

# LIVING GUIDE MORIOKA

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## Watching professional sports in Morioka!

There are a few professional sports teams based in Morioka. Actually, there are 2 sports teams that are based in Morioka. One is the Iwate Big Bulls, a basketball team in the bj (Basketball Japan) league. The other is Grulla Morioka, a soccer team which belongs to the third division of Japan professional football league (J3).

These teams give as a unique opportunity to see professional sports played at a high level in Iwate. We recommend you attend their matches as an entertaining way to pass your leisure time.



### IWATE BIG BULLS

The Iwate Big Bulls belongs to the Eastern Conference of The bj (Basketball Japan) league. The league has 12 teams in the Eastern Conference and 10 teams in the Western Conference. The regular season, which runs from October to April has 52 games and the top 8 teams in each conference can advance to the playoff, and compete for the championship.

Iwate Big Bulls tied for first in the Eastern Conference as of March 22<sup>nd</sup> this season. The team has been in the playoffs for 2 consecutive seasons, losing in the conference semifinals in 2013 and losing in the conference finals in 2014. They will qualify for the playoffs this season, too. Their team motto reflects their lofty goals for this season: "Take the throne!"

The Big Bulls is known for their aggressive defense, a powerful slam-dunks, diving for loose balls, great teamwork and hustle. Many scenes are exciting, bringing the crowd frequently to a fever pitch, definitely worth watching for the die-hard basketball fan, or even the curious onlooker.



©IWATE BIGBULLS/bj-league

### ☆Where can I see the games?

Games are played in various places throughout Iwate. In the end of March and April, the schedule of home games are as follows.

- March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> vs Aomori Wat's @ Takizawa City Gym (Takizawa city)
- April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> vs Saitama Broncos @ Hanamaki City Gym Annex (Hanamaki city)
- April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> vs Niigata Albirex BB@ Iwate Prefectural Gym (Morioka city)

\*If the team is ranked in the top 4 in the conference during the regular season, they will receive a bye and the first round of the playoffs beginning in May will be held in Iwate.



## ☆Where can I buy a tickets?

You can buy a tickets by following places: "Bulls ticket" (on their website), ticket machines found in nearly every convenience store in Iwate, Fesan, Cross Terrace, AEON, AEON super center, Iwate Co-op supermarkets. Advance prices range from 2000-6000 Yen.(Prices differ depending on the seat level. Game day ticket prices add 700-1000 yen more. They will also be available at the door. Non-reserved seat have student discounts.)

## ☆Iwate Big Bulls Website

<http://www.bigbulls.jp> (Language: Japanese)



## GRULLA MORIOKA

Grulla Morioka is a team of the third Division of the J League (Japan Professional Football League). J3 League is the lowest tier of the J league, and was established in 2014. Grulla Morioka was promoted to J3 in the first year of the league. For the 2015 season, there are 13 teams in the League, and 36 matches will be held from March to November. In the 2014 season, Grulla had a great start, but eventually finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams. For the 2015 season, under the slogan of 'Evolve and Progress' they will aim for promotion to the J2 division until 2018 and then advance to be the top division.



This season, the team has changed drastically, and 14 new members have already been signed or acquired. Many new players such as a players who have been active in J2, played overseas, and promoted from a local leagues have joined the team, and the new Morioka Grulla will soon make debut.

## ★Where can I see them ?

The team's home games are played on the outdoor field at Morioka South Park Stadium. The scedule of home games from March to July 2015 is as follows. For game dates and times for matches after that, please consult the team web site.

Date	opponent	Date	opponent	Date	opponent
March 29	KATALLER TOYAMA	May 6	GAINARE TOTTORI	June 14	SC SAGAMIHARA
April 12	J.League U22 Selection	May 10	AC NAGANO PARCEIRO	July 5	J.League U22 Selection
April 19	Y.S.C.C.YOKOHAMA	May 24	FUJIEDA MYFC	July 12	FUJIEDA MYFC
April 29	FC MACHIDA ZELVIA	May 31	FC RYUKYU	July 26	Y.S.C.C.YOKOHAMA

## ★Where can I buy a tickets?

You can buy a tickets from ticket selling machines that are present in nealy every convenience store in Iwate, J League ticket, Grulla Morioka Team Store, Kawatoku, Fesan, Cross Terrace. Advance tickets are 1000 to 1800 Yen for adults 350 to 700 Yen for students. Price differ depending on seat purchased. Game day tickets bought at the door are 200 Yen to 300 Yen more expensive than advance tickets.

## ★Grulla Morioka Website

<http://www.grulla.jp> (Language: Japanese)