MELBOURNE TIGERS

PARENT AND PLAYER HANDBOOK

VJBL 2026/2027

BASKETBALL VICTORIA

VJBL

MCBA
MELBOURNE CENTRAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

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MELBOURNE TIGERS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Melbourne Tiger's programs are located and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We respectfully acknowledge Melbourne Tigers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives and visitors.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of lands across Australia, their Elders, Ancestors, cultures, and heritage, and recognise the continuing sovereignties of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations.

OUR PROGRAM

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Basketball Program 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 program culture.

We achieve this by:

1. Developing high quality and high potential talent – athletes, coaches, team managers, referees and administrators.
2. Fostering a healthy competitiveness in all our athletes and teams.
3. Providing pathways for continued playing opportunities from juniors through to seniors.
4. Promoting and encouraging participation in sport.
5. Sustaining pride and sense of team within our program.
6. Supporting all our players at every level to achieve their personal best.
7. 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.
8. Providing basketball opportunities for junior athletes that are accessible, positive, fair and safe.

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Basketball Program is a **representative** program (referred to as "rep basketball"). The program competes in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) operated by Basketball Victoria and matches are played on Friday nights in venues across Victoria. These competitions are:

Victorian Championship (VC) - the highest grade of junior representative competition in the VJBL Victorian Junior League (VJL) has up to thirteen grades

The Melbourne Central Basketball Association (MCBA) is responsible for the running of the Junior Representative Program and is supported by the MCBA Representative Advisory Committee.

VJBL COMPETITION

The U12-18 VJBL competition is split into 3 Phases:

1. *Practice Games* - runs from October to November for teams to practice prior to grading against other teams. While we try to arrange games for all teams, this is not always possible if the other Association does not have the same number of teams. Where possible training is arranged as an alternative to the practice game.
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.

The U20 VJBL competition is split into the following phases and mini seasons:

1. *Preseason training* – November -commencement of first mini season a team competes in
2. *Victorian Championship* – runs early February to late March
3. *Victorian Championship Reserve* – runs mid April to late August
4. *Victorian Junior League* – runs March to mid September
    - Grading Phase 1 – runs early to late March
    - Grading Phase 2 – runs late March to April
    - Championship Season

U20 Teams may participate in 1 mini season (VCR/VJL only) or 2 mini seasons (VC + one of either VCR/VJL) depending on the VJBL rankings which is based off a mixture of club nomination, prior team performance (where applicable) and player registration checks performed by the VJBL at the beginning of each season. Placement in VCR and VJL are based off a combination of association nomination, VJBL ranking and team performance during the VC season (if applicable).

Home games are played at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC). Away games can be played at any venue in Victoria. While the majority of clubs are based in metropolitan Melbourne the number of regional teams has been on the rise for the past 2 years with teams throughout all divisions of the VJBL. This means games can be played in regional towns such as: Geelong, Ballarat, Sunbury, Mornington, Bendigo, Ballarat, and Traralgon to name a few. Away venues are determined by which teams qualify for each grade of the competition. All games over 210kms in distance (shortest route) between each team's home venue, will be played at neutral venues.

Fixtures can be found on PlayHQ 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 Team Managers (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 Stack Team App with the VJBL link.

DO NOT CONTACT THE VJBL AT ANY TIME

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. A player turning 12 in 2027 must play in the Under 14 (U14) age group for the 2027 Season. This applies to all age groups, which are under 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20.

In 2026 the age group birthdates are:
Under 12 – born in 2016, 2017, 2018.
Under 14 – born in 2014, 2015.
Under 16 – born in 2012, 2013.
Under 18 – born in 2010, 2011.
Under 20 - born in 2008, 2009.

Junior players are usually in an age group for two years. In the program 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.

COACHING AND TEAM SELCTION

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 the most suitable 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 program has a maximum number of teams it can enter and 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 Lead Coaches at each age level, in consultation with the team Head Coaches and by approval of the Head of High Performance (HOHP) and 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 a 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 HOHP/DOC. In addition, the HOHP/DOC reserves the right to

approve the selection of up to 12 players to participate in the National Junior Classic and National Club Championships.

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

U12-18 teams are not final until the commencement of Grading Phase 2 each year.

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 (Big V & 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 (Big V 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 programs' detailed eligibility policy is published in full on the Association website. Any queries regarding the policy should be directed to the HOHP/DOC in the first instance.

Exemptions to this policy apply under exceptional circumstances. Exemption criteria can be found in the policy. Applications must be sent to the HOHP/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 program enters Youth League teams (23 years and under) that play in the Big V Youth Championship division, as well as open Senior teams, both Men and Women, which play in the NBL1.

The program 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 tryout, train with and if they demonstrate that they can perform (and are at the level), to play with the Associations' 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 strongly encourages participation in the MCBA Saturday Junior Domestic Competition which runs every week on Saturday afternoons at MSAC or alternatively in the Playball Bayside competition. 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 in the MCBA competition, it is highly recommended that you play in the Junior Domestic competition. Players are encouraged to do so, as it will inevitably aid their overall development.

Junior Domestic participation will be considered throughout the selection process however is not mandatory to be selected in a Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Team.

TRAINING SESSIONS

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

Teams train at MSAC on Sundays unless permission is approved by the HOHP/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 training or games, the team coach should be provided with adequate prior notice of any absences via the team manager.

FRIDAY EVENING GAMES

The Melbourne Tigers home court is at MSAC. There have been occasions when the VJBL has scheduled home games for the Association 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.

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 6.30pm and the older age groups (U16 & U18) may play as late as 9.50pm. U20 games are typically played on a Sunday evening

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 210kms, teams will need to obtain written agreement from the opposition team.

Due to unexpected circumstances, such as illness / injuries etc. the coach in consultation with the HOHP/DOC and TM may decide that it is necessary to request postponement of a game. If a 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.

CHILD SAFETY

Melbourne Central Basketball Association, as management for Melbourne Tigers Junior Basketball are committed to promoting and protecting the safety and well-being of children and young people in our care. MCBA seek to promote and protect the rights of all children in our care and prevent abuse from occurring by fostering a child safe culture.

The welfare of the children in our care will always be our highest priority.

MCBA has zero tolerance to any form of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and according to our policies and procedures.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety.

Child Safe Policy, Code of Conduct, Procedure and Reporting

Our Child safe policy, Working with children's check policy and Guidelines for interacting with children can be found on our website at https://melbournetigers.basketball/junior-tigers/child-safety/

Working with Children Check and Member Protection Declaration.

All adult (18 years or older) Coaches, Team Managers, Officials, Staff and Volunteers working with children under the age of 18 are required to provide a current Working with Children Check (WWCC). If you require a WWCC you can apply for one here
https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/
The Basketball Victoria Member Protection By-Law sets out the obligations for screening persons who work with children and deal with discrimination, harassment, and vilification in an effective, appropriate, and timely manner.

POLICIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

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 for 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.

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 or converse with 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 program's management and operations. They are all published on Stack Team App and our website and available to all members of the club. Please note that all Melbourne Tigers members and families are required to adhere to the entirety of the MCBA policies.

General

Melbourne Tigers strives to provide the best available coaching and facilities for the development of your child. The 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.

COURT TIME

Court time can be a vexed issue for athletes and their guardians. The Melbourne Tigers is a Representative Program which differs from Junior Domestic and therefore 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 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 4+ teams and Development/Tournament teams** – Rotating bench where all players receive court time every game without implementing an equal court time program.

CONCERNS AND GRIEVANCES

Concerns with Coach or Court Time

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.

Any parent who contacts either the coach or team manager within 24 hours of a game being played will be automatically warned by the Association. We encourage all families to deal with any concerns in a constructive manner and encourage families to listen to feedback provided.

If a meeting is requested and the Head Coach agrees it is required, the Parent, Player, Head Coach, and another official (TM/MCBA Administrator and/or HOHP/DOC) 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 Association does not consider it appropriate and will not permit any discussions regarding the performance of another player on the team.

The Head of Coaching and Directors of Coaching are responsible for coach development, their responsibilities are not to manage concerns or grievances during training sessions. Please note that you are not to approach our HOHP/DOC directly at any training sessions.

Other concerns or grievances non coach/court time related

If an athlete or parent has a concern or grievance in relation to the operations of their team, or the program/Association more generally, the Association has established a procedure for handling complaints which sets out a recommended process to be followed and can be found in the policies on the Associations website and Stack Team App.

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 where possible.

TECHNICAL FOULS

Automatic one game suspension

If players receive a technical foul during a game, the player will receive an automatic one game suspension from the Association and a report will be required to be submitted to the Association about the technical foul for the review. Please refer to the technical foul policy on our website for further information.

Behavioural Tech Foul Penalties

The VJBL enforce behavioural technical foul penalties and per the VJBL policy.
Coaches, assistant coaches and players who receive behavioral technical fouls in 2 or more games during the VJBL playing calendar year will have the following penalty applied.

- 1 week suspension: 2x Tech Fouls
- 2-week suspension: 3 x Tech Fouls
- 4-week suspension: 4 x Tech Fouls
- 6-week suspension: 6 x Tech Fouls

It is worth noting that previous suspensions served do not count towards weeks served. At MCBA we do not tolerate poor treatment of officials and further to any suspension a report will be required to be filled out and submitted for the General Manager to review.

VJBL SPECTATOR REQUIREMENTS

- At no point before, during or after a game are spectators permitted to approach or converse with a referee, coaching staff, or team manager.
- All spectators must abide by the BV Spectator Code of Conduct.
- If asked to leave the venue by a venue official, spectator/s must do so immediately, or reports and loss of games may be applied.

Spectator Removal

If a spectator is removed from a stadium at any time, please note that an online form is required to be submitted and the spectator may be required to attend a Basketball Victoria Tribunal. Note: Not all ejections require an official tribunal report. Tribunals are only done when the action/s of those involved warrant a tribunal.

VJBL Spectator Penalties

Reportable Offences

After reviewing the Spectator Behavior - Jot Form (and Tribunal Report Forms where completed) the following procedures will be followed:

- If a formal report is not submitted, a review of the Spectator Behavior - Jot Form may indicate a formal report is required.
- Basketball Victoria's Governance & Operation Manager or VJBL Operations Manager will ask the Referee and/or Venue Official to complete a formal report.
- Once the report is received, an offer may be made by the Basketball Victoria Governance & Operations Manager, or the report will be sent directly to the tribunal.

Alternatively, the Basketball Victoria's Governance & Operation Manager may direct the VJBL Administration to apply appropriate penalties as stated below.

Non-Reportable Offences

- The VJBL Administration will issue a warning for the first offence.
- The VJBL Administration will apply an automatic suspension of one VJBL game for the second offence.
- The VJBL Administration will apply an automatic suspension of three VJBL games for the third offence.
- The VJBL Administration may ban the spectator from attending VJBL games for 12 months for any further offences. Once a spectator has served their penalty, they will be required to serve a 12-month good behavior bond before resetting penalties to zero.

Team Penalties

It is the team's responsibility to ensure that all spectators abide by the Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct and By-Laws. Penalties will be applied to the team involved with unacceptable spectator behavior.

- First Offence – The team will receive a warning.
- Second Offence – The team may lose home games.
- Third Offence –The team may have home games moved to a venue designated by the VJBL Administration.
- Fourth and Further Offences – The team may be removed from the competition.
- These Offences may be committed by more than one spectator to count against the team.

VJBL Policies are set by VJBL and therefore may be subject to changes that we are not currently aware of.

Please ensure all parents/guardians and players have read and understand the below Codes of Conduct:

- Basketball Victoria Code of Conduct
- MCBA Junior Representative Parent Code of Conduct
- MCBA Junior Representative Player Code of Conduct

Note: You will be required to acknowledge that you have read and understand these Codes of Conduct upon registering for the Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Program.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

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 (where applicable), the other the time clock. If there is no shot clock that person is to act as assistant to the parent on 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 (very rare occasion), 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 and assistant coach.

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.

Other responsibilities

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 program 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.

FINALS QUALIFICATION AND INJURIES

Demonstration of Games Qualification

PLAY HQ – For the sole purpose of game qualification a player shall be considered to have played in that particular game when the player is in uniform and takes the court, players may be made active at any stage of the game.

Scoresheets - The names of all players who participated in the game (Both Given Name and Surname) must be written on the reverse of the score sheet with the player's signature next to it for qualification purposes.

Medical Exemption

Medical certificates may be accepted as evidence of injury/illness and can be used for exemption to game qualification criteria. For a player to be eligible to use a doctor's certificate, they must be nominated as part of the team prior to the injury taking place.

During Grading phases, injured players must have their medical certificates emailed into the VJBL Administration by close of business on the Monday before any Cross over game. During Championship season, players injured prior to the 1st of July must have their medical certificates emailed into the VJBL Administration before the 1st of July.

Any player diagnosed with an injury on or after the 1st of July (except for the last 2 rounds) will have 14 days from diagnosis to produce a doctor's certificate to the VJBL Administration via email.

A medical certificate submitted to cover either or both of the last two rounds for the season must be received by VJBL Administration by close of business on the Monday following the last game.

Medical certificates must be sent through by the Association official contact.

Qualification for re assessment/Crossover games (Grading Phase)

To be eligible to participate in a re-assessment /crossover game a player must play 1 game in that phase.
A crossover game is when a team plays an opposing team from a different pool.
A re assessment game is when a team is given a game against a team in another division.

Qualification for Finals

To be eligible to represent a team in finals, a player must play a minimum of 40% of games with that team. In the case that 40% would not be a round number then the total will be rounded up. (i.e. 9.2 games would become 10 games) Grading Phase Two games will be included in the total.
If a new player is ineligible to qualify for finals they are not permitted to play with the team, unless permission is granted in exceptional circumstances by VJBL Administration.
This ruling is applicable across all divisions of the VJBL.

Exemptions: (Finals)

If a team can demonstrate to the VJBL Administration that they cannot field eight (8) qualified players for VC grades and seven (7) qualified players for VJL grades due to injury the VJBL Administration may grant permission for a player from a lower grade or age group to play. The player from the lower age group must not be from a higher grade. Request for exemption must be submitted to the VJBL administration by the Association contact or delegate.

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's and will be announced by the Association. In some circumstances, tournament entries may be entered by the Associations operations, 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 attends any of the tournaments which are not compulsory.

Mandatory Tournaments

The Eltham Dandenong Tournament held on (near) 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.

Nunawading or the Ballarat Tournaments, are mandatory for all teams that do not make the National Junior Classic. These tournaments are held over the King's Birthday long weekend in June.

Other Tournaments

Other tournaments that are encouraged by the Association 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.

Tournament participation is not covered in your registration fees and the cost associated with team entry is to be covered by the team.

FEES

All fees are required to be paid at the time of accepting an offer from the Melbourne Tigers. If payment is not received by this date, and a payment plan has not been arranged, management 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 pay via instalment via PlayHQ or PayPal which you can also chose to pay in 4 instalments.

Fees are due when accepting the offer into the program and registering via PlayHQ. The player fee for our U12-18 participants for the 2026/27 season is $1,100 per athlete. U20 Fees are calculated pro-rata in reflection of their varied structure.

Registration Fees cover:
- Midweek & Sunday training court hire
- VJBL team registrations
- Preseason team sheet fees
- End of Season Presentation Day
- Coaching development
- Association Administration
- First Aid Equipment

Registration fees do not include:
- Tournament entry fees
- Weekly team sheet fees
- Uniform
- Additional trainings above mid-week and Sunday training

In addition, players will be asked to contribute to the team **'kitty'** to 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 $600 per player, per season for VJBL and approximately $800 per player for VC.

Team Sheet Fees per week for the team are:
Victorian Championship - $160**
VJL Grades - $125**

**Please note these team sheet fees are the 2025/2026 fees, they are subject to change and are set by Basketball Victoria, not MCBA.

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. See Finals Qualification and Injuries section for more information relating to medical certificate requirements.

FEES U20

All fees are required to be paid at the time of accepting an offer from the Melbourne Tigers. If

payment is not received by this date, and a payment plan has not been arranged, management will determine if the player can retain their spot in the team.

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

The fee for U20's is $825

Registration Fees cover:
- Midweek training court hire
- VJBL team registrations
- End of Season Presentation Day
- Coaching development
- Association Administration
- First Aid Equipment provided at the start of the season

Registration fees do not include:
- Tournament entry fees
- Weekly team sheet fees
- Uniform
- Additional trainings above mid-week training
- Practice matches

In addition, players will be asked to contribute to the team **'kitty'** to 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 $600 per player, per season for VJBL and approximately $800 per player for VC.

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UNIFORMS

The Melbourne Tigers Junior Representative Teams have a distinctive and easily identifiable uniform which should be worn with pride by our athletes.

The Melbourne Tigers uniforms are supplied by Diamond Sports and all items can be purchased via the Diamond Sports website throughout the year. A link to the webstore can be found on the Melbourne Tigers website.

The Melbourne Tigers compulsory items are:

- Playing singlet
- Playing shorts
- Warm-up top
- Reversible training singlet
- Hoody

Other optional items are:

- Sock
- Training shorts
- Track pants
- Duffle bag or backpack

Upon completion of tryouts and once teams have been finalized, a uniform ordering day will be held where packs can be ordered.

The compulsory items required are approximately $150-$180 to purchase. Please note prices are subject to change.

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 Association website and Stack Team App

EVENTS

Photo Day
2027 dates TBC

Presentation Day
End of Season

Award	Boys	Girls
MVP	Giddey Award	Harrower Award
Best Team Player	Gaze Award	
Coach of the Year	Watson Award	Tomilson Award
Volunteer of the Year	Simpson Award	

The Melbourne Tigers have an exceptionally rich history of intergenerational involvement and production of elite athletes. Our awards are named to pay homage to those that have both built this club by putting in above and beyond to make the Tigers what they are today and those alumni that have gone onto exceptional elite careers.

Coaching Impact Award – New 2026
Many of our coaches go above and beyond to support their team and the Melbourne Tigers program. Introduced in 2026 the award calls for nominations from the community. From there a short list is created and award recipients are chosen.

CONTACTS

Primary Contact
Program Manager: Sophie Porter
E-mail for day to day questions: juniortigers@mcba.net.au
E-mail address for all tryout related questions: tigerstryouts@mcba.net.au
All enquiries/queries must come through the Program Manager who will then forward correspondence as required.

Under no circumstances are any players/parents/coaches or team managers to contact VJBL directly.

Additional Contacts
General Manager: Rebecca Thorburn
Head of High Performance: Nick Abdicevic
Director of Coaching (Girls): Bonnie Holman
Director of Coaching (Boys): David Crowe

COMMUNICATION

Our 2056/2027 communication hub for all your information: https://www.teamapp.com/

Stack Team App will be our hub for all our program's information and communication needs, sending instant push notifications to your smartphone or tablet. We will send news, create events, upload photos & videos and much more. Our Stack Team App will link to our social media channels. Our aim is to improve communication with players, parents, coaches and our whole community. Our content is shared securely and privately to our members only. Our Stack 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 Association website: www.melbournetigers.basketball

All families must advise the Association of a reliable email address to act as the program contact. Team Managers (TM) are the communications network for the program. Please ensure that you check Stack Team App and all Association information emails.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

MELBOURNE TIGERS	www.melbournetigers.basketball
MCBA	www.mcba.basketball
FACEBOOK	https://www.facebook.com/melbtigers
INSTAGRAM	https://www.instagram.com/melbournetigersbasketball/
BASKETBALL VICTORIA	www.basketballvictoria.com.au
VJBL	https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/vjbl/home