

= Larry O 'Brien Championship Trophy =

The Larry O 'Brien NBA Championship Trophy is the championship trophy awarded annually by the National Basketball Association (NBA) to the winner of the NBA Finals . The name of the trophy was the Walter A. Brown Trophy until 1984 .

The current design , depicting a basketball over a hoop and basket , was first awarded in 1977 still under its original name , which was changed in honor of former NBA commissioner Larry O 'Brien who served from 1975 to 1984 . Before joining the NBA , O 'Brien was the United States Postmaster General under President Lyndon B. Johnson from 1965 to 1968 .

= = Description = =

The trophy , made of 14 @.@ 5 pounds of sterling silver and vermeil with a 24 karat gold overlay , stands two feet tall . The basketball itself is nine inches in diameter , about the same size as a regulation NBA ball . Valued at \$ 13 @,@ 500 , the trophy is manufactured by the Tiffany & Co . Silver Shop every year . The winning team maintains permanent possession of the trophy . The year and winning team names are engraved on the trophies , and are often prominently displayed in the winning team 's arena .

= = Promotion = =

Although the Larry O 'Brien Trophy has been compared with the National Hockey League 's (NHL) Stanley Cup , it has never been as prominent as the NHL trophy . To reduce this discrepancy , the NBA has been actively promoting the O 'Brien Trophy in recent years to generate more recognition and an iconic status for the trophy . After the Detroit Pistons won the NBA Finals in 2004 , the trophy was toured around the state of Michigan , marking the first time the trophy toured around the state of the winning team . In 2005 , the NBA Legends Tour was launched in New York City . As part of the tour , the O ? Brien Trophy was showcased in various cities ? including those that were hosting the playoffs ? for fans ' autograph and photo sessions . It was escorted by many former players , including Julius Erving , Kareem Abdul @-@ Jabbar and Bill Russell . In May 2007 , the NBA unveiled the NBA Headquarters on Second Life , an Internet @-@ based virtual reality environment . With this launch , fans could take pictures with the championship trophy in the virtual Toyota Larry O 'Brien Trophy Room . In August , the trophy traveled to Hong Kong for the first time as part of the NBA Madness Asia Tour .