

History

FIBA (International Basketball Federation) was formed in 1932 by eight founding nations: [Argentina](#), [Czechoslovakia](#), [Greece](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Portugal](#), [Romania](#) and [Switzerland](#). At this time, the organization only oversaw amateur players. Its acronym, derived from the French *Federation International de Basket-ball Amateur*, was thus "FIBA". Men's basketball was first [included](#) at the Berlin [1936 Summer Olympics](#), although a demonstration tournament was held in 1904. The United States defeated Canada in the first final, played outdoors. This competition has usually been dominated by the United States, whose team has won all but three titles. The first of these came in a controversial final game in [Munich](#) in [1972](#) against the Soviet Union, in which the ending of the game was replayed three times until the Soviet Union finally came out on top.^[28] In 1950 the first FIBA World Championship for men, now known as the [FIBA Basketball World Cup](#), was held in Argentina. Three years later, the first FIBA World Championship for women, now known as the [FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup](#), was held in Chile. Women's basketball was added to the Olympics in 1976, which were held in [Montreal](#), Quebec, Canada with teams such as the [Soviet Union](#), [Brazil](#) and [Australia](#) rivaling the [American](#) squads.

In 1989, **FIBA** allowed professional NBA players to participate in the Olympics for the first time. Prior to the [1992 Summer Olympics](#), only European and South American teams were allowed to field professionals in the Olympics. The United States' dominance continued with the introduction of the original [Dream Team](#). In the [2004 Athens Olympics](#), the United States suffered its first Olympic loss while using professional players, falling to [Puerto Rico](#) (in a 19-point loss) and [Lithuania](#) in group games, and being eliminated in the semifinals by [Argentina](#). It eventually won the bronze medal defeating Lithuania, finishing behind Argentina and [Italy](#). The [Redeem Team](#), won gold at the [2008 Olympics](#), and the B-Team, won gold at the [2010 FIBA World Championship](#) in Turkey despite featuring no players from the 2008 squad. The United States continued its dominance as they won gold at the [2012 Olympics](#), [2014 FIBA World Cup](#) and the [2016 Olympics](#).

A [Euro League](#) game in [Moscow](#) in 2018

Worldwide, basketball tournaments are held for boys and girls of all age levels. The global popularity of the sport is reflected in the nationalities represented in the NBA. Players from all six inhabited continents currently play in the NBA. Top international players began coming into the NBA in the mid-1990s, including Croatians [Darien](#) and [Toni Kuok](#), Serbian [Valdes](#), Lithuanians [Arvada](#) and [Arenas Marčiulionis](#), Dutchman [Rik Smits](#) and German [Detlef Schrempf](#).

In the Philippines, the [Philippine Basketball Association's](#) first game was played on April 9, 1975, at the [Araneta Coliseum](#) in [Cuba](#), [Quezon City](#), Philippines. It was founded as a "rebellion" of several teams from the now-defunct Manila Industrial and Commercial Athletic Association, which was tightly controlled by the Basketball Association of the Philippines (now defunct), the then-FIBA recognized national association. Nine teams from the MICA participated in the league's first season that opened on April 9, 1975. The [NBL](#) is Australia's pre-eminent men's professional basketball league. The league commenced in [1979](#), playing a winter season (April–September) and did so until the completion of the 20th season in [1998](#). The [1998–99](#) season, which commenced only months later, was the first season after the shift to the current summer season format (October–April). This shift was an attempt to avoid competing directly against [Australia's various football codes](#). It features 8 teams from around Australia and one in New Zealand. A few players including [Luc Longley](#), [Andrew Gaze](#), [Shane Heal](#), [Chris Anstey](#) and [Andrew Bogut](#) made it big internationally, becoming poster figures for the sport in Australia. The [Women's National Basketball League](#) began in 1981.