



INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

IBL Set To Manage and Partner With Pro Ams As Ten Year Organization Takes New Shape

January 8, 2015 – Vancouver, WA - After ten successful seasons the International Basketball League (IBL) is again heading in a new and exciting direction as a league of leagues.

Over the past ten seasons, players with varied professional experience, as well as accomplished college graduates have utilized the IBL as a platform to help hone their skills while preparing themselves for the next step in their playing careers. The IBL has helped propel players to professional gigs in leagues such as Euroleague, Liga ACB, Basketball Japan League (BJL), Chinese Basketball Association (CBA), Basketball Bundesliga (BBL), and Portuguese Basketball League (LCB) to name a few. With officials moving up to the NBA Development League and through the college ranks working under the experience of NBA Officials, and front office personnel are seeing developments as well.

Now, in another leadership move, the league transforms itself into an all new league of leagues, broadening its overall impact on the basketball landscape even more, combining standards, infrastructure and development now with NBA flair to support and lead leagues across the country.

According to the IBL owner over the past three years, Bryan Hunter, the re-positioned International Basketball Leagues (IBL) will take the successes generated from the past ten and use them in a new format. "As most people know the minor league sports system is extremely difficult for players and owners. With many other leagues popping up and down, providing various offers that are not realistic or followed through. Players are traveling from city to city usually in some old small bus or by personal car. They are getting paid very little or nothing, while hoping they have towels and water to play with in other leagues. It is hard to find owners that are willing to lose tens to hundreds of thousands per year on a hobby, let alone find those that will run the games at our standards, which we align with the D-League. The IBL has seen teams/owners come and go, and it has become more and more difficult to find good owners for the league. So we decided to take our resources and connections, to do what we do best and offer them to leagues. Those resources include; how to stream live games correctly, full player stats, player profiles, rules and enforcement, referee assignments, web design, conflict management, centralized sponsorship's, and many others. What it allows is for each league to be much more efficient in running and overall reduces the operating cost," Hunter says, who speaks from experience as he is also a team owner for seven years.

Hunter adds, "One small example that kind of proves a point, is that most leagues just struggle to get full, timely, accurate statistics and a player profile up. If they do have statistics they are days behind and incomplete. This is one of the most critical parts for players to have the ability to go play overseas. Right now, self proclaimed to be the largest semi-pro basketball league in America, is the ABA, they have about one hundred teams, but don't have a single player profile or stats. If the largest league can't even provide that then imagine how difficult it is for a smaller league."

As the repackaged IBL looks to lead and focus on Pro Ams, the league of leagues will ultimately increase its exposure by providing a professional platform for players to compete alongside and against NBA, NBA D-League, top international league players, and prospects who have completed their collegiate playing careers.



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The future is bright under this new vision, as the IBL will look to remain the standard, but also continue as a pioneer for minor league basketball.

Hunter continues, “the first league that we have signed on to manage is the Portland Pro Am, all IBL teams in and around Portland, Oregon will be invited to join and play in that league at a new standard. Any of the other teams we will make a suggestion of what league will make the most sense for them.”

By managing the [Portland Pro Am](#) in a part of the country that the IBL has strengthened itself over the years with contacts and relationships, the IBL will work together with the Portland Pro Am to showcase the benefits of such a partnership. Players, coaches, officials, local businesses, and most importantly the fans of the surrounding communities will all reap the rewards of this unique affiliation which hopes to be the benchmark for future cooperative efforts between the IBL and Pro Am leagues.

Over the past three years under Commissioner Graf with almost twenty years experience in pro sports, the league moved to being one with high standards and good working relationships with the NBA Development League, top overseas leagues, scouts and agents, to keep developing talent.

“In the past three years we have rebranded this league, grown a following and network at the highest levels of professional basketball. More players have moved on to positions in the NBA Development League and the highest levels overseas, as well as officials and front office personnel development. We now find some of the most talented players returning or being ready to play again after a rest and time with family, with overseas leagues going longer and who want the opportunity to play against NBA players” IBL Commissioner Sharleen Graf shared. “We have set and executed standards in game day presentations, unique and unprecedented partnerships, and today we are sharing our next steps on that venture. This will change the structure of the new IBL and we will also be creating one for the Portland Pro Am,” Graf stated.

“From hockey to baseball, soccer and basketball, the minor league sports landscape has changed over the past 20 years, the ability to find strong ownership as Bryan (Hunter) shared is increasingly challenging when not attached to the major leagues. These are different times, economically and through technology, what is possible to create now has positives and negatives. We choose to operate with transparency and use resources to create a positive impact for our fans, owners, players, officials and more. It is important to be at the highest levels and standards, and that means continuing to work with the NBA office to follow criteria set for Pro Ams, the NBA Development League and top overseas leagues on developing talent, our friends and colleagues at FIBA providing international criteria and guidelines.”

“Having Terrence Jones, a young NBA talent as a leader from his community is outstanding, we will continue to work close with his team to bring a refreshed professional Pro Am to the city. We will still have community games as in minor league sports, with those teams who qualify and are able to put on a great game day experience for the fans. As we continue this new direction we have confirmed cooperation between the Portland Pro Am and Seattle Pro Am with more to be determined. Jamal Crawford is an outstanding professional athlete and person as evidenced by the way he gives back to his community, we support and want to assist in those efforts,” Graf shared.

As more and more Pro Ams bring together the world’s top players to environments that are family friendly, well-organized, and properly managed, the International Basketball Leagues (IBL) will help to assist these current and future Pro Ams to reach their full potentials. The end result will be a positive basketball culture which enables professionals the ability to display their talents alongside blossoming prospects for friends and families to enjoy, but also to increase exposure for themselves as they look to continue or begin their professional careers.

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About the International Basketball Leagues (IBL):

The International Basketball Leagues (IBL) is a league of leagues, with expertise in the governance of standards, rules, regulations, marketing, data collection and efficiency in the highest level of men's professional minor league basketball outside of the NBA Development League. For ten seasons (2004-2014) the IBL hosted teams spanning North America and Internationally engaging high level athletes, coaches, officials and business professionals, dedicated to fostering international basketball talent focused on providing family friendly events for fans in communities across North America.

As we now focus on a consortium of leading and servicing Pro Ams to increase exposure, value, standards and combining the talents of current NBA athletes, overseas returners, and college players who have completed their eligibility, the IBL is again leading an evolution in professional men's basketball working with the NBA and NBA D-League as well as FIBA. Still providing family friendly events for fans in communities, the Leagues serve as a platform for players to showcase their talents, now including competing against current NBA talent.

Through our standards and technology coaches, officials and players accomplishments are captured through video, real time statistics, full player profiles and scouting reports to provide authentic development of athletes, referees and front office staff offering opportunities to move into placements in the NBA Development League and overseas.

The Pro Am leagues who participate in our consortium compete in a season after the NBA Development League has completed and many overseas leagues have just completed their now extended seasons. The IBL is working with the Portland Pro Am and others, playing in quality venues with NBA and FIBA on court rules which create a fast paced, high scoring, exciting game on both ends. Players move into positions with the NBA Development League as well as international leagues overseas such as the Euroleague, Liga ACB, Basketball Japan League (BJL), Chinese Basketball Association (CBA), Basketball Bundesliga (BBL), Portuguese Basketball League (LCB) and many more. Officials move into positions with the NCAA DI & DII, NBA Development League and more lead by Tommy Nunez Jr working closely with the NBA and D-League offices. Watch for more development, locations and opportunities to collaborate with the International Basketball Leagues, leagues of opportunity.