



BIG BLAST INDOORS RELEASE

BIG BLAST INDOORS KICKS OFF NEW ERA IN SPORT
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INDOOR Sports New South Wales and the Metro Cricket Committee are excited to announce a raft of changes to this year's representative format which will kick-off in the form of the newly launched Beastwear Big Blast Indoors (BBI) on May 2.

The modifications to the sport's highest level of state-wide representation have already brought with them a promise of increased participation in all grades of representative indoor cricket, and have the potential to reinvigorate the sport to levels which have not been seen for over a decade. Thus far a total of eight franchises have already committed to entering Premier League sides, while players will also compete in four other men's grades, a women's competition and four junior age groups committed to the growth of the sport. This number - which equates to over 400 players - is still rising with negotiations still ongoing with a number of franchises.

The most significant change will see sides entered as franchises rather than individual centres, and the opportunity exists for third parties - who are not currently members of Indoor Sports NSW and do not own an indoor sports centre - to enter teams and play out of hired centres.

Over \$10,000 of prize money will also be on offer throughout the BBI, with the new naming rights sponsor Beastwear committing a large amount of financial backing for all competitions and apparel for numerous franchises.

"This signing is a significant achievement for the ongoing future of this new venture," said Indoor Sports NSW chairman Anton Croxford.

"Beastwear's commitment of significant resources including cash prize money indicate their excitement at the prospect of being a part of the ongoing growth of this sport not only in New South Wales, but when the BBI expands to a national competition within the next few years.

"They have come up with some exciting designs for the franchises and I am sure will be well received by the players and their supporters."

The competition is also proudly sponsored by Burley, and as such balls have been provided to all franchises at a far reduced cost, and the Beastwear BBI is proudly endorsed by Cricket Australia and Cricket NSW, providing links to their promotions and judicial departments.

A number of new rules will also be in place for this competition. Tighter results and exciting finishes are expected in Premier League with games reverting to six ball overs where all wides and no-balls will be re-bowled. In all grades any front-foot no-balls will result in a free-hit off the following delivery, while Zing bails - as seen in the Twenty20 Big Bash League - will also be used. All games will be time limited with penalties to be incurred for any innings which goes over the allocated time. The professionalism of the game is also set to increase with no game fees to be required for any Premier League games, while a panel of skilled, trained and uniformed umpires will officiate all high-grade games.

The rebranded competition has the capabilities to capture a far greater audience than ever before, with games to be streamed by Ooh Media through the competition's website, which will also include player profiles, feature stories and statistical analysis as the tournament continues. The use of go-pros on selected players throughout matches also promises to be an exciting feature.

