

Information for Parents & Players Representing the Melbourne Tigers

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Basketball Club strives to assist the development of players, empowering young athletes through sport in all its undertakings. Accordingly, we emphasise commitment, resilience, respect and teamwork as core values underpinning club culture.

We achieve this by:

1. Developing high quality and high potential talent – athletes, coaches, team managers, referees and administrators.
2. Entering Victorian Junior Championship League level teams in all age groups.
3. Fostering a healthy competitiveness in all our athletes and teams.
4. Providing pathways for continued playing opportunities from juniors through to seniors.
5. Promoting and encouraging participation in sport.
6. Sustaining a pride and sense of team within our Club.
7. Supporting all our players at every level to achieve their personal best.
8. Promoting the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, integrity, commitment, and fair play, while developing skills at all levels of competition and a lifelong love of the game.
9. Providing basketball opportunities for junior athletes that are accessible, positive, fair and safe.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PART OF A REPRESENTATIVE CLUB

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Basketball Club is a **representative** Club (referred to as “rep basketball”). The club competes in the Victorian Junior Basketball League operated by Basketball Victoria and matches are played on Friday nights. These competitions are:

- Victorian Junior Championship League (VC) - the highest level of junior representative competition and can be played at venues anywhere in Melbourne or Country Victoria.
- Victorian Junior League Division (VJL) has up to ten divisions and is played at any venue in metropolitan Melbourne and satellite cities in regional Victoria.

Home games are played at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC). Away games can be played at any venue in any suburb in Melbourne, as well as regional towns such as: Geelong, Ballarat, Sunbury, Craigieburn, Mornington, Bendigo, Ballarat, and Traralgon to name a few. Away venues are determined by which teams qualify for each grade of the competition.

CLUB STRUCTURE

The MCBA Junior Representative Advisory Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the Tigers Junior Representative program on behalf of the Melbourne Central Basketball Association. The committee meets monthly and consists of up to 10 members including a chairperson.

Of particular importance to you are the Coach and Team Manager (TM) of your child's team. The club ensures that all coaches and Team Managers hold current Working with Children Checks (WWCC) and are appropriately qualified. Coaches and Team Managers also sign Basketball Victoria's Member Protection documents and the VJBL Coaches Code of Conduct. In addition, all Head Coaches (as of 2024) will have Basketball Australia Club Level Coaching Accreditation (as per new VJBL rules).

VJBL COMPETITION

The VJBL competition is split into 3 Phases:

1. *Spring Phase* - runs from October to November and is used for team tryouts and practice games.
2. *Grading Season* - runs from November to March
3. *Championship Season* - runs from March to September.

The team grading is set for the Championship season by performances during the grading season. Initial grading is nominated by the VJBL. Teams can either retain their grade or be moved to another grade depending upon their performances.

AGE GROUPS

The Tigers enter representative teams for Under 12's; 14's; 16's; 18's and Under 20's in the VJBL.

The age qualification cut-off date is 31 December of the year in which the playing season occurs. So, a player turning 12 in 2024 must play in the Under 14 (U14) age group for the 2024 Season. This applies to all age groups, which are under 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20.

Junior players are usually in an age group for two years. In the Club you will hear people talk about "top age" or "bottom age" players. This refers to either their first (bottom age) or last (top age) year in the age group.

The club also conducts Development Squad, Tiny Tigers, and Aussie Hoops Programs. These programs are designed to introduce younger players (aged 5-10 years), to some of the core fundamental skills required for basketball and to the level of coaching and performance required at the representative level. The Development squad is designed to prepare players for Under 12 tryouts and the VJBL season for the Melbourne Tigers.

COACHING AND TEAM SELECTION POLICY

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative basketball teams are selected on the basis of the best players for the team and the makeup of the team to provide the best balance (i.e. guards, forwards, role players, passers, defenders, rebounders, scorers and shooters). The criteria for best player is not defined by only the most skilled or athletic individuals. Assessment is based on attitude, commitment, conduct, behaviour, performance, and fair play. No position is promised nor guaranteed to any player in any team in any year.

Each year presents a different environment, a different team, with different players and a different coach.

Because a player was in a certain team in one year in a particular age group, does not automatically mean that the player will be selected in a specific team the following year.

The VJBL is a performance-based competition and the Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative program is based on the merit of each individual's, attitude, behaviour, commitment and performance in their team.

Whilst the Tigers have a philosophy of providing opportunities for every junior player to play basketball at the highest level they aspire to, the club has a maximum number of teams it can resource and the number of teams will be set according to this prior to the commencement of each season. Players will be selected into the team that is at their appropriate level of skill, athleticism, work ethic, conduct, attitude, and basketball IQ.

There is always a certain amount of subjectiveness in any selection process.

The Age Group Head Coaches at each age level, in consultation with the team Head Coaches and by approval of the Director of Coaching (DOC), may adjust teams to balance out positions. Such adjustments are based on skill development and the potential of each player, with consideration given to the number of players and their playing positions in each age group.

The VJBL rules stipulate that each team consists of 10 players. In general, Junior Representative teams in the VJBL have 10 players, however from time to time due to special circumstances, teams may only have 9 or 8 players. The VJBL provides a variation to this rule for Under 18 and Under 20 grades, where teams can suit up and play up to 12 players. The MCBA reserves the right to determine the number of players in each Junior Representative team based on the needs of the team and relevant circumstances.

At different times in different age groups and teams, players may be offered train-on positions with at team. This means the player is invited to be a part of the team to train on Sunday mornings and/or mid-week (training session only). The player may also be invited to participate in tournaments with the team if the team is short of players at the discretion of the head Coach and subject to approval by the DOC. In addition, the DOC reserves the right to approve the selection of up to 12 players to participate in the National Junior Classic and U14 Club Championships.

The Melbourne Tigers reserves the right to make changes to the team up to the commencement of Grading Phase 2.

Teams are not final until the commencement of Grading Phase 2 each year.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The MCBA Junior Representative Program only permits athletes and / or coaches to play / coach for one representative Association only, at both the Junior (VJBL) and Senior (BigV & NBL1) level.

Melbourne Tigers Junior players and coaches cannot represent both the Tigers at a junior level in the VJBL and another association at senior level (BigV or NBL1). Or vice versa.

The above policy does not apply to players or coaches playing or coaching in any team, in any local domestic competition (or to State or National selections)

The club's detailed eligibility policy is published in full on the club's Team App site. Any queries regarding the policy should be directed to the DOC in the first instance.

Exemptions to this policy apply under exceptional circumstances. Exemption criteria can be found on the policy. Applications must be sent to the DOC prior to the VJBL and senior level league season commencement.

PLAYER PATHWAY

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Program provides playing opportunities for players of all age groups and at every level. The club enters Youth League teams (23 years and under) that plays in the Big V Youth Championship division, as well as open Senior teams, both Men and Women, that play in the NBL1.

The club has a holistic development pathway and encourages all junior players to aspire to represent the Tigers at the Youth League and NBL1 levels.

Once players commence Under 18's they may be offered the opportunity to try-out, train with and if they demonstrate that they can perform (and are at the level), to play with the club's Youth League and NBL1 teams.

Under 18 players must prioritise and fulfil their training and playing commitment to the Under 18 team first above all else before they are extended the privilege of training and playing with the Youth League and NBL1 teams.

PLAYING DOMESTIC BASKETBALL

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Basketball Program provides playing opportunities for players of all age groups and at every grade at the Representative basketball level in the VJBL.

Melbourne Tigers is aligned with the MCBA Saturday Junior Domestic Competition which runs every week from 12:40pm through to 5.30pm at MSAC. Players in the Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Basketball Program may choose where and which club or school they may like to play their domestic basketball.

Whilst it's not compulsory to play domestic basketball within the MCBA competition, it is highly recommended if you are a local resident that you play in this league. It is not a requirement of the club for players to play at a domestic level, but they are encouraged to do so, as it will inevitably aid their overall development.

TRAINING SESSIONS

Courteous communication, attitude, attendance, and effort at training by each athlete, will directly impact on playing time.

Teams train at MSAC on Sunday mornings unless permission is approved by the DOC to do otherwise.

Midweek training is held at various external venues and the location is dependent on coach preference and court availability.

Injured players are expected to attend training and games to maintain their engagement with the team, their ongoing understanding of the areas of focus for their team and to stay up to date with the team's strategies.

If a player is unavailable through illness or family / school commitments for trainings or games, the team coach should be provided with adequate prior notice of any absences via the team manager.

HOME COURT AND FIXTURES

The Melbourne Tigers home court is at MSAC. There have been occasions when the VJBL has scheduled home games for the Club at another venue due to MSAC being unavailable (e.g., during the Grand Prix) but this is an infrequent occurrence. During the season all fixtures will be advised by your TM. They are displayed on the Basketball Victoria's website - www.vjbl.com.au - click on FIXTURES.

Grading games are in two phases comprising of 3 games – one at home, one away and one at a neutral venue. During the Championship season there is generally one home game, followed by the next week an “away” game. Games are played on Fridays including the last Friday night of school terms.

Game times vary. Usually the younger age groups (U12 & U14) play from 6.40pm and the older age groups (U16, U18 & U20) may play as late as 9.50pm.

NEUTRAL GAMES

All games over 210kms in distance (shortest route) between each team's home venue, will be played at neutral venues. When there is a desire to play neutral games against another team in your competition and the distance is less than 210 kms, teams will need to obtain written agreement from the opposition team.

GAME POSTPONEMENT

Due to unexpected circumstances, such as illness / injuries etc. the coach in consultation with the DOC and TM may decide that it is necessary to postpone the game. If the game is to be postponed, confirmation in writing needs to be obtained from both teams, including an agreement for a game to be moved from its originally fixtured date. Both teams must have agreed upon a date and time to replay the game, prior to sending the request to the VJBL.

COURT TIME

Court time can be a vexed issue for athletes and their guardians. Athletes are not guaranteed equal court time. Court time varies according to the team's needs, individual performances, strategies and tactics employed by the Coach. Attendance at training, athlete input and attitude are all considered.

Court time is determined by the coach's discretion and an athlete's:

- Consistent Attendance to Training
- Consistent Performance at Training
- Consistent Performance in Games

Selection to a team does not automatically guarantee equal court time for all players in a team.

Coaches will consider a player's ability, attitude and development requirements when determining the amount of court time a player receives, however, players and parents should note that there is no 'equal court time' policy when playing in Junior Representative teams as this is an elite program where we encourage a winning mentality.

Through open communication between the coaches, players and parents, every player should finish the year having felt 'fairly' treated over the course of the season and having been given the opportunity to improve.

As a guide:

- **VC, VJL1 and VJL2 teams** – Court time will be influenced through a range of factors, including winning expectations, player match ups, player availability, player skill levels, etc.
- **VJL 3+ teams and Development/Tournament teams** – Rotating bench where all players receive court time every game without implementing an equal court time program.”

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE HEAD COACH

Parents may request to meet with coaches at an appropriate time, place and manner that is convenient to the Head Coach. Any request for a meeting must be made via the Team Manager. Any requests to meet are prohibited within 24 hours after the conclusion of any training or game.

If a meeting is requested and the Head Coach agrees it is required, the Parent, Player, Head Coach, and another official will be present. At all times the meeting must be cordial and respectful. Coaches reserve the right to end a discussion if emotional, aggressive, inappropriate, or offensive language or behaviour is displayed.

Head Coaches may have discussions directly with an athlete (or with their parents) about their (or their child's) performance, progress in the team, development of individual skills and team play. They may also clarify a player's role in the team, outline what's expected of them in the team and identify areas they can improve and add value to the team.

Under no circumstances are discussions between parents and the Head Coach allowed to venture into areas regarding team tactics and strategies, team rotations or court time. The club does not consider it appropriate and will not permit any discussions regarding the performance of another player on the team.

CONCERNS AND GRIEVANCES

If an athlete or parent has a concern or grievance in relation to the operations of their team, or the club more generally, the club has established a procedure for handling complaints which sets out a recommended process to be followed. The aim is to have the issues considered, escalated (if required) and resolved in a fair, timely, and reasonable manner, and to the satisfaction of all parties involved. Under no circumstances are athletes or parents to discuss or communicate with team members, other parents, or anyone external to the Club about any alleged concern or grievance they may have.

FIXTURES & RESULTS

Fixtures can be found on the [VJBL](#) website. During grading, fixtures are released less than a week before the first phase. Crossover game fixtures are released the week of the game. Most TMs will email their team with the fixture, but it is a good idea to check it yourself regularly.

Weekly game results can be found on the VJBL website and on Team App with the VJBL link.

DO NOT CONTACT THE VJBL AT ANY TIME FOR FIXTURES QUERIES

SCORING

Score Table Officials are not provided at venues. Each team must provide two scorers for every game. **Friday night scoring by families is compulsory.** The TM will draw up a roster and all families are expected to fulfil this duty (the Coach and Team Manager do not perform this job as they have the responsibility and the workload of coaching and administering their team on Friday nights and at training for the whole year).

VJBL score bench rules.

Home team (first named team) – clock.

Visiting team (second named team) – scoresheet or electronic scoring device.

Score bench duties

One parent will call the player numbers while the other will record details on the sheet or electronic scoring device. If we are on the clock, one parent will operate the shot clock (VC only U14 age group and up), the other the time clock. However, please check what is recorded on the scoresheet or electronic scoring device after every point scored or foul given as mistakes can easily be made in the excitement of the moment.

Please ensure that if a written scoresheet is used, that all records are written neatly and legible. **When working on the score bench you are not allowed to barrack for your team, speak to the coaches or players, or make comments to the referees during the game.** It is inappropriate and a distraction to have younger children sitting with you while completing score bench duties. The team will be fined by BV for each infringement on the score sheet or electronic scoring device. For example, not recording the name of the coach, assistant coach or not

indicating that a FIBA (BV issued) ball is used or players not signing the team sheet.

Any inappropriate behaviour by officials on the score bench will not be tolerated. Scorers

should not be under the influence of alcohol, should not be supporting or instructing players from the score bench and should not be attempting to speak to players on the bench. Communication with the Coach or TM from time to time to notify them about how many fouls a player has or for team substitutions etc. are some of the examples of communication which may be permitted during the game.

TOURNAMENTS

During the year, there are many tournaments available to teams, including those which are compulsory. Decisions regarding which tournaments are compulsory are made by the DOC and will be announced by the club. In some circumstances, tournament entries may be entered by the Club Administrator, however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure their team has been entered into tournaments. Tournaments are important for team bonding and ongoing skill development. The Head Coach, in consultation with the DOC, will determine whether the team attend any of the tournaments which are not compulsory.

Mandatory Tournaments

The Eltham Dandenong Tournament held on the Australia Day long weekend is mandatory.

The National Junior Classic Tournament is mandatory for all VC teams that qualify for the tournament during the first half of the VJBL season. This is held over the King's Birthday long weekend in June.

Other tournaments, such as those held over the King's Birthday weekend, including the Nunawading or the Ballarat Tournaments, are not mandatory but are highly encouraged.

Other Tournaments

Other tournaments that are encouraged by the club are:

- Southern Peninsula tournament held in November prior to grading phase 1.
- Southeast Junior Basketball Tournament – March Labour Day long weekend. Hosted by Casey Cavaliers, Sandringham Sabres, Waverley Falcons, and the Dandenong Rangers in venues in inner Southeast Victoria.
- Norwood Easter Classic Tournament – Easter weekend. Hosted by the Norwood Flames in Adelaide. A fantastic team bonding tournament.

When participating in tournaments, it is a requirement team members contribute to the cost of their coach's expenses to attend the tournaments.

UNIFORMS

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Teams have a distinctive and easily identifiable uniform which should be worn with pride by our athletes. Some items in the uniform wardrobe are compulsory. A full uniform order and price list is available on the website.

Please remember when wearing Club clothing that you are seen as representatives of our Club. Please act as great ambassadors for the Tigers Club.

A separate Uniform Policy has been developed and is published on the Team app site.

ADMINISTRATION & FUNDRAISING

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Program is a self-supporting program and does not receive revenue from any source other than our registration fees and Club fundraising. As such there will always be a need to raise funds. To enable the Club to continue to give the best possible training and opportunities to players at every level, we ask our Club families to assist in this constant work. As a request, a \$1000.00 per team fundraising target has been set.

FEE STRUCTURE FOR SEASON 2023

All fees are required to be paid in full by 31 January each year. A late payment fee is payable after the 31 January. If payment is not received by this date, and a payment plan has not been arranged, the Committee will determine if the player can take the court for grading phase 2.

PlayHQ accepts Mastercard & Visa (credit and debit) and now has the option of PayPal which you can also chose to pay in 4 instalments.

	FULL FEE	LATE FEE	INSTALLMENT 1	INSTALLMENT 2
1 st player in a family	\$990	\$1040	\$400	\$540
2 nd player in a family	\$885	\$935	\$400	\$485
3 rd player in a family	\$775	\$825	\$400	\$375
4 th player in a family	\$675	\$725	\$400	\$275
Rep Train-on Only	\$360	\$420		
Development Squad	\$360	\$360		
Tiny Tigers	\$10 per session			

Fees cover Sunday training venue hire, public liability, team registration – VJBL Grading and Competition Season entry (2 costs for each team), coaching development, staff, mid-week court fees, training and first aid equipment and other associated costs.

In addition, players will be asked to contribute to the team '**kitty**' to cover hire of the mid-week training venue, Friday night game team sheet fee and specified tournaments. The team sheet fee covers payment for referees and Friday night venue hire. The team kitty is usually collected in 3 or 4 payments by the TM. The annual kitty cost is approximately \$500 per player, per season.

NOTE: If an athlete is ill or injured, they are expected to still contribute to the kitty. If an athlete misses more than 4 - 5 games other than through injury, a decision will need to be made by the coach on whether they can continue to be a member of the team. Please discuss this with the Team Manager. The VJBL requires a medical certificate within two weeks of an injury that may require extensive time away from the game (otherwise the athlete may not qualify to play in finals).

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

When your child is selected to play Representative Basketball for the Melbourne Tigers, the parents and family are an integral part of the Tigers program. You will be required to:

- Help and encourage your child through hard training and competition.
- Help make the Melbourne Tigers a strong Club by supporting ALL of its basketball activities from U12 to senior levels.
- Help your team (e.g., Team Manager, scoring when rostered, providing carpooling etc. when required)
- Help your team by providing enthusiastic and fair support at games (see Codes of Conduct)
- Help support Melbourne Tigers by supporting its special events.

Being involved will assist your child to become integrated into the Melbourne Tigers. It is also good fun, with plenty of opportunities to meet other Parents and enjoy social events.

CLUB EVENTS

Throughout the year the Club runs some **compulsory** events – some are to fundraise, and some are to develop our club culture.

April - May 2023 – Team Photos

Fundraiser and great memento

August 2023 - End of Season Presentation

Team season review with Club player awards and gift presentation

Social event and perfect day for team break up party.



COMMUNICATION

OUR 2023 COMMUNICATION HUB FOR ALL YOUR INFORMATION:

<https://www.teamapp.com/>

Team App will be our hub for all our club's information and communication needs, sending instant push notifications to your smartphone or tablet. We will send news, create events, upload photos & videos, publish newsletters and much more. Our Team App will link to our social media channels. Our aim is to improve communication with players, parents, coaches and our whole club community. Our content is shared securely and privately to our members only. Our Team App can be viewed on any iPhone or Android device, and a website version will update dynamically.

You may also receive updates via your nominated email or the club website: <https://tigersbasketball.com.au/junior-girls/> All families must advise the Club of a reliable email address for important club contact. Team Managers (TM) are the communications network for the Club. Please ensure that you check Team App and all Club information emails.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Girls Club have several Social Media platforms.



Facebook page: Melbourne Tigers Basketball



Instagram: Melbourne Tigers Basketball



Website: www.tigersbasketball.com.au

CODE OF CONDUCT

Every athlete and parent are required to acknowledge that they have read and will abide by the Player and Parent Codes of Conduct. Please ensure that you have confirmed that you have read and will agree to these. There is a link to the documents when paying your registration where you will be required to acknowledge that you will abide by the Codes. You will acknowledge you will be subject to penalties if you do not abide.

Your TM will issue a calendar on which you should record all known dates that your daughter is unavailable e.g., debut, school camp etc. This will then form the basis for scoring rosters etc. In addition, you will be given a table listing contact details for the team. Please refrain from emailing team members about anything other than issues regarding training and game and scoring details.

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Program expects that all parents, athletes and spectators, respect the role of all game officials (scorers, coaches and referees). Under NO circumstances are you permitted to approach an official before, during or after any Basketball Victoria sanctioned game. Any breach of the above will result in disciplinary action as sanctioned by the VJBL and / or the MCBA Junior Representative Program.

POLICIES

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Program is supported by a range of policies that underpin the club's management and operations. They are all published on Team App and available to all members of the club.

GENERAL

Melbourne Tigers strives to provide the best available coaching and facilities for the development of your child. This development and the opportunities provided, can give your child the chance to play at the highest levels, firstly as a junior and later as a senior player. To do this we need to work together on and off the court as a team.

We hope that your child enjoys playing with the Melbourne Tigers