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More Prime Time Cricket On Network Ten. Bumper Big Bash Schedule Announced for 2017-18 Season. Starts 9 December. Only On Network Ten And WIN Network.

With just over four months to go until the highly anticipated return of the **KFC Big Bash League** and the **Rebel Women's Big Bash League**, Network Ten is delighted to announce that it will broadcast a whopping 55 matches over the coming summer.

Cricket Australia today released a bumper schedule that sees 43 **KFC Big Bash League** matches played in 48 days, including six double-headers. With all matches of the extended season broadcast in prime time, live, free and exclusive on TEN or ONE, fans will not miss a minute of the action.

The expanded **KFC Big Bash League** competition will see an additional eight matches played, with each club allocated one additional home match. The league will also venture to a new venue in Launceston, with other venues currently being considered.

Following on from last year's success, the summer schedule will launch with a **Rebel Women's Big Bash League** carnival at North Sydney Oval on Saturday, 9 December, that will see Network Ten broadcast four matches live across the weekend.

Across the season, Network Ten will broadcast 12 **Rebel Women's Big Bash League** matches, including the final, live, free and exclusive on TEN or ONE.

Network Ten Chief Executive Officer, Paul Anderson, said: "We are excited about and looking forward to another great summer of BBL and WBBL cricket on Network Ten.

"We are proud to be working with Cricket Australia on the future development of this competition, by broadcasting matches in new venues this summer.

"Together, Ten and Cricket Australia have built the Big Bash into the most anticipated sporting competition of the summer. This year looks particularly exciting, with eight extra matches taking us through until the first week of February.

"We can't wait for the summer of cricket on Ten," he said.

Cricket Australia Executive General Manager of Leagues and Events, Anthony Everard said: "Network Ten's ongoing commitment to both the WBBL and BBL means fans around the country can enjoy more of the Big Bash action.

“Starting with the standalone opening weekend, Network Ten will be broadcasting 12 matches of the WBBL, reinforcing their commitment to growing women’s cricket in Australia.

“Every BBL match will again be broadcast on Network Ten after averaging more than a million viewers every match last season, complementing the record-breaking attendance, which averaged more than 30,000 per regular season match.

The sizzling 2017-18 **KFC Big Bash League** season will kick off with the Sydney derby on Tuesday 19 December at Spotless Stadium.

The semi-finals will be played on Thursday, 1 February and Friday, 2 February, with the highest-finishing club to host the Big Final on Sunday, 4 February 2018.

The **KFC Big Bash League** was a smash hit with television viewers last summer.

Network Ten’s coverage of the 2016-17 season of the **KFC Big Bash League** ended on a high, with 1.3 million Australians tuning in to watch the Perth Scorchers triumph over the Sydney Sixers in the Big Final on January 28.

The television audience for the exciting conclusion to the summer television sensation peaked at 1.76 million. In the capital cities alone, the Scorchers’ victory was watched by 910,000 people on Network Ten and peaked at 1.22 million.

Last season’s Big Final was preceded by the Final of the **Rebel Women’s Big Bash League**, which saw the Sydney Sixers claim victory over the Perth Scorchers.

The Final of the **Rebel Women’s Big Bash League** attracted 402,000 viewers nationally, peaking at 710,000. In the capital cities, its television audience was 267,000, with a peak of 447,000.

Session 2 of the **Rebel Women’s Big Bash League** Final had 500,000 viewers, a record television audience for any WBBL match.

The audience numbers for both competition’s Finals capped a highly successful season and saw Network Ten record its highest ever commercial shares in people aged 25 to 54 and under 55 in the first four weeks of a calendar year.

Across the 2016-17 summer, the **KFC Big Bash League** drew an average national television audience of 1.03 million. It reached a total of 14.4 million nationally.

In the capital cities alone, the competition averaged 710,000 viewers per game, with an average peak of 1.53 million.

The 2016-17 season dominated its timeslot, ranking #1 in total people, 25 to 54s and under 55s.

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