

EASTERN QUALIFYING COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS & THEIR FAMILIES

Your teams are now in the major “championship” phase of a grade within a huge competition with close to one thousand teams competing, probably unique in the world in terms of provision of opportunity for achievement-oriented basketball.

The competition is only possible because of the strength of even broader local competitions, which is a tribute to the work of hundreds of local club organisers and coaches. The achievement-oriented cream is only about 15% of the total junior participation cake.

Regional championship basketball is a statement that opportunities for striving and improvement should be provided for *all* those with ability and aspirations and who are prepared to accept the disciplines to achieve new level of “personal best”.

Basketball Victoria states as a mission “ to provide individuals with the opportunity to maximise their potential by competing in the highest level possible given their own ability.” Eastern Qualifying is pleased to play its part in this mission.

As a coach in this competition as well as an organiser, I am excited by the demonstrations of outstanding quick thinking, enormous courage, creative teamwork and emerging refined skills displayed at all levels.

Many players from East have gone on to play at Victorian Junior Championship level, and some to represent Victoria. Also small and medium-sized associations have gathered the strength and nurtured the talent in regional basketball, and now have strong teams at the top level.

The criteria for a successful season for a team are:

- The development of team spirit and sense of belonging
- Improvement in personal performance of players and of teamwork.
- Enjoyment of the adventure of a nine month project, with some highlights to remember and lessons learned.

To achieve these players need warm, appreciative but challenging support from coaches, organisers and families. Participation in the finals will be an aim of all, but the nature of competition will deny it to some.

I wish all participants the best in enjoying keen contests, and achievement of personal goals.

David Hickman, Chairperson EQCBC.