons can be learned from these disputes, so we can improve things for next season.

The NRC continued to be a strong voice on NLOC, when issues arose this season at National League level, the NRC members were forthcoming in their views at NLOC meetings. Referee abuse is a major issue of concern and something that needs to be tackled head on. We look forward to engaging with those in the game to ensure this is stamped out.

The NRC are in discussion with Basketball Ireland about a review of the refereeing structure, with a view to proposing a new structure, to better address issues, such as the shortage of referees, the quality of training of officials and the lack of performance assessment. It is the view of the NRC executive that significant financial investment is needed in developing officiating in Ireland, once the appropriate structures are in place, and we welcome the ongoing dialogue with Basketball Ireland. Relying on volunteers to recruit, train and assess officials will not suffice, we feel full-time or at least part-time personnel are needed to implement meaningful change.

John Houlihan, NRC Chairperson



NATIONAL AREA BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT (NABC)

National Area Boards Committee (NABC) is the committee responsible for club basketball within Basketball Ireland.

The NABC consists of one representative from each of the Area Boards across the island. All NABC meetings for the last two years have been remote meetings, but hopefully we will be back to normal next season, meeting regularly in the National Basketball Arena, or maybe even a hybrid of remote and in-person to reduce travel for some NABC Reps. It was fantastic to see basketball return to Ireland this year at all levels, due to the hard work of everyone across the basketball community, with a special thank you from the NABC to Mr. Charles Higgins and the 'Return to Play' Committee for all their hard work over the last two years.

After a delayed start to our season, which in turn delayed our National Cups due to Covid-19, we successfully ran the U18 and U20 Men's and Women's Cups. Unfortunately, due to a restricted calendar this season we were unable to get the NICC run. We apologise to the players that missed out on the event this season, but it will return in 2022/23 season. Our U20's Cups were able to be played on time to get the finals played in the normal Cup Finals weekend in January, with two fantastic games seeing UCD Marian and Waterford Wildcats coming out victorious in the men's and women's respectively.

The U18's Cups were delayed, with the qualifying tournaments starting the last weekend of January for the men's and the first weekend of February for the women's, which were hosted by clubs and Area Boards around the country. With the finals delayed, the NABC agreed to move the finals to Cork, for this year only, to mark the Inaugural Billy Coffey U18 National Cup Final. These games were played in Neptune Stadium on the 19th March with Éanna winning the Billy Coffey U18 National Cup and Limerick Celtics winning the U18 Women's National Cup.



We were delighted this year to see the return of the All-Ireland Club Championships for the first time since 2019, with almost 100 teams playing out of Gormanston over four weekends in March and April. We had teams from every Area Board from all over the island represented at Divisions 1, 2 and 3, which was a spectacle of underage basketball that everyone enjoyed. The NABC are looking at a few ideas to improve this competition even beyond where it is now.

All Area Boards across the island were back up and running this season, with most boards managing to complete all their competitions and some completing as much as possible due to the size of leagues and other factors. This was a testament to every Area Board and the hard work they do on an ongoing basis at the grassroots of the association.

The NABC would like to thank all our Area Boards for their hard work and wish all our clubs the best for the 2022/23 season. We look forward to working together with other entities in our sport over the next season and more, to keep improving the sport of basketball in Ireland.

Jason Thornton, NABC Chair





COMMISSIONERS AND TABLE OFFICIALS

The year under review for both Commissioners and Table Officials was devoted to development and growth.

Commissioners

The highlight of the year was the elevation of Ireland's first lady FIBA Commissioner – Paula Cleary. Following many years of refereeing at both national and local league level, Paula joined the Commissioners panel three years ago. She was the agreed candidate to represent Basketball Ireland when Ireland was awarded a second Commissioner position last summer. Paula joins Ireland's other Commissioner, Declan Murray.

The Commissioner panel increased for the 2021/22 Season to 26 Commissioners. The gender balance on the panel also increased to over 30%.

As is now customary all Commissioners must sit a rules test, which is set by Declan Murray in conjunction with a selection of his FIBA colleagues. All Commissioners must reach a pass mark of 80% to remain on the panel. As in previous years, all members on the panel successfully reached the required mark with quite a number reaching the 100% figure.

Table Officials

The year was also successful for Table Officials. In the summer of 2021 Ireland's FIBA Table Officials grew from 5 to 16. The successful FIBA Officials were:

Deborah McArdle, Orlaith Boylan, Carmel Kilmartin, Shauna Kavanagh and Gareth O'Reilly. They have been joined by Norma Thompson, Michelle Summersgill, Adrianne Prendergast, Amy Quirke, Amy Rooney, Paula Ryan Kavanagh, Aoife Quinn, Dan Sealy, Orla Phillips, Pelle Persson and Glenda Tunnah.



Members from this panel officiated at all internationals and Cup Finals weekend. All visiting FIBA Commissioners and Technical Representatives highly praised their performances. Going forward, all Table Officials training will be provided online. A new 'Introduction to Table Officiating Course' was developed by CTOC, in collaboration with Mark Patton, FIBA Table Official. During the 2021/22 season close on five hundred new Table Officials countrywide were trained and certified.

Courses will continue during the 2022/23 season. An 'Advanced Officials Online Course' is being developed by FIBA, which we hope will be available for delivery early in the new season. In addition, work has commenced on the development of an online course for Transition Year students.

Gerry Kelly, CTOC Secretary.





DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The Basketball Ireland Development Officer team added some new faces in the past year, with Shane Maughan joining the team in November 2021 as the Northeast Inner City Dublin Development Officer, in a partnership with Trinity College. Casey Tryon was added to the ranks in September 2021. Casey is the Community Development Officer for County Meath, a role in collaboration with Meath County Council and is supported by the Meath Local Sports Partnership. Jason Killeen has recently been appointed Mid-West Development Officer, in partnership with TUS Limerick and will start his role in June.

Meet the Team

- Ciaran O'Sullivan – Head of Development
- Mike Murray – National University of Ireland Galway
- Patrick O'Neill – Ulster University
- Erin Bracken – South Dublin County Council
- Casey Tryon – Meath County Council and Meath Sports Partnership
- Shane Maughan – Northeast Inner City and Trinity College Dublin
- Jason Killeen – Technological University of the Shannon, Mid-West Region

Despite the challenges due to the Covid-19 situation the BI Development Officers remained busy in the past year and some of the main projects are laid out below.



Jason Killeen (right) after winning the FIBA European Championship for Small Countries

Coaching Courses

In the past year, Basketball Ireland have worked hard with their Sport Ireland tutors to review and improve the 'introduction to coaching' course. It was piloted in August last year and feedback has been very positive. Work is ongoing on the level one course currently, with the new course format being piloted this summer. Thirty intro courses and five level one's have been completed in the past year, with one level two just about to be completed in the coming summer months.

Further to the introduction of the online learning management system 'Helpside', the integration of the coach licensing, continuing professional development (CPD) and increased support and learning opportunities for our tutors, it has been a busy and productive year for coach education and coaching courses.



CLUB MARK

In August 2020 Basketball Ireland launched the Basketball Ireland Club Mark award. The main purpose of the Club Mark is to help build stronger and more sustainable clubs, that adhere to best practice.

The Club Mark is a tool that helps clubs through a simple step-by-step process to achieve best practice, with BI Development Officers there to help them along the journey. Baltinglass Bulldogs had this to say about their experience through the Club Mark "It is a positive move for any club to make. It helps you to put in place the correct structures to build on for the future and it is also a great recognition for all the hard work that the committee, volunteers and coaches put in each week."

Since its inception over thirty have engaged with the Club Mark process, with twenty-six clubs awarded the Bronze Club Mark award, seven clubs awarded the Silver Club Mark award, three clubs awarded the Gold Club Mark award and Malahide BC becoming the first club to achieve the Platinum Club Mark award.



Representatives of Malahide BC collect their Platinum Club Mark award

Templeogue BC also outlined their experience "We would encourage all clubs to get involved in this process, it is a great way to ensure your club is fully compliant with Basketball Ireland. The support to complete the awards is provided by all the staff in Basketball Ireland."

Basketball Ireland has also used the Club Mark award as a way of encouraging clubs to become more inclusive to people with disabilities. All twenty-three clubs who have so far engaged with the Club Mark process will have to sign up to the Cara including people with disabilities charter, create an inclusion policy and appoint an inclusion officer within their club. This means through Club Mark; clubs have become more inclusive and have the correct structures in place to welcome people with disabilities.

Limerick Celtics BC explained why other clubs should follow in their footsteps; "Do not hesitate! The Club Mark process is so worthwhile and the clear guidance and support from Basketball Ireland mean it is achievable for any size of club. As well as the individual benefits to your club, it will help to strengthen our basketball community in Ireland".

Basketball Ireland would like to encourage more of our clubs to engage with the Club Mark process and can find more information about the Club Mark on our website or by emailing our Grants and Participating Manager Leinster Paul Carr at pcarr@ireland.basketball.



INCLUSION

During the 2021/22 season, Basketball Ireland (BI) continued to excel in the field of disability inclusion. After becoming the first NGB in the country to be awarded the Bronze Xcessible award from Cara in 2020, Basketball Ireland became the first NGB to be awarded the Silver Xcessible award in 2021.

Basketball Ireland also launched its hugely successful 'Basketball for All' campaign, which led to the foundation of ten new Basketball for All teams in Basketball Ireland mainstream clubs and one hundred and fifty new members due to the programme. Basketball Ireland continue to implement the five key areas of the Cara charter.

Openness

As well as creating the BI inclusive policy, BI has encouraged our clubs and organisations to follow suit and sign the Cara charter. Since July 2020 over seventy BI affiliated clubs have signed the Charter as well as a number of committees and area boards. BI has updated all programmes to ensure there is an inclusive element, while also ensure people with disabilities are consulted on future plans. All clubs who have been awarded BI bronze club mark award (26) have now signed the Cara charter, created an inclusion policy, and appointed an inclusion officer.

People

Every member of BI staff has now been trained by Cara on the Sport inclusion & disability awareness workshop, while our BI Development Officers have also completed the Autism in Sport workshop with Cara and the IWA introduction to coaching wheelchair basketball course. BI has also trained up several coaching and refereeing tutors, as well as running sixteen Cara workshops to 130 coaches in local clubs.

Activities

During the summer of 2021 a number of 3x3 events were held with the inclusion of wheelchair basketball. The return of the National Cup also meant the return of the IWA National Cup competition with Rebel Wheelers being crowned the 2022 champions. Ten new Basketball for All teams have been created throughout the country, with over one hundred and fifty new members participating with these teams. Éanna BC also became the first Basketball for All club to enter a Special Olympics event.

Facilities

BI has since carried out an audit of all facilities used for competitions to see how inclusive they are and what improvements they may need. BI has also designed an audit that clubs can use to survey how inclusive their facility is.





INCLUSION

Promotion

In August 2020 Basketball Ireland updated our website with the Recite.me accessible toolbar, which allows users to access our website in a number of ways, including text to speech, language converter, font changing and enlarging etc. Basketball Ireland has also updated our website to supply inclusion resources, contact details to find inclusive basketball and information on the Cara charter. Finally Basketball Ireland has put in place an inclusive communication plan, which will ensure we continually include people with disabilities on our social media channels.

BI encourages all our clubs to signed up to the Cara charter by going to the Cara website. If you wish to learn more about inclusion or how to be more inclusive, please contact our Grants and Participation Manager Paul Carr by emailing inclusion@basketballireland.ie .

Helpside

This year Basketball Ireland launched 'Helpside', its online learning platform for all technical members. Helpside includes a range of resources including:

- Interactive online eLearning courses
- 'Resource Library' - featuring videos, documents and images that can be accessed anytime
- 'Read and React' -an interactive online forum for which serves as a hub for users to engage in peer-to-peer learning, providing users of all levels of experience the space to ask questions and increase their understanding of the game.
- Coach CPD tracking
- Coach Licencing applications

The introduction of Helpside has seen Basketball Ireland adopt a blended learning strategy, that enables Basketball Ireland to deliver consistent learning, as well as reduce travel time and costs associated with traditional face-to-face training. We currently have 1,456 coaches registered on Helpside, with plans to expand to make it the one-stop shop for all technical members of the game.

You can follow the Helpside Twitter (@HelpsideLMS) for continued updates and news.





JR. NBA

The Jr. NBA returned this year, with 10 new clubs selected to represent, each club then liaised with three primary schools. All the clubs and schools that took part in the programme have the same goal for the Jr. NBA league – to give young players a fun, and attention grabbing, introduction to the sport. This is a great non-competitive way for schools to start their journey in basketball and over the first two years of the league we have reached over two thousand new players.

The 10 clubs selected were – Malahide BC, Kilrush BC, Dynamites BC, Bantry BC, North Kildare BC, Tipperary Knights BC, Ulster University Tigers BC, Multy Lakers BC, Longford Phoenix BC, Baltinglass Bulldogs BC.

The clubs have all done a fantastic job at running their cluster events and providing skills sessions for the schools throughout the months of April and May. During this time, between 1500 and 2000 children have taken part.

DeCare Dental continued their sponsorship of the programme, for the third year. Speaking on the partnership, Sinead Joyce from DeCare Dental said: “DeCare are delighted to continue our partnership with Basketball Ireland and the Jr. NBA. This collaboration is a meaningful way to support the values of sport, such as basketball, instil in children for life.”

Each year, there is a Jr. NBA festival which takes place in the National Basketball Arena, where the 30 Jr. NBA teams travel along with their coaches, teachers, and volunteers. This year we welcomed 450 children, the highest number to date, to finish off an extremely successful Jr. NBA season. On the day, the participants got to do various skills sessions, play games against other Jr. NBA teams, be exposed to 3x3, learn about oral health from DeCare Dental and get media and interview experience.

It was a fun-filled day which was topped off by a visit from some special guests. We were joined by guest coaches and senior international players on the day, Sorchá Tiernan, Jordan Blount and Áine O'Connor, along with professional basketball players Joshua Wilson and Conroy Baltimore.



We were lucky to be joined by Adrian Carrion from the Basketball Operations department in the NBA, along with this year's NBA ambassador, Marko Milic. Marko has played for the Philadelphia 76ers and the Phoenix Suns, as well as playing for many teams in Europe such as Real Madrid and Fenerbache. He has also represented his country Slovenia on many occasions, which is he now involved with as the team manager. Having someone like Marko attend the Jr. NBA festival and spend time interacting with the children and sharing his experiences of playing basketball was very inspiring.





Erin Bracken Jr. NBA League Manager said: This was my first year involved with the Jr. NBA and I am delighted at how well it was received by clubs and schools. The children were a credit to their schools, bringing such enthusiasm throughout the programme and on the final day. The coaches and teachers were fantastic, providing the children with plenty of opportunities throughout to have fun, develop new skills, make new friends and lasting memories. I would like to thank all guest coaches, teachers and volunteers for giving up their time. I would also like to thank our sponsors, DeCare Dental, for their continued support and Adrian in the Jr. NBA for making this possible for the Irish Basketball Community. I hope Jr. NBA 2023 will be just as fun and successful.

Erin Bracken, South Dublin Development Officer and Jr. NBA League Manager



MASTERS

Masters basketball has gone from strength-to-strength this year in Ireland and with Basketball Ireland launching the very successful Masters National Cup, things are looking very good indeed for Irish Masters basketball.

There are three national masters' tournaments located in Galway, Dublin and Kilkenny. Between the three they cater for a total of 118 teams, 75+ referees, and 80+ table officials. The age groups for the competitions are O40, O50, and O60 and include all genders.

The teams competing travel from all over Europe and the world and teams to date have included a host of ex-NBA and professional European players. These tournaments have proven to be hugely important to the local economies and have been sponsored by Bord Failte and city councils to name a few. Irish club teams regularly travel throughout Europe competing in tournaments and always compete at a high level.

Masters basketball enjoys a large recreational following in Ireland, with pick up sessions happening regularly throughout the country, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle and enabling social interaction in our community.

The InsureMyHouse.ie Masters National Cup was launched this year and had a total of 46 teams involved at men's O40's and O50's and women's O40's. The finals were held in the National Basketball Arena in April, in what was an extremely successful weekend of basketball.

Winners



O40's Men - Dublin Vikings.

MASTERS



O50's Men – Dublin Lions



O40's Women – Midlands Masters

Another great addition to the masters programme is the ability of our players to compete at representative international level in FIMBA Maxi basketball tournaments. Thanks to the vision of the Elite Performance Committee (EPC) our masters players can extend their international competitive careers and gain international caps in the process.

This year we have three teams competing in the FIMBA European Masters Tournament in Malaga in June and July.

Those squads are the over-55 women coached by Debbie Flynn, Colette Boylan and Ann-Marie Lenihan. Ireland 'A' led by Owen O'Brien, Adrian Payne and Liam Lavelle and Ireland 'B', who'll have a management team of Deryck Payne, Eddie Guilmartin and Brendan Burke respectively.

Mike Murray, Basketball Ireland Masters National Cup Administrator & Regional Development Officer



FIBA HER WORLD HER RULES PROJECT

Basketball Ireland continued the FIBA Her World Her Rules project in 2021/2022.

The 'Her World, Her Rules' (HWHR) campaign is FIBA's most recognized initiative in women's basketball. As part of FIBA's commitment to further develop the game of basketball for women and girls, FIBA has made Women in Basketball a key focus of their strategic priorities for 2019–2023. The campaign aids National Federations, as we strive to create awareness and to develop basketball for girls and women in their respective countries.

Basketball Ireland are delighted to be part of the FIBA Her World Her Rules project and engaged over 350 girls from August to December 2021 and over 393 girls from Jan–May 2022. The programme is aimed at girls in primary and secondary school education (aged 6–15) not participating in regulated basketball.



As part of our promotion of FIBA Women's EuroBasket 2023 Qualifiers in November, we visited multiple primary schools, as well as inviting a local club to come and practice on the FIBA EuroBasket court, followed by meeting the Irish senior Women's team pictured above.

Other activities included our 'Her World Her Rules' Skills day which took place on Wednesday 9th March as part of Women in Sport Week 2022. We invited 186 girls from 8–12 years to take part in the session as part of our active participation day.

The girls got to try new skills, with stations being led by both senior and underage international players, as well as have a Q&A with some of our top international players. We also worked with Waterford Wildcats to run a 6-week programme, in conjunction with Waterford Sports Partnership and the local Mercy Primary School. Irish international underage star and MissQuote.ie Super League young player of the year, Sarah Hickey, was a programme ambassador, alongside American Rachel Thompson (WIT Waterford Wildcats Super League player), Kate Hickey (WIT Waterford Wildcats and underage international) as well as Jillian Hayes (Waterford Wildcats coach and Assistant coach to the Ireland senior women's squad) were all ambassadors and coaches on the programme.

The programme was aimed at 5th and 6th class girls, aged between 10–12 years old with 162 girls taking part over the six weeks.



SOCIA-BALL

Basketball Ireland also launched its SOCIA-Ball programme in October 2021, following a pilot project run in conjunction with Meath LSP and other venues in South Dublin over the summer 2021.

SOCIA-Ball is Basketball Ireland's Women in Sport programme, designed to to re-engage women and girls in our sport using a recreational, non-competitive model, with a focus on fun and social outlet.

Basketball Ireland wrapped up #WISWeek2022 with our first ever #SOCIABALL day in the National Basketball Arena. SOCIA-Ball is a recreational programme aimed at women aged 18+ who wish to play in a non-competitive environment. SOCIA-Ball is part of our #WomenInSportIre programme, supported by Sport Ireland and to date we have had over 400 women engage in the programme across 27 sites.

All these venues can be found via our website.

Louise O'Loughlin – Women in Sport Lead



SAFEGUARDING

This year saw the roll out of Sport Ireland's new Online Safeguarding Audit Framework. Details have been circulated to all the clubs and the interaction by the clubs has been huge. Basketball Ireland would like to say a big thank you to all the clubs for their involvement in the process.

The audit framework will be an ongoing process and should be revisited periodically to review and update where required.

Going forward, Sport Ireland and Basketball Ireland will review the data given by the clubs and analyse, then get in touch with the clubs to assist them on where they might see shortcomings and/or issues.

Garda Vetting

In July 2021, Basketball Ireland reduced its vetting policy to a three-year cycle, down from five. This is in line with government advice, and it ties in with our safeguarding courses and coach licence cycles of three years also.

The return to basketball last summer, vetting of Basketball Ireland members, either new or for re-vetting, went up several notches. We saw a huge rise in numbers from August 2021 and that trend continued right through the season.

*Total vetted in 2021/22 to date = 1,487 (1,276 of these since Aug. '21 = 86%)

*Note: All Basketball Ireland staff are vetted in line with our policy. This policy can be accessed on our website

Rory Wall, BI National Children's Officer & Compliance Officer.

HALL OF FAME

2020 inductees Michelle Aspell, Caroline Forde, Noel Keating and Tom Wilkinson were inducted into the Basketball Ireland Hall of Fame at delayed ceremony in May 2022.



They joined the previous 12 Basketball Ireland Hall of Fame members – Fr. Joe Horan, Harry Boland, Tom Collins, Liam McGinn, Danny O'Connor, Paul Meany, Siobhan Caffrey, Danny Fulton, Liam McHale, Susan Moran, Paudie O'Connor and Kelvin Troy.

Annual Awards

A selection of winners from our annual awards night which was held in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoighaire in May.





**Basketball
Ireland**

