

BASKETBALL NSW

PRESS RELEASE



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NEW SOUTH WALES 2010 UNDER 18 HEAD COACHES APPOINTED

Basketball New South Wales is pleased to announce the state team head coaches to lead the NSW teams at the 2010 Australian Under 18 Championships.

New South Wales has a proud tradition of success at Australian Junior Championships and four experienced coaches will be at the helm of the teams that will wear the sky blue and white in 2010.

Current Australian Under 19 Women's network assistant coach Michael Turton will coach the NSW Metropolitan Under 18 Women's team, returning to the role in which he led the team to a silver medal in 2008.

Former West Sydney Razorbacks mentor Mark Watkins is the new man as head coach of the NSW Metropolitan Under 18 Men's team, bringing a wealth of experience to his new role.

Watkins not only brings 13 years of National Basketball League coaching experience to the table, but also has extensive experience at the junior level, serving as an assistant coach at the Australian Institute of Sport and coaching numerous Victoria Metropolitan state teams.

In the country program, Shawn McEachin returns for his second year at the helm of the NSW Country Under 18 men after his impressive head coaching debut at the championships in Gawler in April 2009.

Son of Herb McEachin, one of the legends of the game in Australia, Shawn is regarded as one of the most promising young coaches in the state, having coached numerous junior teams in Newcastle and Illawarra, as well as acting as an assistant in the ABL.

Scott Balsar will be at the helm of the NSW Country Under 18 Women, returning to the role of head coach after a successful stint coaching in the New South Wales State Basketball League, where he guided Shoalhaven to consecutive state championships.

An assistant coach at this age level in 2009, Balsar takes over the reins from long time NSW state coach Eric Kivi and Balsar has already enjoyed National Championship success winning gold in 2005.

The 2010 Australian Under 18 Championships will be held in New South Wales in April, with the four coaches all looking forward to the challenge of competing for national championship success of home soil.



Basketball New South Wales Manager of Player and Coach Development Robbie Cadee said he was confident the four coaches would play a key role in leading the teams to success in 2010.

“We are pleased to have assembled an experienced and hard working group of coaches to lead our state teams next year,” he said.

“All four coaches have worked extensively in junior representative and development programs at the state and national level and that experience will be important for the development of the young players in the teams

The appointment of the coaches in June provides opportunities for all four mentors to observe games in the various junior representative leagues and start the process of talent identification in the lead up to open trials in September.

Basketball New South Wales will now work with the coaches to finalise the assistant coaches and support staff as preparations gear up for the 2010 championships.

