



PARENT & PLAYER INFORMATION PACK

2024/25 SEASON



GAME DAY
AUTHENTIC
ON-COURT APPAREL 14



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WHAT IS THE VICTORIAN JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE?

The Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) is an elite competition, where players have the opportunity to represent the Macedon Ranges Basketball Association (MRBA) Rockies against other associations under the umbrella of Basketball Victoria (BV). The representative program is for players who are committed to developing their basketball skills and knowledge of the game.

The VJBL competition is played on a Friday evening at associated venues across the state. Each week over 1500 teams participate in the competition which equates to about 765 games on 200 courts across approximately 80 venues. The VJBL is arguably the largest competition of its kind, offering a graduated system of junior basketball competition, giving opportunities for players to reach the peak, but also to climb the foothills.

The VJBL is made up of associations who enter representative teams. In most cases, these teams are selected from a 'domestic' competition that is played out of that particular association.

The League was designed to give keen junior basketballers an opportunity to participate at a more competitive level than their local domestic competitions. The VJBL allows teams to compete against composite teams from other Associations. The competition has developed as such to incorporate Associations Victoria wide.

The VJBL competition consists of two tiers of competition:

- Victorian Junior Championship – known as 'VC', is the highest level at which junior teams can play. Only 20 teams across the state make this division.
- Victorian Junior League – VJL1, VJL2, VJL3, VJL4, etc. There are usually 10 teams per VJL division.

PLAYER & FAMILY COMMITMENT

Representative basketball is only for players (and their families) with a serious intention to achieve and to contribute to team performance even when this involves some sacrifices to the individual. It is not for players wishing to necessarily play with other players of their choice or a specific team or coach.

It takes a lot of time, commitment and dedication from the players as they strive to improve their basketball skills week after week, but it also requires time, commitment and dedication from their parents.

Whilst we require a large commitment by players and parents alike, we believe basketball offers many rewards. Many strong friendships can be forged during the years that children are involved with the MRBA Rockies.

COACHES

Our coaching panel is made up of a group of valuable volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to see our players improve and develop both on the court, and as people within the Macedon Ranges Community.

Our coaches give up their valuable time and knowledge to educate and teach each player. We would ask that you support them throughout the season in a professional manner. At the end of day, whilst coaching styles may change from coach to coach - coaches all aim for the same result - to improve the players' skills.

All coaches are screened under the BV By-Laws and have a current Working with Children's Card / Check.

TEAM MANAGERS

Each team requires a Team Manager (TM) for the season. The TM is appointed by the coach once the composition of the team has been determined. All TM's are screened under the BV By-Laws and are required to have a current Working with Children's Card / Check.

The role of TM is integral to the success of the team. They are responsible for ensuring that all communication from the club, the coaches or other sources is sent on to each player and that all families are kept abreast of information. They are also the manager of the team funds, scoring rosters, uniforms etc.

Note: Usually, the TM is a parent of a child within the team, it is not recommended to have a partner of the coaching staff appointed as the TM.

The allocated TM is the ONLY person able to sit on the bench with the team on game day.

AGE GROUPING

Players are 'grouped' depending upon age.

- Under 12 – eligible players must not turn 12 in the year that the Championship games commence, they are born in 2014 & 2015.
- Under 14 – eligible players must not turn 14 in the year that the Championship games commence, they are born in 2012 & 2013.
- Under 16 – eligible players must not turn 16 in the year that the Championship games commence, they are born in 2010 & 2011.
- Under 18 – eligible players must not turn 18 in the year that the Championship games commence, they are born in 2008 & 2009.
- Under 20 – eligible players must not turn 21 in the year that the Championship games commence, they are born in 2006 & 2007.

The age group classifications for all players are no different to domestic basketball where there are also top and bottom age players playing in the age groups.

SEASON

Games within the VJBL structure are usually played for about 40 weeks of the year commencing early mid-November and going through to October the following year.

There are usually three phases of competition played throughout the year as follows:

- Pre-Grading/Practice Match Phase – November 2024
- Grading Phase One & Two – November 2024 through February 2025
- Championship Phase – March 2025 through September 2025

While it is not guaranteed, scheduled times for games on a Friday night will be as follows (VC games may vary):

- Under 12 – 6.40pm or 7.40pm
- Under 14 – 7.40pm or 8.40pm
- Under 16 – 8.40pm or 9.40pm
- Under 18 – 9.40pm or 9.50pm

When accepting a position with the MRBA Rockies, you are agreeing to be available for all scheduled VJBL (Grading / Regular Season / Finals) games and compulsory tournaments throughout the year.

Note: Players are expected to be at the game venue at least 30 minutes (or otherwise as advised by the TM/Coach) before the commencement time to allow for warm up and team discussion.

FIXTURES & LADDERS

Information can be obtained from the Play HQ website.

In the early stages of the phases, fixtures are usually posted on a weekly basis, due to the need to obtain results from the previous week. As soon as possible, blocks of fixtures are accessible for families to plan. Ladders are contingent on results being obtained.

Unofficial results are posted on the VJBL website on the Saturday following the game. These results are verified once the official data is received. Should any errors occur, they will be rectified at this time.

TRAINING

Attendance and participation at training sessions is important, both in developing the players ability to their fullest, and in fulfilling the inherent responsibility and obligation each athlete has to their coach and team.

Training is compulsory for all teams, with most team training sessions held on Sundays for 2 hours, or as otherwise agreed with the Coach.

In addition to the compulsory Sunday training sessions, most teams will be offered a mid-week non-compulsory training session, where the focus will be on player fundamentals rather than team systems and structure.

If an athlete is unable to attend a training session for any reason, advanced notification is to be given to the TM or Coach. Coaches are within their rights to bench an athlete or make changes to the players playing time if they have been absent from training without a valid reason.

Additional training may be required from time to time, as directed by the coach.

Note: Players are expected to be at the training venue at least 15 minutes before the commencement time to allow for warm up.

COURT TIME

Being selected into a MRBA Rockies team does not guarantee playing time for any player across any age group.

The amount of court time is at the discretion of the Coach according to:

- The level of competition
- Team requirements – set by the Coach/Assistant Coach of the team
- The role of the athlete
- The importance of the game
- Commitment to training and development

Parents concerned with their players' role on the team can arrange a suitable time to discuss their concerns with the team's Coach.

Note: No parent is to approach a Coach or Assistant Coach regarding court time matters before or after a game, contact your TM to arrange a meeting as required.

FINALS QUALIFICATION

TM's need to ensure that athletes are listed on the team sheet for the game to be counted towards Finals Qualification. If a venue is using a paper scoresheet, players **must** sign the back of the scoresheet **before the game** to ensure the game is recognised for Finals qualification.

Players are required to play 40% of Championship Phase games to qualify for Finals.

Medical certificates may be accepted as evidence of injury/illness and can be used for exemption to game qualification criteria.

TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments present a unique and invaluable development opportunity for players, while also allowing players to build strong social connections with their teammates and coaches alike.

The participation in the following tournaments is compulsory:

- Geelong Annual Tournament – Early November 2024 [All MRBA representative teams]
- Bendigo Junior Classic – Late January 2025 [All MRBA representative teams]
- Junior Country Championships [MRBA 1st division teams only]
 - Under 12 – Bendigo – Mid April 2025
 - Under 14 – Ballarat – Early April 2025
 - Under 16/18 – Bendigo/Melton & Bacchus Marsh – Mid Feb/March 2025

The cost of tournament participation and related practice games are funded by each participating player.

Information will be provided by the committee via your TM prior to the scheduled events.

UNIFORM

The MRBA Rockies uniform is the same throughout our entire junior program.

Players may only attend games in the official MRBA uniform, including the MRBA Warm-up Top and Hoodie as an outer layer for the colder months. Casual clothing is not acceptable.

Compulsory uniform items include:

- MRBA Reversible Playing Singlet and Shorts
- MRBA Reversible Training Singlet (Provided)
- MRBA Socks
- MRBA Warm-up Top
- MRBA Hoodie

Non-compulsory apparel and/or merchandise items are available at an additional cost.

Compression garments, where required and/or preferred, must be black with no visible logo.

If a player is selected for the MRBA 1st division team and their current Rockies VJBL singlet does not have the JCC logo, they will need to purchase a new singlet with the JCC logo.

FEE STRUCTURE

The fees for the 2024/2025 Season are as follows:

\$1,100 (including GST) payable upfront or in instalments as follows:

- 1st instalment - \$150 non-refundable deposit on acceptance of position on team

- 2nd instalment - \$475 due 29 February 2025
- Final instalment - \$475 due 31 May 2025

These fees include, but are not limited to:

- VJBL Registration fee
- Weekly team sheet fees
- Court hire
- Referees and associated resources
- Coaching resources
- Administration resources
- MRBA Reversible Training Singlet

Important note: If a player's fees are not paid by the above-mentioned instalment dates and in full by 31 May 2025, they will not be able to play until the outstanding fees are paid.

SCORING

Scoring is an important duty, and we are obligated to supply a competent Bench Official for each game.

Your TM will provide a scoring roster for the season. It is a requirement of every player to supply a competent scorer throughout the season to complete their rostered scoring duties. If you cannot score your rostered game, you must advise the TM as soon as possible so that a swap can be arranged.

The VJBL uses a computerised scoring system across all venues within its competition. Where stadiums experience difficulties with the computerised system, a score sheet will be used.

If you do not know how to score or do not feel competent to score, it is your responsibility to ensure that you advise your TM so that a scoring session can be arranged for you by the MRBA Committee.

PLAYER WELFARE

Players who are ill or unable to play must notify their TM as soon as they are aware that they are unable to participate.

With the transition to a computerised scoring system, the importance of lodging medical certificates in a timely manner has increased significantly. Please ensure that you obtain and submit a medical certificate if your child is injured.

A **medical certificate** is **required** for an injury or illness requiring more than one week's recovery.

A COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE MRBA DELEGATE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF INITIAL INJURY.

Certificates must be emailed to: rep@mrba.org.au

This certificate can be used to gain credit for missed games and will ensure that your child does not miss out on qualifying for finals.

Note: Please note that if a player wishes to train or play earlier than stated on the original medical certificate then another certificate is required from a practitioner stating that the player can return to participation. This is to be forwarded to the MRBA Committee prior to playing. It is required no later than Thursday before the game, in order that the competition organisers can be notified.

REFEREES

The Referees are an important part of the game and, while we may not like their decisions at times, verbal or other abuse of referees is unacceptable behaviour and also sets a bad example to the children.

We encourage every parent/player to read this. Players at all levels are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which does not bring the game or the association into disrepute, nor discredit themselves, their parents or their club.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Basketball is intended to be a recreational activity for enjoyment and health. The MRBA abides by the BV Code of Conduct which has been developed to give participants an outline of the expectations it has on those participants. It is intended to assist everyone to obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from their involvement in basketball.

The full version of these expectations is located on the BV website: www.basketballvictoria.com.au/resources/association-resources/policies

CONTACTING THE VJBL

Under no circumstances are Coaches, Assistant Coaches, TM's, parents or players to contact the VJBL office. All communications with the VJBL **must** go through the Club Delegate – MRBA Administrator.

This is a mandated rule put in place by VJBL. For every instance that someone other than the Club Delegate contacts VJBL, the club receives a fine, which will be passed onto the applicable team.