



Dear Members,

The Board of Management wanted to take the opportunity to update the members on a few significant events. We understand it has been a difficult time for everyone, and the Board and staff of SPBA have been working diligently behind the scenes to get our kids back on the courts as soon as possible.

It has been extraordinary 18 months for the Association with the Rosebud Fire, and now the Pandemic our ability to deliver Basketball Programs has been severely affected. In such times it is incredibly important for the Association to come together. To that end, the Board has been meeting regularly with a group of prominent life members and past Presidents to map a way forward. The Board wanted to thank these members for such fantastic support. This arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future in an advisory capacity.

I wanted to extend an invitation to any member who feels they can help the Association to move forward in any way, be it sponsorship, volunteering, coaching, or just advice to get in contact. The Board is reaching out to all our members and Domestic clubs to come together at this time.

We are now very close to finalizing a return to Basketball. By now, you probably have received a message which outlines the process. We have had a couple of false starts as the goalposts were continually shifting. Most recently, the Department of Education has put in requirements around cleaning that we had to work through. This is an obvious necessity but has added a high cost to our bottom line. Our return to Basketball will be different than what we are used to, but we will adjust and adapt and deliver the best program possible.

I wanted to take the opportunity to address the Senior Program and the players. From all of the discussions with our senior coaches, we withdrew from Big V for the 2020 season. This decision was not an easy one to make. The Board remains committed to fielding teams in Big V for the 2021 season. We understand and respect that our players have choices to make moving forward. We hope that all our senior players consider the Sharks when we return to basketball.

I am happy to report that our finances are in a stable position (admittedly like all other businesses we are at the mercy of the virus). We have engaged the services of Paris Financial Group to help navigate these difficult times and develop a business plan for the long-term success of the club. Added to this, we are in the last stages of signing a Joint Use Agreement with Dromana College and the Department of Education that will secure our use of courts for many decades to come.

We are at a point now of rebuilding from what has been an incredibly difficult 18 months. It is an exciting time moving forward. We will have some significant (positive) announcements in the coming weeks. Our tournament planning is well underway and is shaping as a real celebration to get back on the court.

I would like to thank our staff who have worked long hours to get our kids back on the court. The SPBA has a long and proud history of over 50 years. This has undoubtedly been the most challenging of time, but our next 50 years promise to be the best.

Regards
Damian Paul
President
On Behalf of the Board of Management