



OPTUS

Junior Competition 2026/27

What's changing?

- Season Structures
 - Term 1: NCAA style tournament
 - Winter/Summer Seasons
- Additions to age groups
 - New U23 competition



Term 1 2026: NCAA Tournament

We're kicking off the new calendar with a bang! Term 1, 2026 will see the launch of our all-new March Madness-style competition — a fast-paced, tournament-style event designed to prepare players, coaches, and clubs for the first full Winter Season under our new competition format.

This exciting new structure will feature:

🔥 No divisions — all teams compete together in one open pool.

🏆 No knockouts — every team continues to play right through the tournament.

⚔️ Winners vs. Winners — each round matches the strongest teams against each other, leading to the ultimate showdown to crown the top team in each age group.



The Term 1 Tournament is all about intensity, development, and competition — providing the perfect pre-season challenge while fostering strong rivalries and high-level play before the main Winter Season begins.

Depending on the total number of teams in each age group, teams will either be placed into pools to compete in round-robin matchups during the opening rounds or move directly into a Winners vs. Winners and Losers vs. Losers bracket format.

💰 Reduced Fees After Christmas!

To make it easier for families and clubs during the holiday period, we'll be offering **reduced SWM registration fees** for this competition which will be 50% of the 2026 Winter season fee. (Not including BQ registration fees – 12 months).

This tournament will also assist clubs by providing a strong indication of each team's appropriate division placement for the upcoming Winter Season commencing in Term 2.

Winter/Summer Seasons

South West Metro Pirates are transitioning to a new Winter and Summer season structure, designed to better align with the broader Australian sports calendar and provide a more consistent year-round competition pathway. With opportunities for all athletes to play basketball in our association.

WHY?

1. Reduces administrative burden for clubs directly after the Christmas break.
2. Provides financial relief for members by lowering participation costs around the holiday period.
3. Aligns better with BQ SQJBC competitions, allowing for more comprehensive restricted player rules.
4. Increases participation during the summer season from multi-sport athletes.

The Format:

Summer Season: Term 4 & Term 1 (Oct – Mar)

Winter Season: Term 2 & Term 3 (Apr – Sep)

(First full season of 2026)



Age Groups & years of participation 2026/27:

Age Group	Term 1 Tournament & Winter Season 2026 (Term 2 & 3)			
U8	2020	2019		
U10	2018	2017		
U12	2016	2015		
U14	2014	2013		
U16	2012	2011		
U19	2010	2009	2008	-
U23	2007	2006	2005	2004

Age Group	Summer Season 2026/27 (Term 4 & 1)			
U8	2021	2020		
U10	2019	2018		
U12	2017	2016		
U14	2015	2014		
U16	2013	2012		
U19	2011	2010	2009	-
U23	2008	2007	2006	2005

Age Group	Winter Season 2027 (Term 2 & 3)			
U8	2021	2020		
U10	2019	2018		
U12	2017	2016		
U14	2015	2014		
U16	2013	2012		
U19	2011	2010	2009	-
U23	2008	2007	2006	2005

Age Group	Summer Season 2027/28 (Term 4 & 1)			
U8	2022	2021		
U10	2020	2019		
U12	2018	2017		
U14	2016	2015		
U16	2014	2013		
U19	2012	2011	2010	-
U23	2009	2008	2007	2006

Athletes highlighted in Gold may participate in the U23 competition*

Addition of the U23 competition

South West Metro Pirates are introducing a new **Under 23 (U23) Competition** as part of their evolving player pathway. This competition is designed to bridge the gap between junior and senior basketball, providing athletes aged 17–23 with a competitive environment to continue their development.

The U23 league will emphasize high-level play, growth opportunities, and a link to QSLYL and QSL pathways — helping players stay engaged, refine their skills, and prepare for the next stage of their basketball journey.

This competition will take place within the Optus Junior Competition with games being played on a Friday Night. South West Metro is continuing to work to provide a competitive competition within this age group looking to expand, grow and develop it over the next few seasons.

WHY?

1. Encourages participation early adulthood years.
2. Gives clubs more opportunities to develop young coaches and athletes.
3. Creates a pathway for current and potential QSL & QSLYL athletes to continue their organised basketball journey within a high-paced, structured competition.
4. Bridges the gap between Junior Domestic Basketball & Senior Domestic Basketball.

Rule changes as a result of the inclusion of this age group including restricted player status & restricted player limits will be release later this season to club delegates & then to the entire membership base.

Questions & Enquires can be directed here:

<https://form.jotform.com/253001139582046>