



PROGRAM REPORT

2024-
2025

Letter From Our CEO

Ontario Basketball Association
Claude Nembhard
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Ontario Basketball Members,

It is my pleasure to present the Ontario Basketball Association's Annual Members Report for this past year. This report reflects the collective work, dedication, and passion that continues to drive basketball forward in communities across our province.

Over the last year, Ontario Basketball has remained committed to strengthening our programs, enhancing the athlete and coach experience, and building meaningful connections both on and off the court. Our focus has been grounded in three key pillars: **competitive excellence, inclusive community growth, and organizational accountability.**

This includes ensuring that **all coaches meet updated coaching certification requirements**, empowering them with the tools, knowledge, and ethical framework needed to support athlete development responsibly and effectively. Additionally, the continued implementation of **mandatory background checks** helps protect participants at every level. These measures are not simply administrative responsibilities—they are essential safeguards that uphold the integrity of our sport, maintain trust within our community, and ensure that OBA programs remain places where athletes feel secure, respected, and encouraged to thrive.



“ A major area of emphasis this year has been our ongoing commitment to Safe Sport. The safety, well-being, and protection of all participants — athletes, coaches, officials, parents, and volunteers — remains central to who we are as an organization.

We continue to reinforce policies and expectations around safe, positive, and abuse-free environments throughout all OBA programs.

This Annual Members Report provides transparency into our operations, highlights the accomplishments we have achieved together, and outlines the strategic direction that will guide us in the year ahead. As we continue to grow and serve the basketball community, we remain committed to fostering an environment where every participant feels valued, supported, and inspired.

On behalf of Ontario Basketball's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, thank you for your ongoing trust, engagement, and belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to build a safe, inclusive, and world-class basketball ecosystem of all Ontarians.

Sincerely,

Claude Nembhard

Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Basketball Association



Letter From Our VP & Chair

Ontario Basketball Association

Sharifa Wilkinson

Vice President & Chair

Dear Ontario Basketball Members,

On behalf of the Ontario Basketball Association's Board of Directors, I am pleased to share this Annual Members Report and to echo the reflections and direction outlined by our Chief Executive Officer, Claude Nembhard.

I want to especially reinforce our shared commitment to **Safe Sport** and the essential practices that protect participants at every level. The Board fully supports the continued strengthening of safeguards such as **mandatory coaching certification**, **background checks**, and adherence to national Safe Sport standards and policies. These requirements are not only critical to maintaining trust within our community—they are foundational to creating the respectful, athlete-centred environments our young people deserve. When athletes feel safe, supported, and empowered, they can reach their full potential both on and off the court.

This report highlights the many accomplishments across our high-performance programs, leagues, grassroots development initiatives, and partnership growth. It also reflects the dedication of the clubs, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, and athletes who make up the Ontario basketball ecosystem. Your collective passion and commitment continue to strengthen our organization and inspire our direction.



“ This past year has been one of meaningful progress, thoughtful decision-making, and continued commitment to serving our basketball community with integrity. As a Board, our role is to provide oversight, uphold accountability, and ensure that Ontario Basketball remains aligned with its mission to grow the game in a safe, inclusive, and responsible way.

We are proud of the work that has taken place across the organization and of the leadership demonstrated by Claude and the OBA staff team.

As we look ahead, the Board remains focused on strong governance, long-term sustainability, and ensuring that Ontario Basketball continues to be a leader provincially and nationally. We are excited about the path forward and confident in the work being done to elevate our sport and our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support, participation, and belief in the mission and values of Ontario Basketball. Together, we will continue to build a safe, equitable, and thriving basketball environment across Ontario.

Sincerely,

Sharifa Wilkinson

Vice President & Chair
Ontario Basketball Association



Executive Summary

Ontario Basketball develops the sport and everyone connected to it, building pathways for growth on and beyond the court.

WHO WE ARE

Ontario Basketball Association (OBA) is Canada's largest Provincial Sport Organization for basketball. The development of many Canadian NBA and WNBA players has been guided by OBA's integrated pathway and Ontario's broader basketball ecosystem. With more than 33,000 athletes across rep basketball, house league, and high performance, OBA provides the structure, safety, and competitive standards that enable basketball communities to thrive in every corner of the province.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

33,000+
Athletes

The 2024–2025 demonstrated growth across all OBA programs, with

8000+
Games Delivered

strengthened female pathways, reliable competition delivery, strong compliance, expanding membership, enhanced coaching and officiating systems, and high-performance programs that advanced athletes and coaches while broadening

1000+
Coaches Certified

OBA's visibility across Ontario.

7.2M+
Social Media Views



With the Ontario Basketball Foundation's registration underway, its mandate is taking shape through the February 3, 2026 Jobs of the Future Expo, which connects athletes to emerging industries and future-economy skills.

“

“OBA Foundation impacts beyond basketball, inspiring athletes to lead tomorrow's economy.”

Snapshot

Membership and compliance together reflect the scale of Ontario Basketball's community and the standards that ensure participant safety and program integrity.

MEMBERSHIP

Ontario Basketball's membership reflects participation across all levels of the sport, including rep leagues, house leagues, and high-performance programming. The system captures athletes, coaches, staff, and clubs operating under OBA's governance and safety standards.

This season's membership included 20,867 rep athletes, 11,611 house league athletes, and approximately 1,150 high-performance athletes across OSBA, OSBA D-League, and the Centre for Performance. The ecosystem is further supported by 197 affiliated clubs and 28 prep schools participating across OBA's scholastic pathways.



1,023 Background Checks Completed

51 Non-Compliant teams of 1423



43 L2T Clinics Delivered

24 T2T Clinics Delivered

1000+ Coaches Certified

COMPLIANCE

Compliance strengthened athlete safety and program integrity through mandatory background checks, coaching certification requirements, and RAMP verification. This was the first year OBA required screening, beginning with police checks and moving toward Vulnerable Sector Checks for 2025-2026 season.

Teams demonstrated strong alignment with compliance expectations, meeting requirements for coaching certification, background screening, Safe Sport training, and documentation across leagues and championships.



A competitive pathway strengthening the development of female athletes.

G-Elite is Ontario Basketball's dedicated girls' high-performance league—the only PTSO-run program of its kind—created to address declining female participation after Grade 8 and provide a competitive, empowering environment for young athletes.

This season featured impactful engagement from female leaders, including All-Star coaches Dranadia Roc, Detective Constable with Toronto Police Service, and Alisa Wulff, Acting Captain of Pickering Fire Services, alongside medal presentations by MP Juanita Nathan and executive June Ip.



Athletes benefited from structured programming that included sport psychology workshops, development support, and engagement with OUA and OCAA coaches, strengthening the league's role as a pathway toward post-secondary basketball and broader development opportunities.

Survey feedback showed consistently strong satisfaction, with most categories scoring between 4.0 and 5.0, reinforcing G-Elite's reputation as a well-delivered, reliable, and high-quality program for female athletes.



10+ POST-SECONDARY COMMITMENTS



7 OUA/OCAA RECRUITERS



OVERALL EXPERIENCE

"I think everything was first rate. I've been involved with JUEL and this was every bit as good, if not better."

"I am beyond impressed with the quality and professionalism of the league. It's been a first class experience."



ONTARIO BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The Ontario Basketball League provides consistent, development-focused rep competition across Ontario, serving as the primary pathway toward Provincial Championships and Ontario Cup.

The Ontario Basketball League is OBA's province-wide competition platform, providing structured, age-appropriate league play from U9 to U19 and serving as the primary pathway into Provincial Championships and Ontario Cup.

This season emphasized consistent league delivery, strengthened scheduling, improved re-ranking, and expanded venue access across the province, allowing athletes to experience fair matchups and meaningful competition aligned with LTAD principles.

OBL continued to broaden its programming through initiatives such as the U13/U14 All-Star Game and community-focused 3x3 events, reinforcing both athlete development and OBA's commitment to sport participation and service.

Survey feedback reflected strong satisfaction, highlighted by 1,584 responses and ratings including 4.03 for facility quality and 3.88 for communication, demonstrating OBL's progress in responsiveness, clarity, and overall program delivery.



1377
Participating Teams



8030
Games Delivered



OVERALL EXPERIENCE



The Provincial Championship, hosted at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre, showcased Ontario's top competitive division, bringing together the highest-ranked teams from OBL play for a championship environment that mirrored elite tournament standards. The event featured multi-court operations, coordinated officiating crews, real-time scheduling support, and on-site OBA staff delivering consistent communication and game management throughout the weekend.



Ontario Cup delivered one of the largest coordinated championship events in the country, spanning 1,423 teams, 180 divisions, and 2,846 games across more than 95 facilities in cities including Ottawa and Niagara Falls.

Survey feedback reflected strong participant satisfaction, with venue quality rated at 81% positive, ranking accuracy at 82%, communication at 74%, and solid results across rule clarity and on-site support—reinforcing Ontario Cup as a well-organized, equitable, and meaningful provincial competition.



ONTARIO SCHOLASTIC BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

The Ontario Scholastic Basketball Association is Ontario's premier scholastic high-performance league, offering a development-focused environment that mirrors collegiate standards and anchors the province's talent pathway.

Since 2015, OSBA has produced more than 180 NCAA Division I athletes, 200 U SPORTS athletes, and over 500 international alumni, demonstrating sustained national and global impact.

This season featured major milestones, including Will Riley's NBA Draft selection, two-way contracts for Ryan Nembhard and Jahmyl Telfort, WNBA prospect Serah Williams, and Charles Hantoumako's NCAA Division I coaching appointment.



44

Participating Teams



300+

Games Organized



130+

Coaches



5.8M

Views on Instagram

CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE

The Centre for Performance provides foundational high-performance training for Grades 5–8 athletes, offering consistent regional programming and centralized sessions that prepare participants for progression into OSBA, Team Ontario, and national development pathways.

23 TRAINING CENTRES

390 ATHLETES

200 CENTRALIZED SESSION PARTICIPANTS

D-LEAGUE

The OSBA D-League develops emerging high-performance athletes through structured competition, demonstrated by multiple alumni advancing into OSBA, national youth teams, and excelling at the FIBA U16 AmeriCup, where D-League athletes were key statistical leaders..

29 TEAMS

160+ ATHLETES

2.56M DIGITAL VIEWS

HP+

This section highlights Ontario Basketball's international events, Team Ontario achievements, and officiating development.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Ontario Basketball hosted major international events, including the Senior and Junior Grind Session Canada with Royal Crown, bringing elite U.S. programs and prospects such as AJ Dybantsa and Darryn Peterson. OBA also partnered with Athlete Institute on the Jamal Murray Showcase and the Cwench All-Canadian Skills Clinic, expanding cross-border competition and athlete exposure.



NATIONALS

OBA hosted Nationals at Durham College, highlighted by a Canadian Navy activation booth and a Navy Band performance at the closing ceremony.

Hosting Metrics:

9.5/10 Communication

9.2/10 Venue Satisfaction

8.4/10 Overall Experience

Team Ontario delivered strong results, with the 15U men and women winning national gold at Durham College, and the 17U men and women earning silver at the Canada Summer Games in Newfoundland.



OFFICIATING

Ontario Basketball delivers centralized officiating by coordinating appointments, evaluations, and training for OUA, OCAA, and OSBA games, ensuring consistent standards and a unified panel of officials across high-performance leagues.

3,700+ Officials Assigned

100+ Game Observations

400+ Officials Received Feedback

Quest For Gold

The Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP), funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Sport, plays a vital role in supporting Ontario's high-performance athletes.

The program's overarching goal aligns with the Canadian Sport Policy of achieving world-class results by enhancing the performance and number of Ontario athletes competing at national and international levels.

The Quest for Gold (QFG) provides direct financial assistance to Ontario athletes, enabling them to train and compete at the highest levels while balancing personal and educational commitments. This program has supported a significant portion of Canada's top athletes, including:

- **At the 2022 Winter Olympics, 28% of Team Canada athletes were from Ontario, with 84% of those athletes benefitting from QFG funding during their careers.**
- **At the 2022 Winter Paralympics, 45% of Team Canada athletes were from Ontario, and 95% of those athletes had received QFG support.**



The season, Ontario Basketball carded 60 athletes through the QFG program. These funds not only provided direct financial support to athletes but also supported other critical areas like training camps, facility access, and high-performance programming. This comprehensive approach ensures athletes have the necessary resources to perform at their best.

Since its inception in 2006, the **QFG program has invested over \$151 million** in Ontario athletes, helping to:

- Encourage athletes to live and train in Ontario.
- Compensate athletes for lost earnings while training.
- Support athletes in pursuing excellence in sport while fulfilling their educational goals.
- Increase access to high-performance coaching and competition opportunities.

Looking Forward

Ontario Basketball is expanding its impact through partnerships, innovation, and future-focused opportunities for youth.

The Ontario Basketball Foundation will launch the Sports Pavillion at the Jobs of the Future Expo at the University of Toronto Scarborough, exploring what future careers in and beyond sport will look like.

The event will bring together partners including the Canadian Black Scientists Network, the First Nations Education Administrators Association (FNEAA), Indigenous STEM networks, Life Sciences Ontario, the Hydrogen Business Council, Hydro One, Mackenzie Financial, the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization, the Wood Manufacturing Council of Canada, several advanced robotics and automation companies, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

React Forge, featured within OBA's pavilion, will showcase its cognitive-training technology—used by the Detroit Red Wings.

Vidar Athletics will showcase its patented horizontal-movement footwear as an example of entrepreneurial innovation shaping athlete performance and sport technology.

Synergy Sports is also exploring a data-analytics workshop to introduce athletes to one of sport's fastest-growing fields.



OBA will also continue strengthening strategic partnerships that enhance programming, visibility, and member experience across the province. Core partners such as Rogers, Spalding, and MilkUP play an essential role in supporting events, equipment, and community engagement, contributing to consistent, high-quality experiences for athletes, coaches, officials, and families.

Looking forward, OBA is exploring new member-benefit opportunities with organizations including Samsung, Student Price Card, Air Canada, Cora Breakfast, and Appliance Canada, expanding value and building a broader ecosystem of support for basketball communities across Ontario.