

YOUTH LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY POLICY

GENERAL

The Melbourne Central Basketball Association (MCBA) as the head Association of the Melbourne Tigers Senior Representative program provides playing opportunities for athletes in Big V Youth League for players under the age of 23.

The Melbourne Tigers has a holistic development pathway and promote all junior athletes to aspire to represent the Melbourne Tigers at the Youth League and NBL1 levels.

PATHWAY OPPORTUNITY

Melbourne Tigers Junior athletes may be offered the opportunity to try-out, train with and if they demonstrate they can perform and are at the appropriate level, to play with the Associations Big V Youth League and/or NBL1 teams.

Under 18 and below athletes must prioritise their Melbourne Tigers Junior team and fulfil their training and playing commitment to the Melbourne Tigers Junior team first, before they are extended the privilege of training and playing with the Big V and/or NBL1 teams.

Under 20 athletes priorities will be determined by the Head Coach of the Big V Youth League team.

PLAYERS ELIGIBLE FOR JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM (U18 & U20)

If a player is eligible to play for the Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative program (under 18 and below), the player **MUST** play for a junior representative Melbourne Tigers team to be eligible to tryout for the Big V Youth League Program.

If a player is eligible to play for the Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Program (under 20), the coach of the Big V Youth League Program will determine participation in the Under 20 team based upon the best interests of the athletes and their development.

Players cannot choose to play Big V Youth League/NBL1 only if they are eligible in age for a junior representative team except in the case of Under 20 if the Head Coach of Big V Youth League determines participation is not required.

MELBOURNE TIGERS PATHWAY

Melbourne Tigers are proud of the pathway provided from Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Program to Melbourne Tigers Senior Representative Program. MCBA aim to select 70% of the Youth League team to be made up of Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Players who have participated in the Melbourne Tigers Juniors Representative Program throughout their junior playing career.

A coach may apply for an exemption to the above in extenuating circumstances.

PLAYING/COACHING WITH ONE ASSOCIATION

MCBA requires athletes and/or coaches to play/coach for one representative Association only, at both the Junior (VJBL) and Senior (Big V & NBL1) level.

The Melbourne Tigers athletes and coaches cannot represent the Melbourne Tigers at Big V Youth League level and another association simultaneously at VJBL or NBL1 level.

The above policy does not apply to athletes or coaches playing or coaching in any team in any local domestic competition and to athletes who have been selected to WNBL or National selection (including the COE: Centre of Excellence)

Should a Melbourne Tigers athlete or coach wish to participate in the Melbourne Tigers in the Big V Youth League program and participate with another association either coaching or playing (does not apply to domestic level competition), the following criteria must be met before consideration of exemption to the one-association eligibility rule be applied:

- A coaching position within the Melbourne Tigers at the same level is not available.
- The external team must NOT compete in the same grade that the Melbourne Tigers' teams compete.
- The Melbourne Tigers athlete/coach lives in a postcode determined as "Country" as per the Basketball Victoria Checked (<https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/high-performance/country-metro-postcode-checker>)

Should the athlete and/or coach feel that the above criteria applies to their desire to straddle two associations, they will be required to submit an application to the Head of High Performance, after which consideration of the below will be discussed with the athlete/coach:

- Priority of Melbourne Tigers team training and games over external (other association) participation in every situation where a clash may occur
- Management of the playing/training/coaching workload of the athlete/coach, which may be to the detriment of the athlete and their Melbourne Tigers participation.
- Coordination and collaboration with the Melbourne Tigers Big V Youth League team head coach.

Should the Head of High Performance deny any application by an athlete/coach to participate at two associations, an avenue of appeal to the MCBA Board of Directors will be provided to the athlete/coach, at which a decision to overturn the Head of High Performance ruling must be provided by the MCBA Board of Directors, or the Head of High Performance's decision will stand.

Version Control	
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