



For Immediate Release
Tuesday 29th September 2026

Penrith Panthers commit to NBL1 East return in 2028.

Basketball NSW (BNSW) and the Penrith & District Basketball Association (PDBA) have agreed in principle to pause the Penrith Panthers' participation in the NBL1 East competition for one season, with a commitment to return in 2028.

This will provide the Association with the opportunity to focus on strengthening the long-term future of the Panther's program while continuing to provide representative and senior playing opportunities for athletes across the Penrith region.

Kurt Watts, President of PDBA says "This was not a decision the Board took lightly. Our players, coaches, staff and supporters gave a great deal in 2026 in far from ideal circumstances, and we're grateful to every one of them. We want the Panthers back in NBL1 East, playing in front of a home crowd in Penrith."

To ensure opportunities remain available for local athletes, the Panthers will field Men's and Women's teams in the 2027 Waratah League competition. Importantly, home games will be played in Penrith, maintaining a senior pathway for local basketballers while the Association prepares for its return to NBL1 East. Mr Watts, emphasised that "Details regarding trials and registrations will be released shortly and we encourage local players to continue their basketball journey with the Panthers."

David Simpson, Interim CEO from BNSW said the decision was supported by the governing body. "The Penrith Panthers have a proud history of developing talented basketballers and contributing to the growth of the game in Western Sydney. While the challenges associated with securing a suitable long-term home venue have created some short-term obstacles, we fully support PDBA's decision to consolidate and build for the future. We look forward to welcoming the Panthers back to NBL1 East in 2028."

Mr Watts emphatically says "PDBA thanks the players, coaches, staff, volunteers, sponsors and supporters who backed the Panthers through the 2026 season. We remain committed to providing opportunities for local players and building a sustainable future for basketball in Penrith."

ENDS

PENRITH & DISTRICTS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION INC

www.penrithbasketball.com.au

ABN 92 904 807 838

contact@penrithbasketball.net

P.O. Box 8047 Werrington County NSW
2747

MEDIA RELEASE



Media enquiries:

PDBA

Name: Vanessa Campbell

Phone: 0413 111 261

Email: officials@penrithbasketball.net

BNSW

Name: Jaylee Ismay – Head of Media & Communications

Phone: 0477 779 600

Email: jaylee.ismay@bnsb.com.au

Photo opportunities available on request.

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