

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY POLICY

GENERAL

The Melbourne Central Basketball Association (MCBA) as the head Association of the Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative program provides playing opportunities for athletes of all age groups and various grades at the Representative level, in the VJBL and VBL (Victorian Basketball League (VBL) – Youth League).

The Melbourne Tigers field teams from U12s, U14s, U16s, U18', U20s as well as Youth League teams (23yrs and under) that play in the VBL and an open Senior's teams that play in the NBL1.

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

PLAYING WITH ONE ASSOCIATION

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

The Melbourne Tigers athletes and coaches cannot represent the Melbourne Tigers at a junior level in the VJBL and another association simultaneously at senior level (VBL or NBL1).

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 Junior athlete wish to play for the Melbourne Tigers in the VJBL and in a senior competition for another association (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 position in the Melbourne Tigers Victorian Youth Championship (VBL) team and/or the Melbourne Tigers NBL1 team NOT be available to the athlete
- The external VBL team and/or NBL1 team to which the Melbourne Tigers junior athlete wishes to join, must NOT compete in the same level of VBL and NBL1 competition that the Melbourne Tigers' teams compete
- The Melbourne Tigers junior athlete 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 feel that the above criteria applies to their desire to straddle two associations, they will be required to submit an application to the relevant MCBA Director of Coaching, after which a consideration of the below will be discussed with the athlete:

- Priority of Melbourne Tigers Junior team training and games over external (other association) senior participation in every situation where a clash may occur
- Priority of basketball development according to Melbourne Tigers Junior team head coach.
- Management of the playing/training workload of the athlete, which may be to the detriment of the athlete and their Melbourne Tigers participation
- Coordination and collaboration with the Melbourne Tigers junior athletes' VJBL team coach

Should the Director of Coaching deny any application by an athlete to participate at two associations, an avenue of appeal to the MCBA Junior Representative Advisory Committee will be provided to the athlete, at

which a unanimous decision to overturn the Director of Coaching's ruling must be provided by the Junior Representative Advisory Committee, or the Director of Coaching's decision will stand.

PATHWAY

Once athletes commence Under 18's they 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 VBL and/or NBL1 teams.

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

PLAYING WITHIN YOUR AGE GROUP

It is a requirement of the MCBA that athletes are playing in their appropriate natural age group. For example, an U18 athlete must play in the U18's.

Athletes are not permitted to play above their own age group to the exclusion of their current age group. For example, an U18 athlete cannot play Under 21's only.

Athletes can seek permission to play up an age group, in addition to their natural age group. For example, an U18 athlete may play Youth League in addition to fulfilling all their commitments – which includes all training and playing commitments – for their U18's team.

Special consideration may be given to exempt athletes from this requirement under extenuating circumstances. Permission must be sought and obtained from the Director of Coaching.

PLAYING DOMESTIC BASKETBALL

Athletes in the Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative program are encouraged to be playing domestic and/or school basketball at a club and/or school of their choosing. Athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in the MCBA Saturday Junior Domestic Competition.

School basketball is considered a form of Domestic basketball for the purposes of this policy.

COACHING WITH ONE ASSOCIATION

Should a Melbourne Tigers Junior coach wish to play in a senior competition for another association (does not apply to domestic level competition) the coach is to advise the Director of Coaching of their intentions, prior to committing to coaching with the program if possible. Circumstances are taken into consideration with regards to alignment of senior team tryouts and committing to a junior team. The coach is to engage with the Director of Coaching throughout the process.

The external VBL team and/or NBL1 team to which the Melbourne Tigers junior coach wishes to join, must NOT compete in the same level of VBL or NBL1 competition that the Melbourne Tigers' teams compete.

Melbourne Tigers Junior coaches must not coach a team at another club competing in the VJBL.

Version Control	
Original Policy Implementation Date	15 June 2023
Approved by:	MCBA Board
Updated:	September 2026
Next Review Date	September 2028