## Basketball – NBA link to create school leagues

The National Basketball Association (NBA) and basketballscotland have confirmed a new partnership to create a school-based Junior NBA basketball league in Edinburgh for boys and girls ages 11-12.

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The league will be held in local primary schools, where each co-ed team will represent one of the 30 NBA teams and will receive corresponding NBA team-branded jerseys for their games.

The Jr NBA, the league's global youth basketball program for boys and girls teaches the fundamental skills as well as the core values of the game at the grassroots level.

This is in an effort to help grow and improve the youth basketball experience for players, coaches and parents.

NBA EMEA associate vice-president, basketball operations, Neal Meyer, said: "Together we will offer a program that fosters healthy competition, teaches the values of the game, and provides an opportunity for children to have fun while learning more about the sport."

basketballscotland head of education and development, Derek O'Riordan, said: "The team is looking forward to engaging with local kids who will benefit from this inspiring programme.

The partnership is also a ringing endorsement for us as an organisation and a federation to be given the prestige of running the Jr NBA basketballscotland League."

Teams will be divided into two conferences and six divisions and the league will run from October through December with the top eight teams from each conference qualifying for the playoffs.

The top two teams from each conference will then meet in the league championship to determine the first Jr NBA basketballscotland league champion.

For more information on the Jr NBA basketballscotland League, click <u>here</u>