



**Basketball
Ireland**

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/26





Pictured: Teams and fans stand for the Irish national anthem at the National Basketball Arena ahead of Ireland's FIBA EuroBasket 2029 Pre-Qualifier against Azerbaijan.

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**IT'S
EVERYONE'S
GAME**
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Board of Directors



Seamas Donnelly is Professor and Head of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin. He coaches at Meteors Basketball Club and was named underage Women's Coach of the Year at the Basketball Ireland Annual Awards in 2023. He has coached at national, provincial and club level over recent years.

He previously played national league basketball with Galway Democrats and with North Mon in the Cork Leagues. He has served previously on the Board of Basketball Ireland and currently serves as Chairperson of the Hall of Fame Committee and as medical advisor to Basketball Ireland.

PJ Reidy served two terms as President of Basketball Ireland, from 2020 to 2024, succeeding Theresa Walsh in the role. Previously Mr. Reidy was ingrained in administration of Schools' basketball, serving as Secretary of the Post Primary Schools Committee (PPSC) as well as various other roles within the sport in Ireland down through the years.

In 2023, Reidy was appointed to the FIBA Europe Technical Commission. The remit of the Commission was to be 'Competent for all matters concerning the interpretation and application of the Official Basketball Rules and the state of the game around the world.'



Bill McCotter is an SME owner and director operating in the retail and commercial property sectors. Specialising in the set up of international fashion brands in the UK and Irish retail markets Bill has provided consulting on planning, distribution, marketing and financing for route to market.

Bill is a founding member of Belfast Star in 1964 with 60 years of experience in various roles within the Irish basketball community. Having played, coached and served as an administrator in various committees most recently as a member of the NLC, Bill has extensive knowledge of basketball in Ireland at all levels. He is currently president of Belfast Star and director of an independent fashion agency.

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.



Michael Ryan 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 is 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.

Commercially focussed founder, CEO and entrepreneur. Dr. Brendan O'Brien has founded and scaled three Irish startups 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 and new business models. Active in multiple sports and previously represented Ireland at World and European level in Orienteering and 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 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.

Susan Johnston 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.



She 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.



Nuala Walsh is a global advisor, non-executive director, and behavioural scientist with three decades in global investment management.

She is CEO at MindEquity Consulting, Advisor at World Athletics, and Deputy Chair at The Football Association's Inclusion Board. Other appointments include Founding Director, Global Association of Behavioural Scientists; President of Harvard Club of Ireland; Trustee at The Innocence Project; and advisor at JDH executive search.

Recognized among the Top 100 Most Influential Women in Finance, former positions include Vice-Chair, UN Women (UK), and Chief Marketing Officer at Standard Life Aberdeen. She has led many high-profile sports campaigns in tennis, rugby, golf, and motor



**Basketball
Ireland**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Prof. Seamas Donnelly



We can reflect positively on the last 12 months at Basketball Ireland, both on and off the court. Our international programme continues to thrive, our 3x3 senior men's team made history by qualifying for the FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup, which was a huge feat.

It's a format of the game with huge potential for our Irish international sides and I'd like to commend the work being done by our Senior Technical Officer Matt Hall and our Head of Development Ciaran O'Sullivan in driving that forward from a high-performance and development point of view.

Our senior men's team is now led by Michael Bree and I am excited about what can be achieved by him and his staff,

as they build on their win over Luxembourg in March. Feeding into this will be our underage and academy programmes and our U16, U18 and U20 teams picked up several positive results at the 2025 FIBA Youth EuroBasket. Both U20's sides finished seventh and I look forward to seeing some of those players progress into the senior ranks. Our senior women's team picked up two wins in FIBA Women's EuroBasket 2027 Qualifiers and remained in contention to qualify for the next stage right up the final round of games, so huge credit must go to head coach James Weldon, his staff and the players.

The Israel fixtures for our senior women's team did provide a challenge, prompting additional attention on the organisation, but robust planning and clear communications minimised any negative sentiment around the fixtures. I'd like to commend Nathaniel Cope and Robbie Fahy in our Media and Communications team, and Christine Connolly, our Head of International and Schools Operations, for helping manage the situation. Huge credit must also go to the coaches, players and staff on how they handled those games in such a professional manner.

Good governance is a central

pillar to our organisation and as such a huge body of work has gone into drafting the proposed new Basketball Ireland Constitution, which would bring us into line with Sport Ireland best practice and legal compliance.

This constitution will provide robust foundations for the sport. I'd like to thank John Feehan for his diligence in bringing this together, as well as our stakeholders throughout basketball for their input and feedback in the process.

"Huge credit must also go to James Weldon, his coaching staff, players and staff on how they handled those games in such a professional manner."

Seamas Donnelly
Chairperson of Basketball
Ireland Board

We continue to build a strong commercial programme under Gus Lewis and bringing in a globally recognised brand like Mercedes as our 'Official Vehicle Partner' is an illustration of the standing of basketball here in Ireland. We also welcomed Louis Fitzgerald Hotel and Britvic Ireland into our portfolio of partners. This is in addition to existing strong partnerships in place with the likes of Domino's as title sponsors of our Men's and Women's Super League and Division One and AIG as our Club and Community Partners.

Acknowledgement from our peers is also hugely important and I was delighted to see Basketball Ireland being

shortlisted for 'Best Use of Communications Platforms in Sport & Physical Activity' at the Irish Sport Industry Awards for our podcast series 'Spotlight Her'. Well done to those responsible for bringing the podcast to fruition, including Louise O'Loughlin, Paul Carr and of course Orla Keeling, the podcast host.

I'd like to congratulate our President Margaret Miley on the completion of her two-year term and acknowledge all the work she's done in the role.

Bill McCotter's term on the Basketball Ireland Board has concluded and his insight and expertise will be missed, I'd like to thank him for his ongoing

service to the sport. Finally, on behalf the Board I would like to thank CEO John Feehan and the Basketball Ireland staff for their tireless work over the last year and extend my gratitude to the committees, volunteers, officials, coaches and players who dedicate so much time to our sport.

Prof. Seamas Donnelly
Chairperson of Basketball
Ireland Board



Pictured: Aisling Moran (left) and Hazel Finn (right) celebrate following Trinity Meteors win in the Domino's Women's Super League Final at the National Basketball Arena.



CEO REPORT

John Feehan

It's been a really positive year for Basketball Ireland, with huge strides in governance, commercial, broadcast, visibility, and participation.

Good governance is crucial and I am delighted that we are bringing forward a proposed new Basketball Ireland Constitution at our 2026 AGM. There has been significant consultation with key stakeholders in the sport and this new constitution strengthens transparency, improves clarity around roles and responsibilities and ensures that we meet Sport Ireland governance standards and general legal compliance.

We were delighted to extend our ongoing partnership with TG4, which began in 2014. The new two-year deal saw 14 games broadcast live on the station during the 2025/26 season, in addition to July friendlies against Norway for our men's and women's teams, while the station also broadcast Ireland historic first participation in FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup last September.

Our senior men's 3x3 team were rightly shortlisted for the 'Team of the Year Award' at the Olympics Sports Awards for their achievement in reach-

ing those FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup finals in Copenhagen, having won their qualifying event in Kosovo and huge credit must go to head coach Darren McGovern and the players. 3x3 is a fast growing area of the game and we were delighted to bring Forefront Group on board in March 2026, to support the delivery, event management and marketing promotion of our 3x3 events across Ireland. At the elite level, I'd like to thank Sport Ireland and the Government for their support in continuing to support our 3x3 programme through Sport Ireland's Performance Development Programme Funding, which allows us to fund our senior men's and women's teams, while I'm delighted to see that there will be Irish teams competing in the FIBA 3x3 Nations League at U23 and U21 level once more in the summer of 2026. 3x3 is a realistic route to the Olympics for Basketball Ireland and all these steps will help us to try and achieve that target.

Internationally we welcomed a new Ireland senior men's head coach Michael Bree, while at Masters level there was silver medal success for the Irish F45 team and bronze for the Ireland F40's at the FIMBA World Maxibasketball Championship in Ticino, while at FIBA Youth



Pictured: Jordan Blount in action for Ireland against Latvia during the FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup in Copenhagen in September 2025.

EuroBasket level our U20 men's and U20 women's teams both finished 7th in their tournaments, which is hugely encouraging for the future.

Visibility of our aforementioned on-court achievements has been successfully delivered by our Media and Communications team. Last year saw 145.5% rise in views on Facebook, while on Instagram there was a 64.5% increase, along with 7.1% growth on TikTok – these three channels delivered 46.5 million views and illustrates the importance of delivering visibility of the sport through our own channels.

Another major coup was our content series 'Spotlight Her', in collaboration with The Sideline Live, being shortlisted for 'Best Use of Communications Platforms in Sport & Physical Activity' at the 2026 Irish Sport Industry Awards, which take place on May 19th. This follows on from our SOCIA-Ball winning 'Best Initiative to Promote Women in Sport & Physical Activity' at the 2025 Irish Sport Industry Awards.

Participation remains robust, with a 50/50 gender balance among our registered membership, while inclusive programmes such as Basketball For All and SOCIA-Ball have helped drive new membership and engagement in the sport.

Our Development Officers do superb work on the ground in every corner of Ireland delivering programmes, a real success story is the relaunch of the Primary Schools Mini Basketball in 2024/25. We now have over 20,000 primary school students from almost 600 schools participating in the programme.

This is backed up by huge numbers at secondary level, with almost 49,000 players competing and it should be noted that almost 11,000 of those post-primary players are also actively involved in club basketball.

Commercially, our National League partners Domino's have really helped elevate our Domino's Men's and Women's Super League and Division One, along with the National Cup. We also welcomed Mercedes Benz as our official vehicle partner, having such a world-renowned brand associated with our sport is further illustration of where the sport is going. We also announced Louis Fitzgerald as our 'Official Hotel Partner', while Britvic Ireland came on board as 'Official Soft Drinks Supplier' to the National Basketball Arena.

Overall we can be proud of the strides the organisation

continues to make and I would like to thank the Board for their unwavering support and to the Basketball Ireland staff for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to commend our various committees, officials, our club members, coaches and volunteers for all their trojan efforts in bringing this vibrant sport to life day-to-day and I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

John Feehan
Basketball Ireland CEO

Pictured: Ireland senior men's captain Sean Flood at the launch of Basketball Ireland's partnership with Mercedes-Benz.





Pictured: U20 Women's National Cup Semi Final, GCU Arena, Cork, Templeogue's Eabha Booth and Orla O'Mahony of Tralee Magic.

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Margaret Miley

Holding the role of 26th President of Basketball Ireland for the past two years has been a privilege and I am hopeful of continuing that honour for a second term. The enjoyment from representing our organisation across various events from senior international games, right through to grassroots level, will never dissipate and I'd like to that everyone in the basketball community for the continued passion and enthusiasm you show for the sport.

My special thanks go to the professional staff and players, coaches and volunteers across the island who are working hard to continuously grow the sport we all love.

It's been another year of progress for our international teams. A special mention must go to all those involved in the 3x3 programme, as our senior men's team qualified for the FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup for the first time and the senior women's team continue to display improvement during their FIBA 3x3 Women's World Series journey. At underage level, the notable performances from the U23 sides in FIBA 3x3 Nations League was also encouraging and I look forward to seeing that progression continue this summer.

My congratulations go to our senior women's 5v5 team on breaking new ground in FIBA Women's EuroBasket Qualifying. James Weldon, his staff and all the players selected should be proud of their wins against a highly ranked team such as Bosnia & Herzegovina, with emphasis on picking up a first win away from home in Bosnia earlier this year. These programme defining moments do a lot to inspire the next generation of players.

I am continuing to enjoy the evolving atmosphere at the National Basketball Arena for our home internationals. The win over Luxembourg in March was a particular highlight and my congratulations go to head coach Michael

Bree, along with best wishes for the upcoming qualifiers against North Macedonia and Azerbaijan in July.

At grassroots level, the AIG All-Ireland Club Championships continue to go from strength-to-strength. That progress is mirrored in the National League and National Cup at senior and underage level. The 2025/26 season was another fantastic year of growth on and off the court and I am sure that domestic basketball will continue to developing in the right direction.

Pictured: President of Basketball Ireland Margaret Miley (right) presents the MVP award of the Domino's Men's Super League Final to Adrian O'Sullivan of Ballincollig BC



The Ireland senior women's team, lead by captain Edel Thornton (pictured) created history, beating Bosnia & Herzegovina – ranked 29th in the FIBA World Rankings – home and away in FIBA Women's EuroBasket Qualifying.



FinARC REPORT

Michael Ryan

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.

The members of FinARC in 2025 were Michael Ryan (Chair), Dolores Geaney, Brendan O'Brien and Adrian O'Neill.

In 2025, FinARC had six meetings with work ongoing between meetings as well. The meetings attended/held were Michael Ryan (Chair, 6/6), Dolores Geaney (6/6), Brendan O'Brien (5/6) and Adrian O'Neill (5/6).

Meetings of FinARC were also attended when required by relevant members of the Board of Basketball Ireland and of the Basketball Ireland executive and staff.

Matters that were addressed by FinARC in 2025 included:

Ongoing review of the finances of Basketball Ireland and its performance compared to budget. Review of proposed budget for

the forthcoming year and submission to be made to Sport Ireland in this regard. Ongoing work in relation to Basketball Ireland Risk Register and the Governance Compliance register and review of the processes adopted by Basketball Ireland in relation to these areas of risk.

Sport Ireland now require National Governing Bodies to submit a confirmation on their level of compliance with Sport Ireland guidance on governance and FinARC oversaw the submissions made in relation to this. FinARC also oversaw the opening of new bank accounts and planned capital expenditure projects.

The committee also reviewed the Child Protection procedures that Basketball Ireland currently has in place and engaged with the Basketball Ireland Compliance Officer in this regard.

The Committee reviewed the scope of the Annual Audit with the External Auditors and engaged with the auditors in advance of the audit. The committee met with the auditors following the conclusion of their audit work and examined the outcome of the external audit and the reports of the External Auditors. FinARC also reviewed the risks that the auditors identified and reported to the Basketball Ireland Board on these matters.

Following updated guidance from the Revenue Commissioners, FinARC oversaw the review by Basketball Ireland of its engagement with external suppliers, which resulted in certain potential exposures being identified.

FinARC examined and reviewed the Mid-Term Financial Report of the CFO. It reviewed the submissions in relation to Basketball Ireland's core grants as well as the revised budgets when details of actual grant funding became available. It continued to review the ongoing 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 Basketball Ireland Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

ALECIA MCSWEENEY

Basketball Ireland / Arena Consolidated (Combined) View

Income & Expenditure

	2025 Actual Audited	2024 Actual Audited
Sport Ireland Core Grant	€930,000	€900,000
Sport Ireland Women-in-Sport Grant	€83,891	€63,908
Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Fund Grants	€202,146	€290,332
Sport Ireland Resilience/ Recovery & Energy Grants	€0	€20,000
Sport Ireland Elite 3x3 Grants	€238,440	€226,009
FIBA EuroBasket Men & Women	€113,179	€120,075
International & Academies Programmes income	€335,543	€248,466
FIBA Europe Grants	€110,194	€121,967
Other Grants/ NEIC/ FIBA Projects Grants	€85,914	€86,150
Camp income	€234,749	€229,235
Total Sponsorship Income	€362,953	€338,969
Capital Grants Amortisation	€14,250	€14,250
Competitions/ Club Insurance + National Finals Gate Income	€611,970	€610,092
Registrations income	€574,964	€564,745
Courses income	€78,146	€72,127
Referees Equalisation Fees	€249,011	€213,949
National Draw Income		€57,770
Arena Income (excl. Shop Sales)	€320,952	€233,788
Arena Shop Sales	€108,238	€105,692
Total Income	€4,654,540	€4,517,524
Total Cost of Sales + Overhead Expenditure	€4,752,206	€4,705,555
KEY PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT LINE (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(€97,666)	(€188,031)

Basketball Ireland / Arena Consolidated (Combined) View

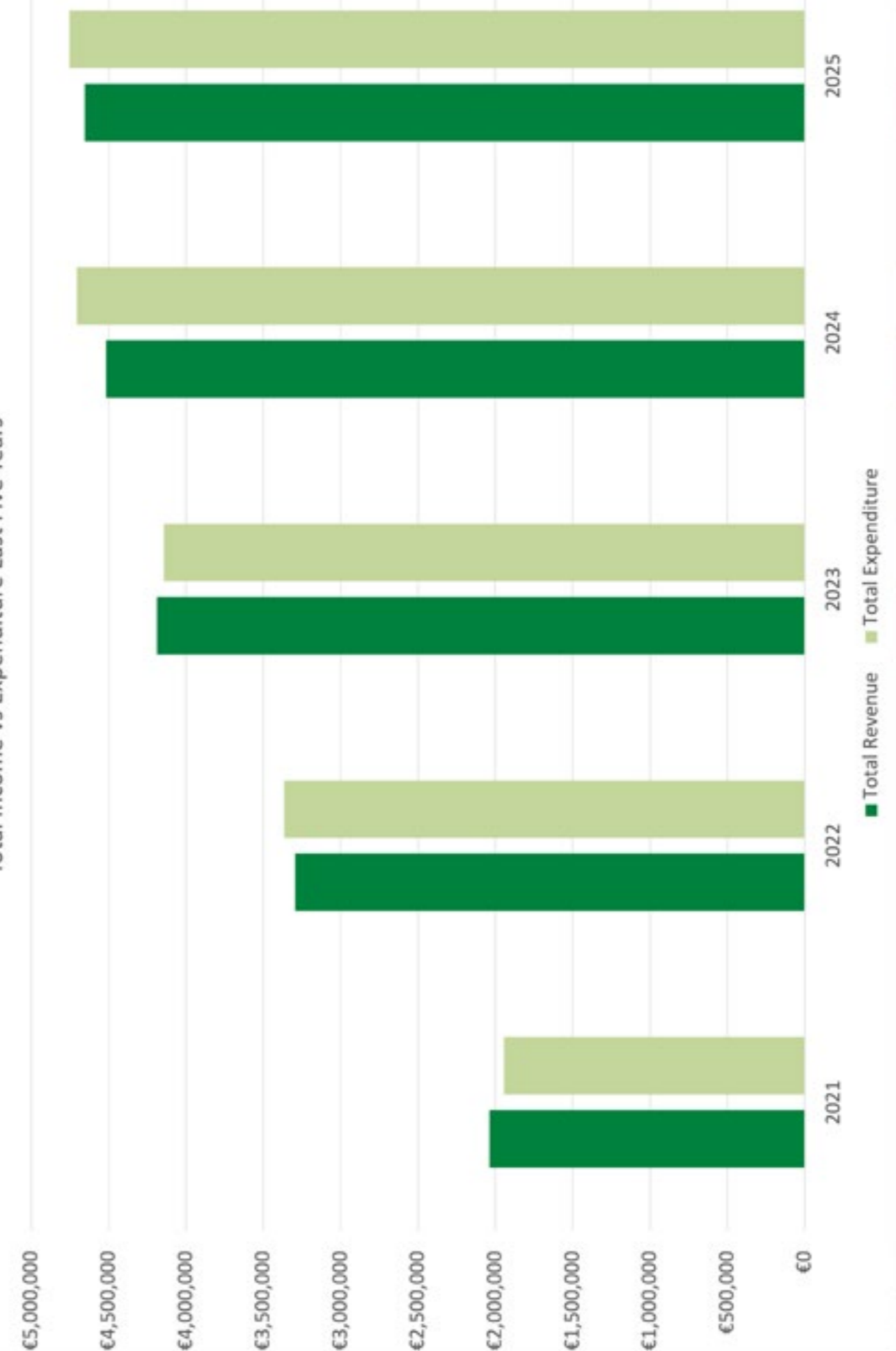
Cash Flows 2023 - 2024

	2025 Actual Audited	2024 Actual Audited
(Bank Current Accounts)		
Opening Consolidated Bank Current A/cs	€528,527	€865,711
Consolidated Surplus/ (Deficit) for Year	(€97,666)	(€188,031)
Add : Depreciation Charge	€124,797	€125,281
Less: Capital Grant Amortisation	(€75,570)	(€74,458)
Working Capital Movement for Year	€234,976	(€179,725)
Capital Repayments - All Loans	(€21,692)	(€16,284)
Capital Expenditure (net of Grants Rec'd)	(€25,322)	(€3,967)
Closing Consolidated Bank Current A/cs	€668,050	€528,527

Consolidated Balance Sheets

	2025 Actual Audited	2024 Actual Audited
Fixed Assets	€2,287,300	€2,346,512
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	(€264,171)	(€217,455)
Bank of Ireland Term Loan	(€47,649)	(€69,341)
Long-term Deferred Capital Grants	(€240,042)	(€225,615)
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	€1,735,438	€1,833,104
Represented by		
Capital and Reserves	€1,735,438	€1,833,104

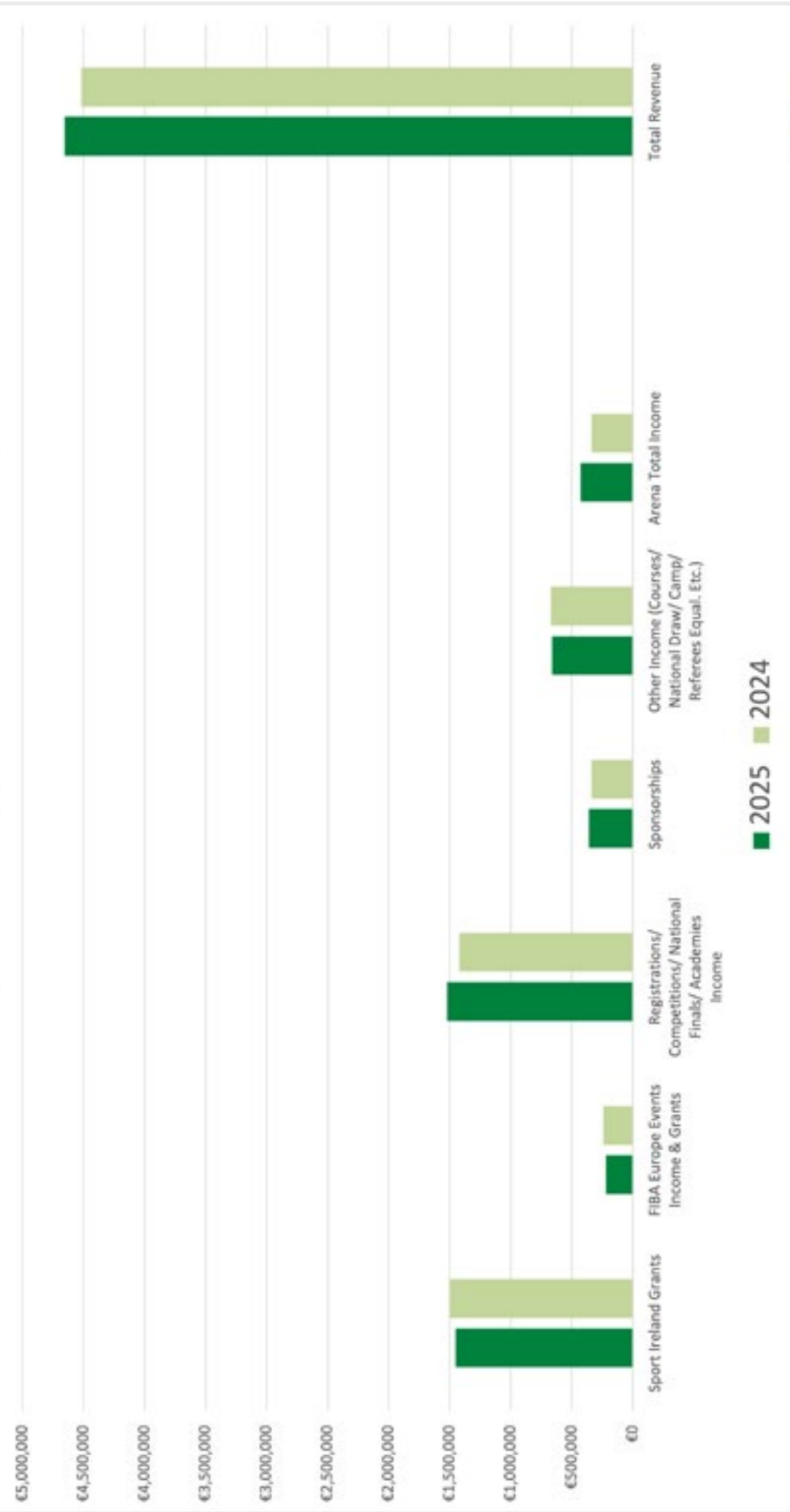
Total Income vs Expenditure Last Five Years



Surplus vs Deficit for year 2021-2025



Basketball Ireland Revenue Split 2025 vs 2024



MEMBERSHIP

DARYL LAMBE

The 2025/26 season saw Basketball Ireland bring Sport80 on board to provide a first-in-class registrations and licensing system for our members.

The Sport80 platform will ensure our stakeholders registrations process will become as streamlined as possible, while also taking us as the federation and our clubs another step forward when it comes to digitising our game. There is so much more to come from using the system and with additional educational and 'how to' guides coming in time for the 2026/27 season. I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together.

The total number of members currently stands at 43,608 individuals. This is inclusive of all membership types including, players, referees, coaches, table officials, as well as Socia-Ball members.

Basketball Ireland prides itself on having an 50/50 gender split among its membership. The continued growth and development of women

in sport initiatives, such as SOCIA-Ball are key to this great statistic.

Basketball Ireland has continued to grow the sport, the introduction of some new membership categories such as SOCIA-Ball, Men's Social, 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 Basketball Ireland membership with their extremely dedicated work in their local communities.

I look forward to working with you all again for the upcoming season, long may our sport continue to grow and flourish.

Daryl Lambe
Basketball Ireland Registration, Clubs and Community Officer



43,608
Basketball Ireland
Membership.

50/50
Gender split amongst
Basketball Ireland
membership.



Ireland international Taiwo Badmus shoots during the final of FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup Qualifying against Cyprus in Kosovo, a game Ireland won 21-19 to book their ticket to the FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup for the first time.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL

NATHANIEL COPE

It was another positive year for Basketball Ireland with continued growth in reach and visibility, highlighted by a new two-year agreement with TG4, which saw 14 games broadcast live on the station during the 2025/26 season, which is a seven-fold increase compared to four years ago.




TG4 has been broadcasting Irish basketball since 2014, but the relationship has never been stronger and we continue to work with them to showcase the sport further, illustrated by the station broadcasting men's and women's international friendlies with Norway last July, along with the FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup in September, as Ireland's men's team made

history by competing in the finals for the first time.

Along with linear TV, BITV offers a superb showcase for Irish domestic basketball, week-in and week-out. There were 108,000 unique users on the platform in 2025/26, which represents a 15% annual increase and almost 90,000 hours of content consumed on BITV, illustrating the appetite for the game. Financial supports for commentary equipment saw 28% of games on BITV have commentary and praise should go to our National League clubs, who have stepped up their efforts to elevate the viewing experience. Production quality and connectivity has improved at venues and Basketball Ireland and Joymo look forward to working with clubs to improve standards further.

Our social media channels are an important platform to showcase basketball at all levels and there has been a huge increase in views. There was a significant 145.5% rise on Facebook, a 64.5% jump on Instagram and a 7.1% increase on TikTok, with 46.5 million views on those three channels in the last year, along with incremental rises on X and YouTube. These numbers are testament to the hard work of Robbie Fahy, our Digital Media Manager and Luke Faughnan our Media and Communications Assistant.

Growth in views of Basketball Ireland's Social Media Channels

Platform	Percentage Increase
 Facebook	145%
 Instagram	64.5%
 Tik Tok	7.1%



Pictured: Players from St. Vincent's BC and Killester in action at the IWA In Clontarf during the Domino's Men's Super League Playoffs.

We continue to digitise the sport in Ireland and there was a 9.4% increase in sessions on NBN23's Swish All Hoops app to almost 550,000, with over 16,000 active users on the app. Our digital scoresheets at National League level mean that from 2026/27 RTE Sport Online will showcase Domino's Super League and Domino's Division One fixtures, results and tables for the first time. Growing the numbers of digitised games at grassroots, Area Boards and Schools level is crucial to the progress of the sport and InGame training on Basketball Ireland's Learning Management System 'Helpside' has seen 327 people enrolled on the course in 2025/26, with 103 completing it so far.

AI will form a key part in the evolution of the organisation, offering a huge opportunity for operational efficiencies. To ensure that the benefits of the technology are maximised, while also being keenly aware of the risks and limitations, a new AI Policy for Basketball Ireland has been drafted and subsequently approved by the Board of Basketball Ireland. The new AI Policy will apply to all involved in the sport, from Basketball

Ireland staff, to the Board, freelance contractors, volunteers and committee members. This will help ensure good governance when it comes to embracing an evolving technology.

FIBA Women's EuroBasket fixtures with Israel did raise communications challenges, however these were managed with clear public messaging, along with internal communications guidance to staff, players and coaches. Coverage of the sport overall is rising, with increasing numbers of media outlets at our internationals and major events, such as the National League season launches and Domino's National Cup Finals media day.

Overall there continues to be tangible progress in the areas of Media, Communications and Digital and there are real opportunities for continued growth in the upcoming year.

Nathaniel Cope
Head of Media, Communications & Digital

Our content series 'Spotlight Her', in collaboration with The Sideline Live, was shortlisted for 'Best Use of Communications Platforms in Sport & Physical Activity' at the 2026 Irish Sport Industry Awards.

The series focused on the journey of seven Irish female players to the highest level of college basketball in the United States and I'd like to commend podcast host Orla Keeling, along with Louise O'Loughlin, Paul Carr and Robbie Fahy for their endeavours in bringing this excellent series to light.



Pictured above: Irish international Grace Prenter was one of the participants of the 'Spotlight Her' series during her first season at the University of Texas.



COMMERCIAL & BRAND

GUS LEWIS

The 2025/26 season marked a continued step forward in the progression of Basketball Ireland's commercial programme, with a clear focus on building a premium and sustainable partnership portfolio.

Central to this progress has been the addition of several high-quality partners across key aspects of our organisational needs. The announcement of Mercedes-Benz as the Official Vehicle Partner of Basketball Ireland represented a significant agreement, aligning Irish basketball with a globally recognised brand. The partnership is another strong endorsement of the direction of basketball in Ireland and the growing confidence in the commercial potential of the sport.

Supporting our international teams and the wider basketball community, we were pleased to also welcome the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel as our Official Hotel Partner. The collaboration has provided valuable supports for clubs and fans as they make their way to the National Basketball Arena for our international games and domestic finals. Fan engagement has also been a key element of this partnership, with the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel half-time half-court shot becoming a popular in-game activation across the season, adding an extra layer of excitement to the gameday experience.

Within the National Basketball Arena, the fan and event experience has been further strengthened through a new

partnership with Britvic Ireland. As Official Soft Drinks Supplier to the Arena, Britvic brings an extensive portfolio of leading brands, including Pepsi and 7UP, into the Arena environment, while Ballygowan's role as Official Water Partner to our international teams provides vital support to player performance and wellbeing.

Our existing partners have also continued to play a vital role in driving the game forward. The rollout of new Nike home and away international kits provided a fresh visual identity for our teams, combining high-performance design with a distinctive look that reflects the modern game. Delivered in partnership with KitKing and retailed through Intersport Elverys, the launch has strengthened

Trinity Meteors celebrate capturing the Domino's Women's Super League title for the first time in more than three decades in April.



both our on-court presence and our connection with supporters.

Domino's Pizza has continued to play a central role within our commercial programme, building on its position as title partner of the Men's and Women's Super League and Division One. Over the course of the season, Domino's has brought significant energy, visibility, and creativity to the game, enhancing key competitions through strong branding, promotional activity, and fan-first activations. This year marked Domino's first integration into the National Cup, further extending its impact across the basketball calendar, while its presence at the League Finals helped

elevate the overall event experience through increased production, merchandise, and engagement.

Similarly, AIG has maintained its strong engagement across the basketball community, continuing to support clubs nationwide and reinforcing its presence at the AIG All-Ireland Club Championships. This partnership remains a cornerstone of our Club and Community pillar, helping to highlight the depth and reach of the game across Ireland. We also acknowledge the consistent and valued contribution of partners Molten, Gotham Drywall, OMW Supplies, and C11 Recovery, whose support underpins many aspects of the sport's

Irish international's Hazel Finn and Sean Flood pictured at the announcement of Basketball Ireland's partnership with Mercedes Benz as Official Vehicle Partner.



delivery across all levels

Alongside partnership growth, we have continued to invest in the development of the game itself. A key initiative has been the expansion of our 3x3 programme, with the appointment of ForeFront Group to deliver a structured domestic circuit. This new series, featuring multiple events across Ireland and culminating in a Grand Final at the National Basketball Arena, represents an important step in capitalising on one of the fastest-growing formats in global basketball.

Approach to Commercial Growth & Fan Engagement



Create meaningful, long-term relationships with partners.



Deliver tangible value both on and off the court.



Enhance our gameday experience by engagement with fans, players and partners.



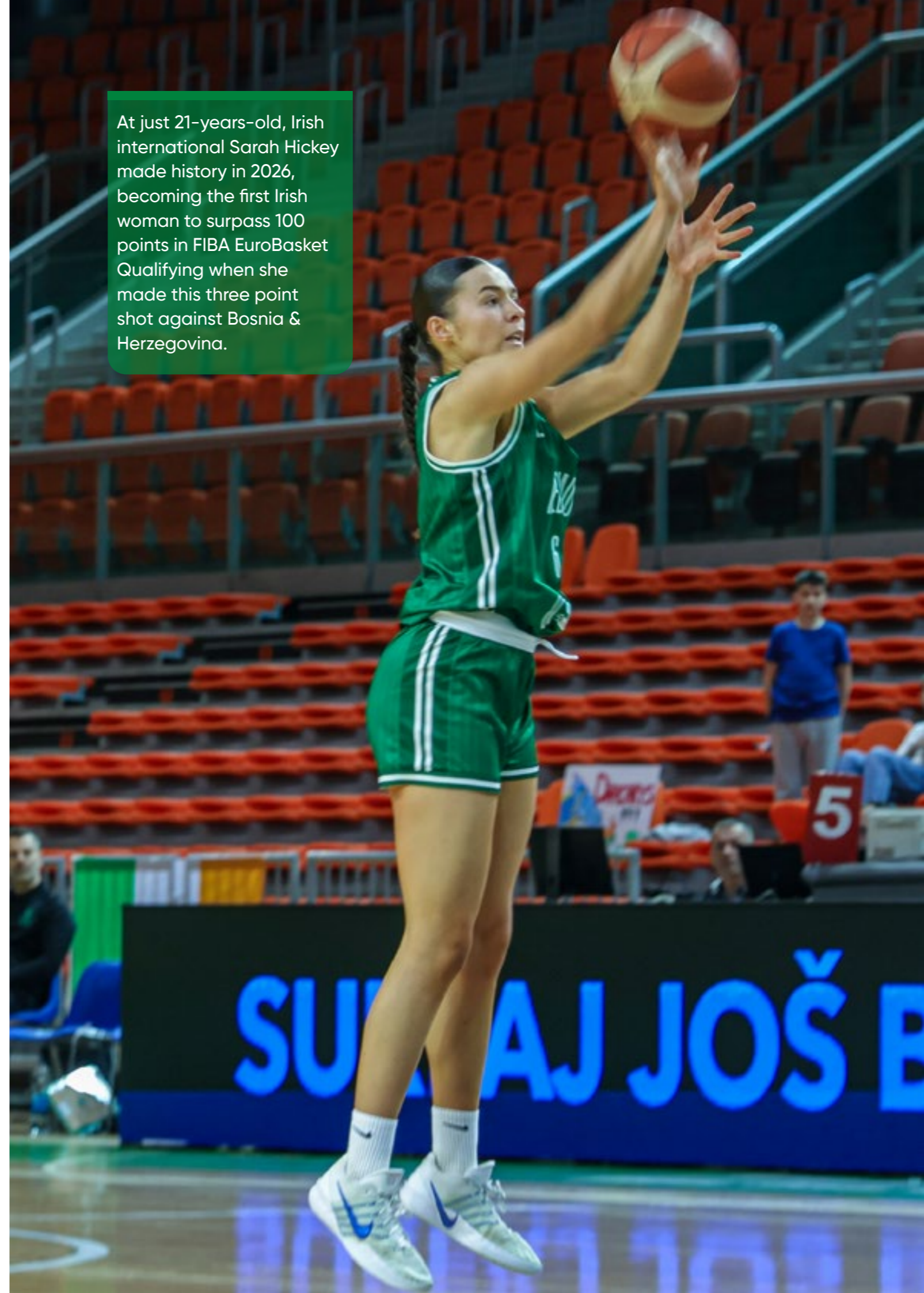
Pictured: Ireland fans celebrate a basket during a FIBA Men's EuroBasket 2029 Qualifier against Azerbaijan at the National Basketball Arena in Dublin.

The gameday experience at the National Basketball Arena has also remained a key focus, with particular success seen across our men's international fixtures. A newly introduced duo ticketing offer for the FIBA EuroBasket 2029 Pre-Qualifiers provided fans with access to two home games in a single package, creating a compelling value proposition and driving early engagement. Looking ahead, we are focused on continuing to develop and enhance the gameday experience, beginning with our FIBA Women's EuroBasket 2029 Pre-Qualifiers international fixture in November against Iceland.

Across all areas, our commercial strategy remains focused on creating meaningful, long-term relationships with partners while delivering tangible value across our League, International, Club & Community, and Education platforms. This approach is generating strong forward momentum, and we look ahead with confidence, with further developments already in progress and additional announcements to follow.

Overall, the year has been defined by strong and meaningful progress. Through the addition of premium partners, continued investment in brand and fan experience, and the development of new opportunities such as 3x3, Basketball Ireland is building a more sustainable and ambitious platform for the future growth of the game.

Gus Lewis
Head of Commercial and Brand



At just 21-years-old, Irish international Sarah Hickey made history in 2026, becoming the first Irish woman to surpass 100 points in FIBA EuroBasket Qualifying when she made this three point shot against Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Pictured: Latavious Mitchell of Ballincollig is challenged by Robert Braswell IV of Killester in the Domino's Men's Super League Final.



NATIONAL LEAGUE REPORT

JOHN WALSH

Following the success of introducing a new rule for the 2024/25 season, which required teams in Domino's Men's and Women's Division One to have two Category 1 Irish players on court at all times during a game, the National League Committee (NLC) introduced the same rule for Domino's Men and Women's Super League for the 2025/26 season. This appears to have been a positive move and saw more Irish players get increased game time.

The 2025/26 season was once again challenging season for some teams due to the number of international breaks, which resulted in more double-header weekends, particularly in the Domino's Men's Super League. As there are no men's international breaks in the 2026/27 season, this should reduce the number of double-header weekends for teams.

The National Cup proved to be as popular and competitive as ever. In the Domino's WD1 National Cup Final, Limerick Sport Huskies had an excellent victory over Cleveland Rockets. In the Domino's MD1 National Cup Final, Limerick Sport Eagles prevailed over Drogheda Wolves. In the Domino's MSL National Cup Final, league leaders Ballincollig defeated Garvey's Tralee Warriors, while the weekend finished with Killester meeting FloMAX Liffey Celtics in a repeat of the

2025 Domino's WSL National Cup Final, with Killester gaining revenge for their defeat a year ago. After the cup it was straight back into league action with the battle for play-off places hotting up across all four National Leagues.

The league playoffs proved to be as tight and exciting as expected. The Domino's Women's Division One Final proved to be the closest game of the weekend with 2025 beaten finalists Limerick Celtics scoring a late basket to take the game to overtime, where they eventually overcame regular season winners Cleveland Rockets and in doing so captured the league title and promotion to the Domino's Women's Super League for next season and for the first time in the club's history. In the Domino's Men's Division One final, cup winners Limerick Sports Eagles com-

pleted a fantastic double in beating Titans from Galway and earned themselves a coveted place in next season's Domino's Men's Super League.

Once again, the Domino's Men's and Women's Super League finals were televised live by TG4. In the Domino's Women's Super League, the final was between 3rd seeds UCC Glanmire and 4th seeds sTrinity Meteors, who had knocked out defending champions Killester after overtime in the semi-finals. The final was a fantastic game with Trinity Meteors coming out on top by six points and claiming their first league title in over 30 years.

In the Domino's Men's Super League, it was the top two teams of the regular season Ballincollig and Killester who made it to the final.





Ballincollig confirmed their status as the top team in the 25/26 season taking their second league title in four years and completing an impressive league and cup double for the club. The League finals weekend once again proved to be a great success, despite the challenges presented by fuel protest disruptions. Although some spectators were unable to attend the games due to travel issues, attendances were still good and are growing year-by-year.

This year saw the introduction of two new competitions – the U18 All-Ireland League for Boys and for Girls. These competitions proved to be a tremendous success and after a number of qualifying tournaments and knockout stages the boys finalists were Oblates from Dublin and Titans from Galway. Oblates came out on top and became the first U18 AIL Champions. In the girl's decider Kilkenny Stars overcame Brunell in a game which went down to the wire. This was Kilkenny Stars first national title.

The Friday night game was the ever-popular U20 Men's National League final with a very powerful Titans team overcoming Templeogue to take the title for the second year running.

The Men's BIDL final was between UCD Marian and Limerick Celtics, two very talented young sides. After a fantastic battle Limerick came out on top by two points and took home the BIDL trophy for the second year in a row. The Women's BIDL final was between Fr.Mathews and Claregalway with Fr.Mathews proving too strong and secured the double, having won the NICC trophy in January. The BIDL competitions are proving very popular with clubs and increasing more nationwide competition for a lot of non-National League clubs.

There are now plans in place to introduce a Men's Division Two National League, as there are a number of clubs very keen to enter into the National League. This will increase the spread of National League clubs in various areas throughout the country.

The end of season NLC conference for all National League clubs was scheduled for May 9th, where there was a full review of regulations, player categories, competition formats with a few small changes to further develop these growing competitions.



Roll of Honour 2025/26

Domino's Men's Super League - Ballincollig BC

Domino's Women's Super League - Trinity Meteors

Domino's Men's Division One - Limerick Sport Eagles

Domino's Women's Division One - Limerick Celtics

U20 Men's National League - Titans BC

BIDL Men's Final - Limerick Celtics

BIDL Women's Final - Fr. Mathews BC

Domino's MSL National Cup - Ballincollig BC

Domino's WSL National Cup - Killester BC

Domino's MD1 National Cup - Limerick Sport Eagles

Domino's WD1 National Cup - Limerick Sport Huskies



Pictured: Limerick Sport Eagles captain Ronan Cregan celebrates their Domino's Men's Division One Final win with their fans.

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

MATTHEW HALL

Senior Teams

Our Ireland senior international sides made positive strides over the last year. Following a drawn friendly series against Norway in July, Michael Bree formally took over as head coach in September 2025.

The performances of the team have been hugely encouraging since and that momentum led their first win, 91-85, against Luxembourg in March. They conclude their FIBA EuroBasket 2029 Pre-Qualifiers Round 1 campaign with away games against North Macedonia and Azerbaijan in July 2026, with a friendly against Armenia preceding this, which will take place in Los Angeles.

Ireland's women's team achieved two wins in their FIBA Women's EuroBasket 2027 Qualifiers, defeating Group A top seeds and 29th-ranked Bosnia and Herzegovina twice. It was a first away win for Ireland since their return to FIBA EuroBasket in 2021.

James Weldon's side remained in contention to qualify for the next round all the way through to the final group game, which is testament to the progress of the side. It should also be acknowledged the challenging circumstances the team found themselves in, with two fixtures against Israel, however the coaching staff and players conducted themselves admirably throughout. They also came close to victory in game one against Israel, losing in overtime against the eventual group winners.

rably throughout. They also came close to victory in game one against Israel, losing in overtime against the eventual group winners.

3x3

Ireland's 3x3 men's team made history by qualifying for the FIBA 3x3 Europe Cup, winning their qualifying event in Kosovo. At the tournament in Copenhagen they were drawn in Pool C, alongside the last two 3x3 Olympic champions – Latvia and the Netherlands – performing admirably against such illustrious opponents.

The achievements of the team saw them shortlisted for 'Team of the Year' at the Olympics Sport Awards. Ireland's 3x3 men have risen to 55th in the FIBA 3x3 World Rankings.

Our Ireland 3x3 women's team competed in the FIBA 3x3 Women's World Series once more and they continues to rise up the FIBA 3x3 World Rankings and are now 39th in the Federation Rankings, 21st in Europe.

We are grateful to Sport Ireland who continue to support our 3x3 programme, through Performance

in summer 2026. All of these events will improve Ireland's standing in the FIBA World Rankings, which will in turn increase our chances of qualifying for major tournaments, such as FIBA 3x3 World Cup and 3x3 Olympic qualifying events.

FIBA Youth EuroBasket U16 Men

Ireland's U16 Men competed strongly at the 2025 FIBA U16 EuroBasket Division B, with head coach Emer Howard guiding the team to an 12th place finish, following a series of competitive performances across the tournament.

Ireland made a positive impact in the group stages, recording

a 67-58 victory over Slovakia and a 78-72 success over Cyprus, demonstrating composure and balanced scoring. Another standout result came in the classification rounds with a 68-58 win against Great Britain, where Ireland combined defensive intensity with efficient offence to control the game.

The team also showed their ability to compete in close contests, most notably in a 75-67 loss to Sweden in the 11th place playoff, where Ireland remained within striking distance throughout.

Across the tournament, Ireland displayed clear progression in both offensive execution and defensive structure. The squad responded well to challenges, showing resilience and adapt-

ability against physically strong opposition.

Overall, the campaign represents Ireland's highest finish in the FIBA U16 Men's EuroBasket and is huge positive step in the development of the Ireland national team's programme. The upper mid-table finish and several strong performances highlighting their potential as they progress through the underage pathway.

U16 Women

Ireland's U16 Women competed with determination at the 2025 FIBA U16 Women's EuroBasket Division B under Head Coach Paul O'Brien, delivering a resilient campaign against strong European opposition to finish 17th overall.

The team encountered tough opposition in the group stage, but grew into the tournament and came into their own in the classification stage. They lost narrowly 64-62 to Azerbaijan, before finishing off with a 63-53 win over North Macedonia, showcasing disciplined defence and effective transition play. Ireland showed clear improvement in offensive cohesion and defensive intensity, with several players gaining valuable experience at international level.

Overall, the campaign provided an important developmental platform, with the squad demonstrating resilience and progression across the week. The experience gained will be key as this group continues its pathway towards U18 competition.



U18 Men

Ireland's U18 Men, led by head coach Niall Berry, competed in the 2025 FIBA U18 EuroBasket Division B, facing a demanding schedule. The campaign proved challenging, but the squad showed their competitiveness throughout, ultimately finishing 20th overall.

Ireland opened the tournament with a narrow 72-68 loss to Great Britain. A series of tough group games followed and despite some strong performances, results didn't fall in their favour. Ireland demonstrating improved offensive execution and control as the tournament progressed and started the classification stage with a 62-57 win over Azerbaijan, before a loss to Ukraine.

The side came agonisingly close to concluding with a victory, edged out 63-61 by Norway.

While the overall placing did not reflect the effort shown, the experience gained was significant. The squad, featuring a number of first-time international players, showed clear development in physicality and game management, providing a strong foundation for progression into the U20 programme.

U18 Women

Ireland's U18 Women finished an impressive 14th at the 2025 FIBA U18 Women's EuroBasket Division B 2025. The team recorded notable wins during the tournament, including an 89-56 win over North

Macedonia in the group stage, while edging Denmark 93-91 in a classification game.

Ireland were also involved in several close contests, most notably against Sweden and Slovakia. These tight games highlighted the team's ability to compete consistently against similarly ranked opposition.

Overall, the campaign demonstrated clear progression in both individual and team performance. With a number of players stepping into leadership roles, the tournament provided a valuable platform for development ahead of transition to U20 level, reinforcing the strength and depth of the women's pathway.

U20 Men

Ireland's U20 men reached the quarter-finals of 2025 FIBA U20 EuroBasket Division B, with head coach Thomas Walsh guiding the team to a 7th place finish.

Ireland picked up four wins, three of those in the group stage, including a 72-61 win over Estonia, followed by a 77-71 win over Armenia. The team bounced back from a set-back against eventual tournament champions Latvia, to power past North Macedonia 70-47 to secure a quarter-final spot, where they faced Croatia.

Croatia, who finished tournament runners-up, proved too strong, but Ireland U20's again showed the resolve in follow-up games, narrowly losing 68-64 to the Netherlands,



Pictured: The Ireland U20 WNT after securing progression from the Group Stage at FIBA Youth EuroBasket 2025.

before finishing on a high with a 74-47 win over Kosovo to secure seventh spot.

U20 Women

Karl Kilbride's Ireland's U20 Women secured a 7th place finish at the 2025 FIBA U20 Women's EuroBasket Division B in Miskolc, Hungary.

The team showed strong early form in the group stages with back-to-back wins, starting with a 71-67 win over Ukraine, followed by a 56-52 success over Great Britain. Defeats to Bulgaria and Serbia followed. In the classification stage Ireland were edged narrowly 67-63 by Greece, before finishing the tournament with a 66-58 victory over Ukraine in the 7th place playoff.

Overall, the campaign reflected a well-balanced and resilient team, combining efficient scoring with strong defensive structure. A top-eight finish underlines the consistency of our women's underage programme and follows on from a 5th placed finish in the 2024 FIBA U20 Women's EuroBasket and an 8th placed finish in the 2023 edition.



Pictured: The Ireland U20 MNT in a huddle following their win over Estonia at FIBA Youth EuroBasket 2025.

ACADEMY REPORT

MATTHEW HALL

At the beginning of the 2025/26 Academy season, Michael Bree was appointed Basketball Ireland's Head of Player Pathway Coaching and Content for the U14, U15, and U17 Academies.

Bree (right), who also took over as Ireland senior men's head coach in September, brings extensive experience in player development through his role as Programme Director at RIG Mark Basketball in Sweden, a position he has held since 2014. In this role, he has contributed significantly to the development of elite international players for both Sweden's men's and women's teams.

Michael Bree is working closely with Academy Director Matthew Hall and Academy Coordinator Laura Deeney to further advance the Academy structure, with the goal of developing a larger pool of players capable of performing at an elite level.

There are now more talented athletes playing basketball in Ireland than ever before. The Academy programme is playing a central role in developing a broader group of high-performance players, raising standards and increasing competition nationwide. By introducing international-standard concepts and skills to players at an earlier age, and over a longer developmental period, the programme continues to strengthen the national player pool year-on-year.

The Basketball Ireland Regional and Provincial Academy structure forms the foundation of a clear development pathway for players and coaches, who have the ambition and potential to compete at the highest levels of the sport. It provides increased access to both development and performance opportunities for players



across the country, at a time when National League opportunities continue to grow nationwide. The Academy system also serves as a key pathway to Ireland's international teams.

U14 Regional Academies: For players aged under 14 as of midnight on 31st December of the current season.

U15 Provincial Academies: For players aged under 15 as of midnight on 31st December of the current season.

U17 National Academies: For players aged under 17 as of midnight on 31st December of the current season.

"More players, better players, playing for longer."

U13 Development Programme

This season marked the continuation of the second year of the U13 Academy Skills Sessions programme for both boys and girls across the country. Each club was invited to nominate three male and three female players to attend three regional skills sessions held throughout the season.

Clubs were also encouraged to send coaches, who received CPD accreditation for their participation. These

sessions were delivered by current and former international coaches, ensuring a high-quality learning environment for both players and coaches.

The programme continues to grow in impact, with over 1,400 players and 132 club coaches participating across the three sessions during the season.

International Competition Opportunities

In summer 2026, Basketball Ireland Academies will once again participate in competitive international activity through the Home Nations tournaments in the UK for U14 and U17 age groups. In addition, Ireland will host an international tournament for the U15 Academy Select team, with teams from England and Slovakia participating.

U14 Event: Cardiff, June 27th–28th

U15 Event: Dublin, June 27th–28th

U17 Event: Glasgow, June 13th–14th

874

Players involved in Basketball Ireland Academies at U14 and U15 level.

77

Coaches operating at these age grades across the island of Ireland.



U14 Regional Academies:

The nine U14 academies are divided regionally as below:

- **South:** Cork, South Tipperary, Waterford
- **North:** Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Meath, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan
- **Southwest:** Kerry, Limerick
- **Southeast:** Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, South Tipperary
- **Northwest:** Donegal, North Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, North Roscommon
- **Midlands:** Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford, North Tipperary, South Kildare
- **West:** Clare, Galway, South Mayo, South Roscommon
- **East North:** Dublin North, Louth
- **East South:** Dublin South, Wicklow

U15 Provincial Academies:

The five U15 academies are divided provincially as below:

- **Connacht, Dublin, Leinster, Munster, Ulster.**

U17 National Academy

The U17 academy has the following breakdown of players in the current year.

40

Boys

37

Girls

6

Coaches



WOMEN IN SPORT REPORT

LOUISE O'LOUGHLIN

It is with great pride and purpose that we present this report as a celebration of Women in Sport. It represents our continued commitment to championing women and girls at every stage of their basketball journey, from first participation in local communities to leadership roles, coaching pathways and elite performance on the national stage.

Sport has the power to build confidence, strengthen communities and unlock opportunity. While we celebrate meaningful progress, we remain mindful that barriers to visibility, representation and leadership still exist. The work continues. We are deeply grateful to Sport Ireland for their support, and to the athletes, coaches, volunteers and partners whose passion and insight drive this progress. Together, we are shaping a more inclusive and empowered future for women in basketball.

SOCIA-Ball & Her Moves – Strategic action area “Playing the Game”

SOCIA-Ball is one of our most successful Women in Sport programmes. It initially started in October 2021 and there are now 99 active venues, with 1150+ registered players and it continues to grow, reaching all corners of Ireland.

SOCIA-Ball is a key programme for our Women in Basketball Strategic plan under the ‘Playing the Game’ pillar. It is a recreational programme for females aged over 18 of all abilities, where the emphasis is on fun and meeting new people. It is a safe space for women to keep fit and have some fun. This year we saw a marked rise in regional/local events hosted by clubs, which is increasing the SOCIA-Ball activity. We held our biggest marquee event at the National Basketball Arena in Dublin in March 2026 to mark the end of International Women’s Week, with a record 24 teams participating on the day and approximately 300 players involved throughout the day.

Basketball Ireland’s commitment to advancing women in sport was nationally recognised in 2025 when the SOCIA-Ball programme received the ‘Best Initiative to Promote Women in Sport & Physical Activity Award’ at the Irish Sports Industry Awards. This prestigious accolade reflects the collective effort of players, coaches, volunteers and leaders who continue to drive meaningful progress



across our game. It recognises the impact of programmes that expand participation, strengthen leadership pathways and elevate the visibility of women and girls in basketball nationwide. More than an award, this achievement represents validation of a shared vision, one where opportunity is inclusive, ambition is encouraged and representation matters at every level. For women in basketball, it was a proud moment. For the future of the game, it is further momentum.



Her Moves – Strategic action area “Playing the Game”

Our Her Moves programme was borne out of the success of SOCIA-Ball. Her Moves is a recreational programme for teenage girls aged 13-17. The aim of the programme is to provide a place for the girls to take part in fun, inclusive sessions weekly.

The programme is about empowering all young women, building confidence and providing motivation to find something that gets them moving. In 2023 Basketball Ireland provided seven club grants, with 10 grants awarded in 2024 and 2025 to a range of clubs across Ireland.

Many of the groups have continued social basketball for teenage girls in their clubs and this recreational pathway is continuing to grow. We continue to see clubs become more proactive in this space with the introduction of “M1 Fun Days” by Phoenix Belfast, Dundalk Ravens and Drogheda Wolves. We hope this initiative continues to thrive, just like our main SOCIA-Ball programme, and we encourage clubs to get involved in this fantastic initiative.



Pictured: Participants and family members enjoy Basketball Ireland’s annual SOCIA-Ball blitz at the National Basketball Arena during Women In Sport Week.

FIBA Programme Her World Her Rules – Strategic action area “Playing the Game”

Basketball Ireland once again delivered the Her World Her Rules programme through our Development Officers. School and club sessions reached over 1500 girls aged 6-15.

Dream Programme – Strategic action area “Coaching and Officiating”

As part of the coaching and officiating pillar of the action plan, Basketball Ireland successfully delivered the 2025/26 DREAM Programme, a nine-month mentorship initiative designed to empower aspiring female coaches and referees. The programme aimed to increase female representation and leadership in basketball by providing structured learning, development, and real-world experience under the guidance of experienced mentors.

Twenty-seven female coaches progressed through the development programme, receiving support from eight experienced female mentors. Over the course of the programme, participants engaged in continuous learning focused on technical development, leadership, and game strategy. 65 aspiring female referees were mentored by ten senior female officials over the last two years. As part of their practical experience, the referees were assigned to officiate at the Under 16 Boys AIG All-Ireland Club Championships (AICCs), gaining valuable on-court exposure at a national level.

Both cohorts – coaches and referees – attended the National Cup Finals as observers, allowing them to learn from high-level competition in a professional setting. The DREAM Programme concluded after nine months of ongoing development, workshops, and practical learning opportunities, contributing significantly to the growth of female participation and leadership within Irish basketball.

Women in Leadership Programme – Strategic Action area “Leadership”

Basketball Ireland, in collaboration with the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA), has successfully completed its fifth Women in Sport Leadership Programme (WISL), which ran from January to March 2026. This initiative aimed to provide training, guidance, and expertise to support women in thriving within leadership positions across all levels of sport.

The WISL programme was delivered over a span of six weeks, commencing on January 20th, 2026. It included five weekly online sessions, conducted via Zoom every Tuesday evening from 1900 to 2030, culminating in a final in-person session held in Dublin on Sunday, March 8th. This blended learning approach facilitated both theoretical instruction and practical engagement. The programme was inclusive, welcoming applications from female coaches, officials, athletes, volunteers, and staff within the basketball community, all over the age of 18. Half of the participants were drawn from the

basketball community, while the other half represented the IWA, reflecting a commitment to diversity and cross-sport collaboration. The programme was led by Lisa Clancy and Sarah O’Shea, who have been delivering the award-winning Women in Sport Leadership programme in Ireland since 2020. Their extensive experience in senior professional and voluntary sports positions, both domestically and internationally, enriched the learning experience. To date, over 500 participants from more than 50 different sporting organisations across Ireland and Europe have completed the course, underscoring its widespread impact and success.

Women in Coaching Conference”

The 4th Women in Coaching Conference took place in May 2025 at the National Basketball Arena. The conference is aimed at current and aspiring female players and coaches, with an all-female speaking line-up and three coaching clinics delivered.

SpotLight Her Series – Strategic Action area “Visibility & Promotion”



SpotLight Her has been our most successful female visibility programme to date. It has been short-listed in ‘Best Use of Communications Platforms in Sport and Physical Activity’ category at the 2026 Irish Sport Industry Awards, which take place on May 19th. SpotLight Her created a digital-first storytelling platform that connected grassroots → elite → international pathway and positions athletes as relatable role models. This series built repeat engagement, not one-off impressions.

SpotLight Her is a collaborative creative series between Basketball Ireland and The Sideline Live. The series, hosted by Orla Keeling, was created to amplify the voices, journeys, and visibility of Irish female basketball players in the United States.

We picked seven players navigating elite pathways in NCAA competition including three of the top 10 schools in the USA.

Through creative content, storytelling and digital distribution, the series delivered authentic athlete narratives that connect grassroots, national, and international representatives of Irish basketball.

The series was designed to:

- Increase visibility of female basketball athletes in Ireland
- Inspire the next generation of players through relatable storytelling
- Bridge the gap between grassroots participation and elite pathways
- Enhance Basketball Ireland’s digital presence and narrative-led communication
- Align with Sport Ireland’s broader gender equality and visibility strategies

We had nearly one million social media views across the Sideline Live and Basketball Ireland channels over the 5-month period and over 3K Podcast downloads.

Scan and listen
back to the entire
series.



SCHOOLS REPORT

CHRISTINE CONNOLLY

The 2025/2026 season has once again demonstrated that post-primary schools basketball continues to thrive across Ireland. Participation remains exceptionally strong, with close to 49,000 boys and girls taking part in schools competitions. Notably, 10,893 of these students are also actively involved in club basketball, highlighting the strong connection between school and club pathways within the sport.

Basketball is now played in almost 85% of all post-primary schools across the Republic of Ireland, with participation rates of 83% in girls' schools and 84% in boys' schools. This widespread engagement reflects the sport's accessibility and enduring appeal among young people across Ireland.

Growth over the past five years has been particularly encouraging. The number of participating girls' schools has increased by 20%, while boys' schools have seen a 23% rise. These figures underline the sustained momentum behind basketball's development and its growing popularity at school level.

The season's showpiece events were again met with outstanding support. The All-Ireland Schools Cup Finals were played in front of a capacity crowd at the National Basketball Arena, creating a vibrant and memorable atmosphere. Meanwhile, the All-Ireland Schools League Finals were hosted in Neptune Arena, providing an excellent stage for high-quality competition.

A number of schools delivered exceptional performances this season:

Coláiste Éanna enjoyed a stand-out year, securing the Boys U19 'A' All-Ireland Schools Cup and the U16 'A' All-Ireland Schools League titles. They also demonstrated impressive depth by reaching the Minor and Junior 'A' All-Ireland Schools League playoffs, along with strong runs in the U14 and U15 All-Ireland Schools Cups.



Presentation College Kilkenny claimed the Girls U16 'A' All-Ireland Schools Cup and also reached the final of the U19 'A' All-Ireland Schools Cup, marking a highly successful campaign.



Kildare Town Community School secured the U19 'B' Boys All-Ireland Schools Cup title and finished as runners-up in the U16 'B' Boys All-Ireland Schools Cup.



Basketball Ireland's Reach at Schools Level:

Girls Schools	125
Boys Schools	95
Mixed Schools	506
Total	727

Overall, the 2025/2026 season reflects a vibrant and expanding schools basketball landscape, with strong participation, competitive excellence, and growing enthusiasm across all levels of the game.

499 girls schools registered to play basketball in 2025/26. Based on self-reported numbers from schools, 23,981 girls played schools basketball, of these players, 5,127 also played in a club. 480 Boys Schools registered to play basketball in 2025/26. Based on self-reported numbers from schools, 25,007 boys played schools basketball, of these 5,766 also played in a club.

Region	Girls		Boys	
	Number of Schools Registered in 2025	Increase over 5 years (%)	Number of Schools Registered in 2025	Increase over 5 years (%)
East	123	37%	135	23%
Midlands	62	7%	63	19%
North	11	57%	18	20%
North East	43	8%	43	2%
North West	35	35%	43	39%
South	60	15%	56	44%
South East	68	17%	50	16%
South West	56	10%	41	24%
West	41	21%	31	29%
Total	499	20%	480	23%

SCHOOL IN FOCUS

Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, Arranmore

Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, from Arranmore island, became the first ever island school to register with Basketball Ireland to play schools basketball. The school competed in this season's All-Ireland Schools League, in North West Girls 1st year (Minor) 'D' League.

Each year PPSC Regional Organisers invest significant efforts to recruit new schools. Mary Shields, North West Girls Regional Organiser, was reaching out to potential new teams when she was contacted by Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada teacher Katelyn NicAodh, who expressed an interest in competing in the 2025/26 All-Ireland Schools League.

Arranmore is located off Burtonport in north-west Donegal and is accessible only by ferry. Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada teacher Katelyn NicAodh said: "We are proud to be the first basketball team to represent Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, and what made it truly special was the incredible spirit of the girls involved. Many of them had never played basketball before, yet their enthusiasm for sport and their willingness to take on a new challenge was inspiring from the very beginning. They poured their heart and

soul into every game, showing determination, teamwork, and resilience throughout the season.

She added: "As a coach, I brought some experience from playing and coaching during my time in



Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair while on placement there, but it was the girls themselves who were the real driving force behind making this team a reality. With their commitment, and the support of the wider school community, something remarkable was built. We are all super proud of what was achieved, and of the passion and effort each player gave every step of the way. This is just the beginning for Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada."

Mary Shields, PPSC North West Girls Regional Organiser, said: "The PPSC were delighted to see Arranmore's Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada competing in our All-Ireland Schools League competition for the first time. The teacher and players showed incredible commitment to travel for games, coming via ferry to play. The school competed in the North West Girls Minor 'D' League and they should be immensely proud of their achievements on the court this season. I look forward to seeing the girls and the school progress in the sport and we'd encourage any island-based school to get involved in our schools competitions."



In line with Basketball Ireland's continued work towards its strategic objectives, Setanta 360 came on board as part of a new 'Integrated Athletic Development Structure' for its men's and women's international sides.

The programme delivers a key part of Basketball Ireland's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and will bring a uniform approach to athletic development across the game, from academy, to underage and senior level, at both 5x5 and 3x3.

NBRA REPORT

PAUL DEMPSEY

The refereeing community has continued to develop on its groundbreaking restructuring in recent years. With strong foundations in place, we have sought to push new boundaries and bring together universal development approaches accessible to all.

NBRA conducted a 3-year post implementation review of our Area Associations, focusing specifically on development and its accessibility to our members. The review made a critical finding, identifying that refereeing was at a critical juncture.

Urgent fundamental changes in the approach, accessibility, delivery and accountability of development were needed to enable future success and to meet the demands of the broader basketball community.

An innovative approach was needed to remove politics, reduce administration and drastically improve the consistency and accessibility of development at grassroots levels.

Development Working Groups (D.W.G)

A Development Working Group was established in each Area Association with a single objective to “work collectively to implement training and development plans as set out National Training & Performance Manager”.

Eight DWG Leads were appointed, who in turn established Working Groups with the sole focus on development for members in their area.

Their inaugural year has seen comprehensive changes to development, while also looking to establish the approach and integrate it into our community and encourage everyone to participate.

The DWG’s working with NBRA delivered multiple development opportunities across the year. While continuing to leverage Helpside as a critical tool to support development and the awarding of CPD hours the DWG’s also instituted the following:

- Monthly Development Newsletters: including information relating to development only, highlighting achievements and future events of note
- Monthly Online Seminars: open to all members within Basketball Ireland, featuring guest speakers, focusing on specific topics relevant to grassroots officials.
- In-person/on court training sessions: practical demonstrations of correct mechanics, communication techniques and effective situation control.
- Video Analysis: helping to clarify common areas of concern or focus to help deliver a consistent approach when officiating at all levels.
- Rules Tests: used to help identify areas of weakness and development opportunities for each Area.

D.W.G Moving Forward:

Initial feedback from grassroots members is overwhelmingly positive for the work of the DWG’s embracing the opportunities made available to them and enjoying the opportunity to become involved in a multi-channel development approach.

The DWGs will look to establish clearer pathways from grassroots development to the other NBRA initiatives i.e. DREAM Program, NLOP, HPG. Develop an annual development calendar to include Referee Courses, designated development events and key dates of note.

Critically the DWG’s will look to continually evolve to meet the current and future development needs of our members and the broader basketball community.

Pictured: Emma Perry while acting as crew chief during the FIBA Women’s EuroBasket 2025 Qualifier between Spain and the Netherlands.



GAA Presentation

Close ties with Basketball Ireland and the GAA saw us deliver an initial two presentations to GAA officials (Football and Hurling). We focused on communication between game officials, decision making with multiple officials involved and general referee challenges.

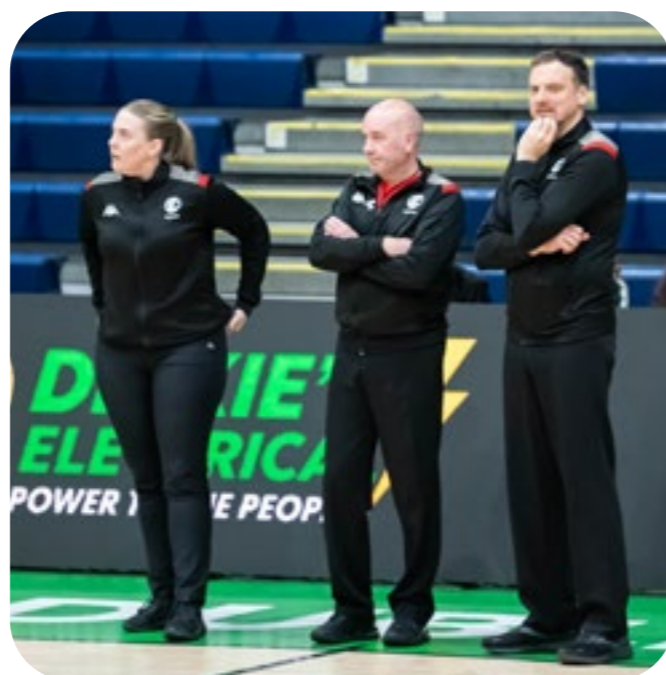
We hope to expand our engagements with the GAA and other NGB's so we can learn from each other and build common areas of interest.



DREAM Programme

Following its initial success a broader approach was adopted for 2025. Participants (including our coaching colleagues) were again highlighted at the Division One Women's National Cup Final.

Acknowledging the positive impact the DREAM Programme is having among our officials we showcased the programme's innovative approach at a recent Sport Ireland Conference.



Sports Ireland & NGB Partnerships:

NBRA & Basketball Ireland took part in a series of intra sport workshops held by Sports Ireland along with other National Governing Bodies. Work on these initiatives will continue to develop and be delivered across the coming years, with initial focus both a:

1. Universal Development Programme across all NGB's
2. Respect the Referee Campaign

FIBA Programme:

We have established a new programme working towards the 2027-2031 FIBA cycles. The aim of this programme is to maximise the opportunity to attain FIBA licenses during the next FIBA Licensing Cycles.

This is an elite high-level programme, working with our partners in the FIBA Europe Referee Education Department to support up to eight potential candidates during this period.

Other Information:

Referee Education: An additional Referee Tutor was certified this year; we are delighted to welcome Kieran Temple (Derry) to our Tutors Panel and look forward to being able to utilise his skills across BNI.

FIBA: Emma Perry achieved another landmark for an Irish FIBA official officiating the U20 European Women's Final in 2025. Emma becomes the first ever Irish female to achieve this feat continuing to break ceilings and be a positive role model for Irish officials.

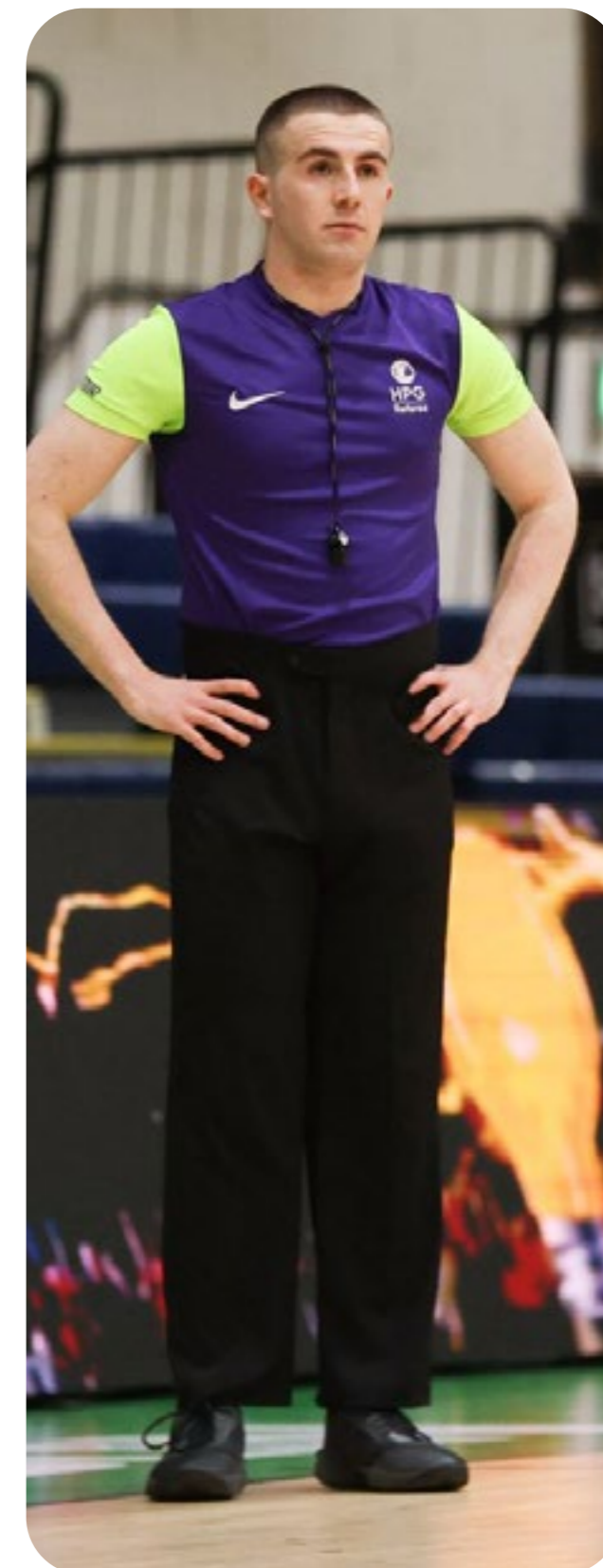
Grade 1: Congratulations to Brendan Markey, Joe Lavin, Emer Buckley, Leanne Aherne, Marius Landos and Adam Wickham, who all successfully achieved their Grade 1 over the last 18 months.

Refereeing looking ahead:

As we look to the future, we are cognisant of the fact that there are those who operate in posi-

tions of responsibility who refuse to embrace change.

NBRA will focus on removing barriers to help deliver our strategic goals including standardisation of rules and regulations, improved communication and centralised activities.



LEAGUE FINALS



COACH EDUCATION & HELPSIDE

Niall McDermott

The past year has been one of the most active and rewarding for education at Basketball Ireland. A strong programme of coaching conferences and international clinics brought world-class coaches to Ireland, our certified coaching courses continued to grow in reach, and significant new digital learning content was developed for coaches at every level of the game.

Basketball Ireland Coaching Conference

The highlight of the year was the 2025 Basketball Ireland Coaching Conference, held at the National Basketball Arena over two days in August. The conference brought together over 120 coaches from across Ireland for an outstanding programme of practical learning delivered by three international speakers.

Laura Antoja, a top level Spanish international coach, delivered sessions across both days covering transition offence, individual passing techniques, and pick-and-roll defence. Gianmarco Di Matteo, an Italian coach viewed as one of the most talented coach educators by FIBA Coaching Europe, led sessions on defensive drills, on-ball screen offence, and a practical workshop on game preparation and video analysis methodology. Joerik Michiels, Belgian coach and a leading proponent of the constraints-led approach, delivered sessions on small-sided games, passing and decision-making, and how to design practice environments that accelerate player development. The conference also featured a highly regarded session on concussion science and policy from Professor Colin Doherty, and a panel discussion facilitated by Conor Meany with Irish coaches Francis O'Sullivan, Jillian Hayes, and Paul Kelleher on the role of the Irish coach in the player development pathway.

Feedback from attendees was excellent. The overall conference rating averaged 4.63 out of 5 on Saturday and 4.55 on Sunday across more than 100 responses, with the variety and quality of the international speakers consistently highlighted as the standout element of the event.

Coaching Courses & Certification

Basketball Ireland delivered 41 Introduction to Coaching courses, 14 Level 1 Coaching courses, and 2 Level 2 courses across the island of Ireland in 2025-26, reaching coaches in clubs, sports partnerships, schools, and community organisations from Donegal to Kerry. This exceeded our annual targets for the second year running. The Coaches programmes were delivered in Dublin, Donegal, Sligo, and Limerick, as part of our ongoing work to increase female participation in the coaching pathway.

A significant development for the coaching community was the publication of Basketball Ireland's Minimum Coaching Standards, setting out for the first time the qualification requirements expected of coaches at each level of the game. These standards are published on the Basketball Ireland website and will come into place for the beginning of the 2026/27 season.



Women in Sport Coaching Conference & Coaching Programmes

The 2025 Women in Sport Coaching Conference was held at the National Basketball Arena and represented a significant moment in Basketball Ireland's commitment to female coach development. The conference featured Spanish coach Silvia Font, who delivered two sessions drawing on her extensive experience in the game, alongside Irish coaches Emer Howard and Niamh Dwyer. The event provided a focused and high-quality learning environment for female coaches and complemented the wider Women in Sport coaching strategy developed during the year, which sets out clear targets for female coach representation at club and national league level through to 2027.

The DREAM Programme continued to be one of Basketball Ireland's most impactful initiatives for coach development. Now in its second year, the programme pairs aspiring coaches with experienced mentors for a full season of guided development. The 2025 cohort completed the programme, with the 2026 cohort of 24 coaches paired with six mentors now underway with a further group of coaches drawn from clubs across the country.

At the elite end of the pathway, Basketball Ireland partnered with MVMT on the Next Seat Over programme, designed to accelerate high-potential female coaches into top-tier roles. A small cohort of candidates was selected and supported through the programme during the year, with the 2025/26 edition now complete.

Two Irish coaches participated in a high-level seven-month Italian coaching programme during the year, with a view to bringing international methodology insights and best practice back to Basketball Ireland. The programme represents a commitment to ongoing development at the elite end of our coaching community.



Strategic Developments

Two significant decisions were made during the year on the direction of the coaching pathway. A twin-pathway approach to the Level 2 qualification was agreed, creating separate development and performance routes for youth and elite coaches, both yielding the same Sport Ireland recognised qualification.

Basketball Ireland will also be adopting a new coaching framework model to meet the new Sport Ireland CDPI guidelines, informed by international best practice, that rewards ongoing coach activity and engagement rather than initial certification alone.

International Clinics

Two further international clinic events took place during the year. Wayne Goldsmith, one of Australia's most respected high-performance coaches, delivered a masterclass at the National Basketball Arena in October 2025, putting coaches through an intensive two-hour session on coaching best practice and high-performance player development. The visit also provided an opportunity to record an extensive library of video content, which has since been developed into a structured online coaching course soon to be released on Helpside.

In November 2025, WNBA coach Brandi Poole was in Ireland working with the senior women's International team and delivered an in-person clinic in Dublin. The session was very well received and reflects Basketball Ireland's ongoing commitment to bringing elite international coaches to our coaching community throughout the year.

We were also delighted to welcome one of our own back to Ireland for a series of four coaching clinics over the summer. Daniel Nelson, head coach of Anorthosis Famagusta in Cyprus, is one of Ireland's few full-time professional coaches and delivered excellent clinics, providing coaches with an additional opportunity for high-quality, practical development.



Helpside – Digital Learning, CPD & Referee Education

Helpside, Basketball Ireland's online learning platform, engaged over 600 coaches gaining CPD through clinics and online courses, and more than 30 new coaching resources were added throughout the year. The Statistician Accreditation Course, now a requirement for table officials operating NBN23 at National League level, trained over 80 statisticians through five live webinars. A Safeguarding 2 workshop for Club Children's Officers was run in April 2025, with twenty Safeguarding 1 courses running across the year through Helpside.

The Helpside Referee Portal continued to grow as a key resource for Basketball Ireland's referee community. The referee resource library expanded to over 50 resources during the year, supporting ongoing referee education and development across the country.

A new section for academy coaches was also developed on Helpside during the year, providing dedicated resources and learning pathways for coaches working with U13 players – an area of the game identified as a priority for long-term player development.

Strategic Developments

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DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS REPORT

Ciaran O’Sullivan

Growth of the game is at the heart of the Development Officer role and the current team have shown once more than they can deliver high quality programmes and events from grassroots to Masters Basketball.

Basketball Ireland is very grateful for the support given by all contributing stakeholders (South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council, Trinity College Dublin, Technological University of the Shannon, University of Galway, Atlantic Technological University and Ulster University). Our Development Officers operate under a strategic plan of three key pillars - Increase Participation, Training and Education and Visibility/Awareness.



3X3 REPORT

2025 saw a total of 60 events run across Ireland, representing a 10% decrease compared to the previous year. Of these, 45 were official events, with Basketball Ireland’s Development Officers directly running or supporting 32.

While the number of new organisers dropped significantly to 5 (from 16 in 2024), Basketball Ireland provided support through three online club sessions and 3x3 workshops were delivered as part of Level 2 coaching courses - we hope that these measures will help promote growth in 2026.

In addition, in March 2026 Basketball Ireland announced that Forefront Group have been brought on board to support the delivery, event

management and marketing of our domestic 3x3 events. An exciting new calendar of events across Ireland will begin from May 2026. The partnership will focus on creating engaging event experiences for players and fans, while also helping grow awareness and participation of 3x3 across Ireland.

Key 3x3 highlights in 2025 included an international training camp in Belfast involving the senior teams of Ireland, Great Britain, and Team NI, along with Ireland U23 and Lithuania senior women. The fourth National 3x3 Camp was successfully held at the University of Limerick, attracting 106 players (an 8% decrease from 2024).



Despite a reduction in overall events and participation, 2025 continued to deliver quality 3x3 opportunities nationwide, supported by strong Development Officer involvement and targeted coach and club education. Basketball Ireland have ambitious targets for the growth of 3x3 in 2026, led by our Development Officers. We look forward to working with Forefront Group as they help roll out an exciting roster of events across the summer and attract more people, of all abilities, to a really exciting format of the game. 3x3 is an elite performance pathway too, supported by Sport Ireland, and having more domestic events will strengthen the depth of talent coming through to our underage and senior 3x3 international teams.



MASTERS BASKETBALL REPORT

Mike Murray

The Masters programme continued to grow as a key pathway for mature athletes, combining high-performance international competition with strong domestic opportunities and community development.

It was a hugely successful international summer for Ireland's Masters team, with two teams winning a medal at the FIMBA World Maxibasketball Championship in Ticino, Switzerland in July 2025. There was silver medal success for our F45 team, while our F40's side claimed bronze.

Over 340 teams in total competed at the tournament, in 16 different age categories. Ireland was represented in M40, M50, M65, F40 & F45 competitions. Three Irish referees were also awarded a final in the competition.

Preparation for the tournament began with a very successful trials programme, where over 250 athletes tried out for teams – leading to the selection of five squads, featuring several former Irish internationals.

The international programme remains a cornerstone of the Masters pathway, providing players with opportunities to compete on a European and global stage. An international caps ceremony took place during the November 2025 FIBA EuroBasket windows, attended by all Irish Masters teams.

Our international programme continues to grow, and eight Irish Masters teams will take

part in the inaugural FIBA Masters Open in July 2026, with the following sides travelling to Greece for the tournament – F40, F45, F50, F60, M40, M45, M50, M60. Over 250 players attended trials for those international teams. A high-performance culture has developed within Irish Masters programme, which is now aligned with the EPC (Elite Performance Committee).

Our profile internationally has seen our programme recognised by FIBA Europe, while Basketball Ireland has been asked to collaborate in an Erasmus project, which is seeking to develop Masters basketball internationally.



Launch of Masters social media channels

A major milestone in 2025 was the implementation of a bespoke social media channels dedicated to Basketball Ireland's Masters programme. The objective was to improve communications with players and teams, promote events and achievements, while building a connected Masters community in addition to increasing visibility for sponsors and partners.

The Basketball Ireland Masters Facebook and Instagram pages have had over 1.13 million views in the last year. It has delivered enhanced visibility of competitions and player stories, while providing a centralised platform for fixtures, results, and updates. The Basketball Ireland Masters Facebook page has a 50/50 gender balance among followers, while on Instagram it is 55% male and 45% female, reflecting their broad appeal.

Basketball Ireland Masters Social Media Metrics:

- 1.13M+ total views across Facebook and Instagram (100% organic)
 - Instagram reach: over 66,000 unique accounts
- Instagram: 512K+ views and 16.2K+ content interactions
 - 20,000+ Instagram profile visits
- Facebook reach: over 25,000 unique accounts
- Facebook: 626K+ views and 15K+ content interactions
 - 40,000+ Facebook page visits





MASTERS NATIONAL CUP

The Masters National Cup continues to be the flagship domestic competition within the programme, providing a focal point for the Masters calendar.

Rules changes to promote club-based teams proved successful and strengthened club and regional rivalries. In 2025/26 there were competitions at M40, M50 & F40, with 21 teams playing over 50 games.

At the time of print the final stages of competition were being played out, with Leixlip Masters defeating North Munster to lift the M40 title. The F40 final between Éanna and Neptune and M50 final between Belfast Masters and Dublin Lions takes place at the National Basketball Arena in Dublin on May 17th, 2026.



BASKETBALL IRELAND AFFILIATED TOURNAMENTS

There were four Basketball Ireland affiliated Masters tournaments last year. Improved coordination with national scheduling led to higher participation rates at grassroots Masters level and greater inclusivity across all regions.

The Galway Masters (November), Kilkenny Masters (March), Dublin Masters (May) and Malahide Masters (August) attracted teams from around the world. Over 190 teams participated in all tournaments over 13 age categories and equally mixed between male and female teams. These tournaments attract vital tourism to the areas where they take place and are supported by local city councils and sports bodies, as they promote healthy lifestyles for mature athletes, while delivering family-friendly events. Regional tournaments played a vital role in expanding access and reducing travel barriers for participants.



PRIMARY SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT

CASEY TRYON

Basketball is part of the PE curriculum in almost every primary school. Over the years Basketball Ireland has worked with over a thousand primary schools in different capacities through different programmes.

In 2025 for the first time, there was a dedicated Development Officer and Basketball Ireland was able to run several different programmes, providing further opportunities for more primary school students. This year also offered a more strategic approach to primary school programming, in the hope of engaging as many students as possible. It is the goal of Basketball Ireland to increase the number of primary school students playing basketball, and also improve the links between primary schools and clubs. Below is a short overview of the current primary school programming.

Primary Schools Mini Basketball

The second year of a revitalised Primary Schools Mini Basketball programme saw growth in the programme, with existing counties Monaghan, Dublin, and Limerick registering for another year, and new counties, Belfast & Meath, coming on board. All Mini Basketball Boards participate in a variety of different events, including one day tournaments, 5x5 leagues and 3x3 leagues, and in-school coaching.

This programme has been successful in allowing schools to deliver the basketball programmes best suited for their county or area, while benefiting from Basketball Ireland resources, such as our learning platform 'Helpside', teacher training, and enrolment in our FIBA Hoops4School programme. Almost 600 schools are participating in Mini Basketball programmes across Ireland, accounting for almost 20,000 students. The most successful part of the programme is that it is run completely by the Mini Basketball Boards, with Basketball Ireland as support.

This allows teachers and schools to gain experience coaching basketball and empowers

teacher and students to learn the game beyond the basic skills.

Hoops For Schools

Hoops For Schools is a FIBA programme that was rolled out in Meath and Dublin in 2025. Schools benefit from ready-made PE lessons from primary schools and a reward-based system based on active participation in the programme. Schools not only work to win rewards, but compete internationally against other federations. Ireland currently ranks 5th in Europe for programme activity. 14 schools registered for the pilot programme this year and over 300 students have been active in it.

Schools not only work to win rewards, but compete internationally against other federations. Currently we sit fifth in Europe when it comes to activity. 14 schools registered for the pilot programme this year and over 300 students have been active in it. A highlight for the five schools was a visit from Irish Internationals, who took students through some activities and great Q&A sessions. Bohermeen National School in Meath were top winners and spent a morning at the National Basketball Arena with the men's international team in February. Elaine Clarke, who looks after the programme at Bohermeen Primary School said:

"My class thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Hoops For Schools initiative. From the very beginning, there was a real sense of excitement and enthusiasm among the students. The activities were engaging, inclusive, and perfectly suited to all ability levels, allowing everyone to participate and have fun. Students especially loved the teamwork element, which helped build confidence, communication, and cooperation skills. The games and activities were well-organised and energetic, keeping everyone active and motivated throughout. It was clear that the initiative promoted not only physical fitness, but also a positive attitude towards basketball and sport in general."





Jr. NBA

Basketball Ireland continued its successful partnership with the Jr. NBA again this year. In 2025 the Jr. NBA programme saw over 1,000 primary students take part in weekly basketball sessions with 320 students being selected to take part in the 'Festival of Fun' at the National Basketball Arena. Students showcased their skills in a variety of stations including dribbling, shooting, 5x5, 3x3 and a basketball quiz. A fan favourite every year is the press conference station, set up by the media and communications team, allowing students to take turns answering interview questions.

The current 2026 programme saw the highest level of interest, with over 25 clubs applying. 10 were selected from across Ireland. The 2026 participating clubs are Tipp Talons, Clare Cascaders, St. Brendan's Basketball Club, Phoenix Basketball Club, Sligo All-Stars, Tolka Rovers, Blue Demons Basketball Club, St. Colm's Basketball Club, Claregalway, and East Cork Glenmary.

They are preparing for their visit to the National Basketball Arena this year on May 20th. Each school was drafted their NBA team and will be wearing their team gear on the day. Again for the second year, Irish International Claire Melia will visit the 'Festival of Fun' to meet the students and coaches, offering tips and taking part in the day.

Internationally, Ireland has been a positive case study for the Jr. NBA in the execution of the programme. While many other federations run their Jr. NBA programmes as leagues, Basketball Ireland runs the Jr. NBA as an introduction to basketball for primary school students, as well as creating links between growing clubs and primary schools in their area. The Jr. NBA programme has encouraged dozens of students to join club basketball after participating in the event.

Urban Hoops

2025 was the fourth year of our Urban Hoops programme. This is a grant funded programme for primary schools who fall into a DEIS category. The programme includes a six-week in school coaching programme, followed by a blitz for participating schools. In 2025, roughly 5,200 students from DEIS schools took part in the programme from Northern Ireland, Dublin, Galway, Meath, Donegal, and Limerick. The Urban Hoops programme has also helped create a pathway for students between school and club, with students who excel in the programme offered a scholarship to a local club, while others have joined clubs teams as well.

ERASMUS PROJECTS

PAUL CARR



Basketball Ireland in recent years have been successful in partnering and leading a number of European projects through Erasmus plus funding. European partnerships have helped to drive innovation, inclusion, and long-term development across the game. Over recent years, these projects have enabled the organisation to collaborate with leading federations and governing bodies, while embedding new knowledge and systems within Irish basketball.

The first project Basketball Ireland's partnered with was through FIBA Europe's EuroStep project. Co-funded by Erasmus+, EuroStep focused on supporting national federations and clubs to adapt to the accelerating digital transformation of basketball in the post-pandemic era. The project brought together federations from across Europe to develop expertise in media operations, digital engagement, and the use of emerging technologies.

Basketball Ireland played an active role as one of four partner federations, contributing case studies and participating in workshops and knowledge-sharing events across Europe. The programme culminated in 2023 with the successful graduation of Irish representatives. A key legacy of this project has been the connection with NBN23, whose expertise in digital tools helped digitize the sport here in Ireland through the use of their digital scoresheet.

Basketball Ireland has also been an active participant in the PROMISE project, led by the Catalan Basketball Federation. This initiative is focused on promoting gender equality and increasing the representation of women in leadership roles within basketball. Through this collaboration, Basketball Ireland developed its Dream Mentorship Programme, providing structured support and progression pathways for female coaches and referees.

The project has strengthened the organisation's commitment to inclusivity and created meaningful opportunities for women to advance within

the sport.

Building on this partnership, Basketball Ireland is currently involved in the SHOOTER project, also led by the Catalan Basketball Federation. This Erasmus+ initiative is designed to equip federations with digital tools and skills to enhance operational efficiency while promoting environmental sustainability. By working alongside European partners and technology providers, Basketball Ireland is contributing to the development of more innovative, efficient, and sustainable approaches to managing the sport, while also exploring how digital solutions can improve participation and engagement.

In 2026, Basketball Ireland marked another significant milestone through the delivery of its first Erasmus+ job shadowing programme. Coaches from the underage academy system travelled to Valencia Basket Club in Spain, gaining first-hand insight into elite academy structures, coaching methodologies, and player development systems. This experience represents a major step forward in knowledge exchange, with learnings already being integrated into Irish pathways to enhance coaching standards and player development.

Overall, Erasmus+ funding has played a transformative role in Basketball Ireland's development. Through strategic European partnerships, the organisation has strengthened its digital capacity, advanced gender equality initiatives, and invested in the education of its people. These projects ensure that Basketball Ireland remains aligned with best practice across Europe, while continuing to deliver meaningful impact at every level of the game.



BASKETBALL FOR ALL

PAUL CARR

Basketball Ireland's Basketball for All programme continues to play a central role in ensuring the sport is accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to participants of all abilities. Developed and expanded over the past number of years, the programme reflects Basketball Ireland's commitment to making basketball a game for everyone.

The programme has evolved significantly in recent years, moving from a small number of pilot initiatives to a nationwide network of inclusive clubs and activities. Through targeted supports, such as inclusive membership pathways and club development grants, Basketball Ireland has enabled clubs to establish and sustain Basketball for All teams, resulting in increased participation among players with intellectual, physical, and sensory disabilities and now has over 300 members.

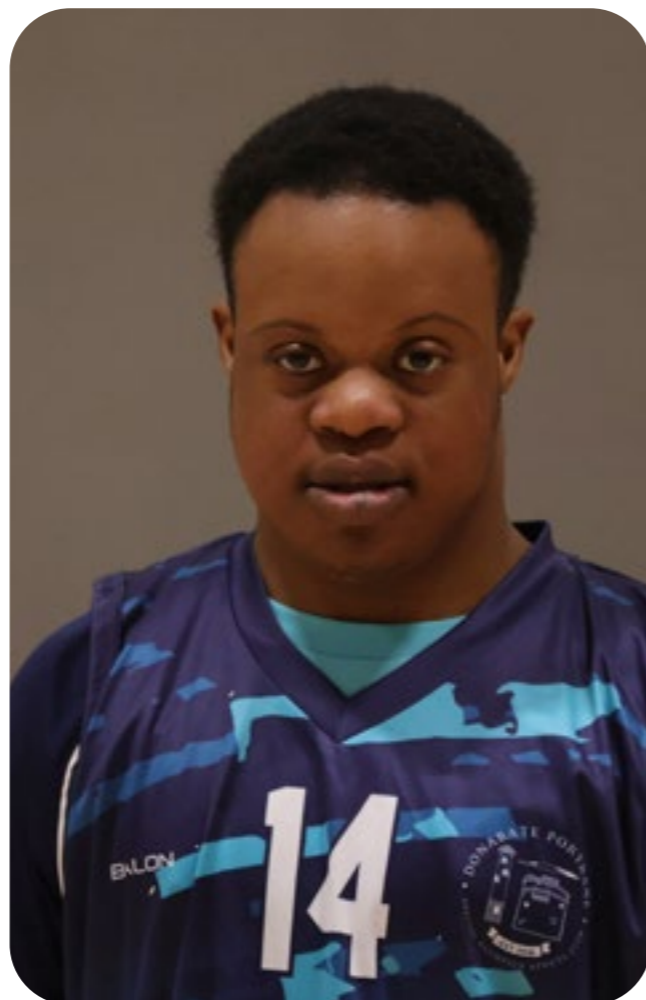
At its core, Basketball for All provides opportunities across multiple strands of the game. This includes underage inclusive club sessions, with the hope of adult teams participating in Special Olympics Ireland competitions. Together, these strands ensure that individuals of all ages and abilities can engage with the sport in a way that suits their needs and aspirations.

A key milestone this year has been the introduction and expansion of Basketball for All blitz events, in partnership with clubs throughout the country.

These blitzes have provided inclusive, fun, and social playing opportunities, bringing together players from different regions in a festival-style environment. Early success has been evident in strong participation levels and positive feedback from players, families, and clubs.

The programme is further underpinned by Basketball Ireland's commitment to national inclusion standards, including its adoption of the Active Disability Ireland Sport Inclusion Disability Charter. This commitment ensures that policies, coaching practices, and club environments continue to evolve in line with best practice, supporting participants with disabilities to lead active and healthy lifestyles through sport.

Today, Basketball for All is delivered through a growing network of clubs nationwide, each providing inclusive sessions tailored to their communities.



These clubs cater for a wide range of ages and abilities, ensuring that players who may not otherwise have access to traditional basketball pathways are given the opportunity to participate, develop skills, and enjoy the game in a supportive environment.

As the programme continues to grow, Basketball Ireland remains focused on strengthening club capacity, increasing participation opportunities, and enhancing visibility for inclusive basketball. The continued expansion of blitz events, alongside ongoing investment in club development and partnerships, positions Basketball for All as a cornerstone of Basketball Ireland's strategic vision to make basketball a sport for all.

NABC REPORT

WILLIE MCCARTHY

The National Area Boards Committee (NABC) is responsible for club basketball within Basketball Ireland. The NABC is comprised of one representative from each Area Board across the island of Ireland, along with five additional Executive Officers.

Meetings this season were conducted through a combination of in-person and virtual formats. The use of Zoom enabled us to convene at short notice when required, while a limited number of meetings were held in Dublin, reducing travel demands for NABC representatives.

This marks my first year of a two-year term as Chairperson of the NABC Committee. I would like to pay tribute to Jason Thornton, Paul McDevitt, and Margaret Miley, all of whom have given many years of dedicated service to the NABC as Chairpersons and committee members. Their contributions are sincerely appreciated.

One of our primary tasks this year was a comprehensive review of the Underage Playing Rules and Transfer Rules. All clubs nationwide were given the opportunity to contribute to this process. Each Area Board held special meetings, where clubs voted on the proposed changes, ensuring a democratic and inclusive approach.

The season began with the opening rounds of the U20 National Cup and the first round of the NICC in October. In early November, qualifying tournaments for the U18 National Cups were hosted by clubs across the country. Participation levels were strong, with:

- 41 teams in the Billy Coffey U18 Men's National Cup
- 34 teams in the U18 Women's National Cup
- 16 teams in the Ken Clarke U20 Women's National Cup
- 31 teams in the U20 Men's National Cup
- 26 teams in the NICC Women's National Cup
- 32 teams in the NICC Men's National Cup

January saw teams travel to Cork for the semi-finals of all National Cups, with three venues in operation. It was an excellent weekend, showcasing the best of basketball. A special thanks to the host clubs Neptune, Brunell, and Ballincollig for their outstanding organisation and hospitality.

The National Cup Finals followed, beginning with the NICC Men's National Cup Final, where Phoenix BC emerged victorious. Fr. Mathews secured the NICC Women's title in the opening game on Saturday morning. Titans BC claimed a dramatic win over Neptune in the U20 Men's Final, while Dublin Lions lifted the Billy Coffey U18 Men's National Cup. Limerick Celtics were crowned champions of the U18 Women's National Cup and Gurrabraher Credit Union Brunell took the Ken Clarke U20 Women's National Cup title.

Attention then turned to the All-Ireland Club Championships (AICC), held over four weekends, beginning in April at Gormanston College. Each weekend featured 24–25 teams competing in U14 and U16 boys' and girls' divisions across A, B, and C grades. At the time of writing, the final weekend is still to take place. A sincere thank you to Orla Rooney and Margaret Miley for their invaluable assistance in organising these events, as well as to all referees, table officials, and volunteers who dedicated their time.



The U14 Inter-Area Board competition was hosted in the University of Limerick, by the North Munster Area Board. Thank you for your excellent organisation. The U17 Inter-Area Board competition is scheduled for the May Bank Holiday weekend and will be hosted by the Galway Area Basketball Board - our thanks in advance for their efforts.

As someone new to the role of Chairperson, I would like to extend my gratitude to my fellow committee members - Jason Thornton, Orla Rooney, Barbara Kelly and Brid Stack - for their unwavering support and commitment throughout the year. From late-night emergency meetings, to always being available when needed, this is volunteering at its very best.

I would also like to thank Margaret Miley, Paul McDevitt, and Neil Kilbane for their guidance and advice over the year. To all Area Boards, your continued work is the backbone of our sport - without you, there would be no basketball community.

Finally, thank you to John Feehan, Daryl Lambe, Louise O'Loughlin and all the staff at Basketball Ireland for their constant support and availability throughout the season.



CTOC REPORT

GERRY KELLY

The 2025/26 season again presented a range of challenges and opportunities for development across the game. CTOC continued to engage closely with key stakeholders, including John Feehan, CEO of Basketball Ireland, and the National League Committee (NLC). Productive meetings were held before and during the season, which strengthened communication and collaboration. This approach will continue into the 2026/27 season.

Work also continued the implementation of the CTOC Strategic Plan, which was introduced for the 2024/25 season and shared with Basketball Ireland, the NBRA and the NLC. The Table Officials development pathway remained a central focus. In collaboration with Mark Patton, initiatives were delivered during the season. These included:

- Four Introductory Courses, including a module on the NBN23 system, were delivered by Mark Patton and Catherine Bannon to over five hundred new Table Officials
- Two Advanced Courses were delivered to approximately 30 participants.
- Continued development of FIBA officials and expansion of the national panel
- Provision of officials for home FIBA international fixtures
- Declan Murray delivered five Transition Year courses.
- Ongoing game assessment of Commissioners and Table Officials
- Commissioner and Table Officials Development weekends were delivered by Mark Patton across National Cup and National League Finals weekends
- Mentoring programmes and seminar evenings were held during the season.
- School appointments were facilitated throughout the year.

At the request of the NLC, CTOC introduced a pilot initiative to assess the suitability of Super League and Men's Division One venues. Observation reports were completed on ten venues and submitted to Basketball Ireland and the NLC for review.

With the support of Basketball Ireland, new uniforms were introduced for all FIBA licensed officials and members of the Development Panel. All CTOC courses continue to include a development module on the NBN23 platform.

CTOC is pleased to confirm the continued FIBA licensing of Commissioners Declan Murray and Paula Cleary, who officiated at FIBA summer tournaments and European club games. The 2025/26 season also saw an additional seven Table Officials achieve FIBA licensing, bringing our FIBA panel up to twenty-seven, reflecting the strength of the development pathway, with thirteen officials on the Development Panel.

An updating session for Domino's Super League and Division One Table Officials was delivered in September. Attendance remains an area for improvement and will be addressed with clubs. A mid-season review meeting with Commissioners and Super League Table Officials proved beneficial and will be repeated.

Basketball Ireland FIBA licensed officials officiated at all Dublin-based European fixtures. CTOC currently has twenty-eight active Commissioners nationwide. Increasing gender balance remains a priority, with female representation reaching 36 percent during the season. CTOC acknowledges the continued support of Basketball Ireland CEO John Feehan, the wider Basketball Ireland team and local Development Officers.

The Return of CJ Fulton

CJ Fulton created further history for Irish basketball in 2025 by becoming the first player to come through the Irish schools system to sign a contract with an NBA team when he signed an 'Exhibit 10' deal with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Fulton has spent the past five years since leaving St. Malachy's, Belfast at The Winchendon School in Boston, before playing NCAA DI basketball at Lafayette and Charleston.

Following the completion of his college career, Fulton participated in the NBA Summer League and signed his 'Exhibit 10' deal on September 24th. The 23-year-old has spent the past season with the Iowa Wolves in the NBA G League.

In February of 2026, Fulton returned for the Ireland senior men's team for the first time in since 2022, when he lined out in the FIBA EuroBasket 2029 Pre-Qualifier against Azerbaijan at the National Basketball Arena.



SAFEGUARDING REPORT

RORY WALL

This report outlines the key safeguarding, compliance, and governance activities undertaken by the National Children's Officer (NCO) and Compliance Manager for the period April 2025 – April 2026. It reflects continued progress in child protection, vetting, complaints handling, online safety, data protection, and organisational governance. The past year has seen strengthened policy implementation, improved training reach, and enhanced oversight across clubs and affiliates.

Safeguarding & Child Protection

Basketball Ireland remains committed to ensuring a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for all participants. Over the past year, significant work has been completed across policy development, training, case management, and club support.

Policy Development & Implementation

Safeguarding Policy Alignment BI continues to align its Safeguarding Policy with Sport Ireland best practice and the Children First Act 2015. Guidance to clubs has been updated to reflect changes in reporting pathways, coaching responsibilities, and supervision requirements. Code of Conduct for All (2025) The Code of Conduct introduced last year is now fully embedded across clubs. Additional explanatory guidance was issued in late 2025 to support committees, parents, and coaches in applying the Code consistently.

Transgender & Inclusion Policy Review

The working group continued its review throughout 2025/26. Key developments include:

- Completion of stakeholder consultation
- Updated draft aligned with Sport Ireland and international guidance
- Planned publication in the next reporting cycle

Safeguarding Training & Awareness

Safeguarding training remains a core pillar of Basketball Ireland's child protection framework.

Training Metrics (April 2025 – April 2026):

- SG1 Courses Delivered: 22
- Participants Safeguarded: 376
- SG2 (Club Children's Officers) Courses: 2
- SG3 (Designated Liaison Person) Courses: Delivered via LSP partners as required

Training continues to be delivered in partnership with Local Sports Partnerships, ensuring national coverage and accessibility.

Collaboration with Diversity & Inclusion Group

The partnership with the Diversity & Inclusion Group has strengthened further this year. Joint workstreams included:

- Inclusive safeguarding guidance
- Case review considerations for minority groups
- Support for clubs engaging with diverse communities

This collaboration continues to shape BI's safeguarding approach and ensure equitable protection for all members.

Handling of Complaints & Investigations

Safeguarding complaints were managed in line with BI's Complaints & Disciplinary Procedures, ensuring transparency, due process, and child centred decision making. Where appropriate, BI engaged with Tusla, An Garda Síochána, and Sport Ireland on serious matters.

Vetting & Garda Clearance

Vetting remains a cornerstone of BI's safeguarding framework. All vetting is conducted in accordance with the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012–2016.

Vetting Metrics (April 2025 – April 2026):

- Total vetting applications processed: 2,073
- Applications processed Aug–Nov: 1,448 (approx. two thirds of annual volume)
- Vetting rejections due to non compliance: 0

Compliance audits were carried out across clubs to ensure all individuals in regulated roles were vetted prior to engagement.

Confidentiality Standards: All safeguarding and disciplinary matters are handled with strict confidentiality. Where appeals arise, procedural fairness may require relevant parties to be named, in line with natural justice principles.

Compliance & Data Protection (GDPR)

Basketball Ireland remains committed to full compliance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Key actions this year included:

- Secure storage and controlled access to safeguarding, vetting, and disciplinary records
- Updated data retention schedules for safeguarding files
- Ongoing collaboration with FinArc on governance and risk management
- Completion of internal compliance audits across several operational areas



Social Media & Online Safety

Online safety remains a priority, particularly for young players.

Policy Updates: The Social Media Policy (2023) and Coaches' Social Media Guidelines (2024) were supplemented with updated guidance in late 2025, including:

- Clarified rules on communication boundaries
- Updated examples of prohibited conduct
- Guidance for clubs on managing team run social media pages

Education & Monitoring: Clubs were encouraged to deliver online safety briefings. BI continues to provide reporting pathways for inappropriate online behaviour or cyberbullying.

Key Cases & Outcomes

Several safeguarding and disciplinary cases were managed during the reporting period. BI took decisive action where necessary to protect participants and uphold the integrity of the sport.

Disciplinary Actions (2025–2026):

- Coaching: Further sanctions were imposed in cases involving breaches of safeguarding standards, including suspensions and mandatory retraining.
- Officials: A number of complaints were reviewed, resulting in temporary suspensions and required re-vetting and safeguarding training prior to return.

All actions were taken in line with BI's disciplinary procedures and with child welfare as the primary consideration.

Future Priorities

Looking ahead, Basketball Ireland will focus on:

Publication of the revised Transgender & Inclusion Policy
 Enhanced Club Compliance Audits, including safeguarding, vetting, and GDPR
 Expansion of Safeguarding Training, including blended and regional delivery
 Strengthened Governance & Risk Management, in partnership with FinArc
 Improved Online Safety Supports, including updated resources for clubs
 Continued Stakeholder Engagement, ensuring clubs, parents, coaches, and players remain central to policy development

Conclusion

Basketball Ireland remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding, compliance, and good governance. The past year has seen meaningful progress across policy development, training, vetting oversight, and case management. Our continued collaboration with the Diversity & Inclusion Group and our clubs ensures that basketball remains a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all.

ANTI-DOPING REPORT

NIALL MCDERMOTT

The 2025/26 year marked a period of continuity and transition for Basketball Ireland's anti-doping programme.

Harry Doyle served as Anti-Doping Officer for the majority of the year, delivering a consistent and professional programme of education, compliance, and regulatory reporting. The role transferred to Niall McDermott in April 2026, with a structured handover, ensuring no disruption to ongoing obligations. Basketball Ireland remains fully committed to its responsibilities under the WADA Code and to maintaining the integrity of the sport at every level.

Athlete Education & Awareness

Athlete education remained the cornerstone of Basketball Ireland's anti-doping programme throughout the year. All international squad players from U16 level upwards, including senior men, senior women and 3x3 squads, were required to complete the WADA e-learning platform prior to the international season. Players and management travelling as part of a final squad were also required to attend a Sport Ireland anti-doping workshop, in line with Basketball Ireland's minimum education standards.

The National League Anti-Doping Handbook was circulated to all Domino's Men's and Women's Super League (and Domino's Men's and Women's Division One) clubs at the start of the season, covering prohibited substances, supplement risks, recreational substances, and over-the-counter medications. Mid-season reminders were issued to club managers, reinforcing key messaging. Sport Ireland educators Carrie O'Keeffe and Elaine Cahill provided valuable support in delivering workshops to international squads ahead of the summer season.

Testing

Basketball Ireland is not part of the Registered Testing Pool, meaning players are not subject to whereabouts requirements. However, no-notice in-competition testing remains applicable. Testing was facilitated in coordination with Sport Ireland's testing team, with National Cup Finals identified as the primary target event for the 2025/26 season. Relevant fixture dates were logged with the Sport Ireland Clearinghouse, and on-site logistics were managed in collaboration with Sport Ireland's testing department.

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

TUE applications were processed on behalf of players requiring the use of prescribed medications containing prohibited substances. Documentation was maintained in line with FIBA and Sport Ireland requirements. Appropriate FIBA TUE forms were made available to team management and relevant player medication files were held securely on record for travelling international squads. All TUE documentation was stored and shared on a strict need-to-know basis, in accordance with athlete confidentiality requirements.

Regulatory Compliance

Basketball Ireland maintained its compliance reporting obligations to Sport Ireland as required under the NGB Core Grant conditions. The annual compliance report was submitted within the required timeframe, and education plan documentation was updated and submitted to Sport Ireland for both the 2025 and 2026 programme cycles. Basketball Ireland's public-facing anti-doping communications were kept up to date throughout the year.



Pictured: Irish Wheelchair Association National Cup Final, National Basketball Arena, South East Swifts' Jack Mangan takes a free-throw.



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