



**2024**

# Player & Parent Handbook



# About Mornington Basketball

There was a real need for Mornington based basketball body and the association grew out of increasing difficulty for new players or teams to be accommodated at either Frankston or Dromana. Towards the end of 1991 the formation and subsequent incorporation of the Mornington District Basketball Association (MDBA) took place.

The Doncaster Basketball Association sponsored the association to the V.B.A and all was ready for the 1992 season. With all the associated costs, foundation membership was offered – Adults \$30, Students \$15 with momenta issued for those that helped out.

In November 1991 the uniforms for four representative teams were decided. The main colour of Purple with Green and white were accepted as the club colours.

The first representative teams entered were Div 4 Men's, U18 Boys, U18 Girls and a U16 Boys team. There were also 56 teams in the Domestic competition and the first courts were at Mt Eliza Secondary College and Padua College.

A more professional approach was taken and Bob Clinton was approached and accepted the position of Coaching Director. Over the next several weeks tryout were held at Mornington Secondary College and finally 15 teams – 3 girls teams, 8 Boys teams, 2 Men's teams and 1 Woman's team were formed.

There was a competition held to name the representative teams with an overwhelming response the Committee at that time decided on the "Breakers". The association joined forces with "Life be in it" who were managing the two new courts at Peninsula School and these courts became our home courts until the move to David Collings Centre on Dunn's road late in 1993.

From 1993 the Mornington Basketball Association operated from the David Collings Leisure centre until the construction of our own 3 court stadium in partnership with Mornington Secondary College.

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# Welcome to Mornington Breakers in 2024

Mornington Basketball (MDBA) was established in 1991 and has grown to be the largest basketball Association on the Mornington Peninsula. We have over 5500 members and operate a large and robust domestic competition, development programs and junior and senior Breakers representative programs.

Our junior Breakers program is made up of players that participate in our domestic competition and are selected for the Mornington Breakers competition in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL).

The Mornington Basketball team comprises myself Samantha Browne - General Manager, Director of Coaching - Andrew Sherwell, Basketball Development Manager - Nathan Cumberland, Finance Coordinator - Deb Kruger and Administration Assistant - Phoebe McShane. We are governed by a Committee of Management with Mr Antony Hirst as the President and Chairman.

This booklet has been prepared to assist you in understanding the junior Breakers program, various processes, procedures and policies that govern player, parent and coach involvement. Please take time to read this booklet and to refer back to it as the season progresses.

Please feel free to reach out to the staff during the season we are here to support you and your player on their basketball journey.

I very much look forward to a strong and successful Breakers 2024!



**Samantha Browne**  
General Manager



### Our Playing Members



Senior Women

**81**



Senior Male

**250**



Junior Women

**700**



Male Participants

**1600**

### Other Members



**2024**

### Our Teams



Domestic Teams



Representative Teams

### Our Coaches



**70** Representative Coaches

**360** Domestic Coaches

### Our Team Managers



Domestic Teams Managers

Representative Teams Managers

### Our Growth

In the past 7 years

**58.67%**

increase in participation within our domestic competitions

In the past 2 years

**21.96%**

increase in participation within our domestic competitions

Total number of volunteers:

**over 1000 per week**

Total number of referees:

**45**

Total number of visitations per year:

**350,000+**

# DESTINATION 2028



**PURPOSE:** We provide pathways for our community to achieve personal growth and development, social involvement, sporting enjoyment and excellence. We offer this in an inclusive, safe, community and family focused, healthy and fun environment.

**VISION:** Through engagement, leadership, innovation and opportunity, Basketball becomes the sport of choice for the community of the Mornington Peninsula.



## PATHWAYS

### COACHING PATHWAYS

We will implement progressive & innovative processes and pathways to attract, develop and retain high quality coaches through our domestic and representative programs.

### PLAYER PATHWAYS - DOMESTIC

From Grassroots to Masters, we will create a strong and robust domestic competition and program for all players of all abilities, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

### PLAYER PATHWAYS - REPRESENTATIVE

We are committed to creating a high performance culture and achieving competitive outcomes. We aim to achieve year on year improvement in our Junior and Senior Representative rankings.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

Our growth goals will be achieved and supported through our focus on long term infrastructure and facilities development.

We will proactively plan, prepare and deliver facilities to meet the future growth demands of the Peninsula Basketball Community.

We aim to secure a multiple court stadium on the Mornington Peninsula, purpose built for the needs of the broader community.



## SUSTAINABILITY

We will create an association which is financially sustainable to allow future generations to enjoy the benefits of belonging to Mornington Basketball. This will be achieved by establishing a long term, adaptable and sustainable business model, through increasing revenue, the diversification of income streams and a strong focus on commercial viability.

Longevity is critical and as not-for-profit organisation we will successfully administer the sport of basketball and continue to invest in our pathways and programs to ensure we achieve business sustainability and long term continual improvement both on the court and off the court.



## COMMUNITY

We will increase participation by creating and nurturing a community focused environment where the values of our associations are the foundations of our culture.

Growth in engagement and participation will be the outcome of a quality, high performance, competitive and respected basketball program.

We will be pro active within the broader community and a prominent community representative on the Mornington Peninsula.

We will provide transparent communications across our community and provide pathways and opportunities to encourage our members to be active and engaged in local initiatives and activities.

COMMUNITY

ACCOUNTABILITY

SPORTSMANSHIP

INTEGRITY

TRANSPARENCY

RESPECT

# VALUES

## DESTINATION 2028



### COMMUNITY

We are a proud community and family-oriented Association. We will proactively drive and support community initiatives that encourage children and their families to lead healthy, happy and active lives.



### ACCOUNTABILITY

We embrace the privilege of administering a Community Basketball Association, and acknowledge the responsibility to our members to deliver an association and experience that is sustainable, professional, successful and enjoyable.



### SPORTSMANSHIP

We are good sports both on and off the court. We model our core values and are proud to belong to Mornington Basketball where we strive to operate, train and play to our potential.



### INTEGRITY

We act with integrity, which is demonstrated and recognised through our respectful behaviours, high standards and our transparent and open communication.



### TRANSPARENCY

Our transparent business operations and communication provides certainty for our members and enables people to share ideas, knowledge and collaborate towards common goals.



### RESPECT

We extend respect through all our interactions both on and off the court. We earn the respect of others through our consistent behaviours and the commitment to our values and culture.



## WHAT IS VJBL?

Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) is state-wide representative basketball which provides the highest level of junior competition in Victoria. The competition includes U12 to U20 age groups, in a graded structure from Victorian Championship down to regional competition.

Representative basketball is played on Friday evenings in and around metropolitan Melbourne, plus country Victoria, between 6pm and 11pm.

The VJBL Levels of Competition are:

### Victorian Championship (VC) - Elite

This is the highest level in each age group comprising the best 20 teams in Victoria. Teams that participate at this level for Mornington Breakers are considered our High Performance (Elite) teams. Victorian Junior League (VJL) is the second highest level comprising 4 divisions. Victorian Regional League (Regional) This league is the third level, teams are graded into regions North, South, East and Central across 4 levels.

### High Performance Pathway

A select number of players within the Breakers program may be nominated by MDBA to trial for High Performance Programs, the State Development Program and State teams. Nominations are at the discretion of the Director of Coaching and Basketball Development Manager are normally offered to the top three athletes in an age group. Basketball Victoria also run other talent identification programs throughout the year.

For further details on the Breakers pathway visit Morning Basketball website via the below link.



## COMMUNICATION

We communicate with our junior Breakers members through TeamApp which is 100% FREE to join. It will keep you updated with all the latest news, events, schedules and much more.

To get the full features of this app please go to the App Store or Google Play and download Team App onto your mobile device, then follow these simple steps:

1. Sign-up to Team App. You'll be sent an e-mail to activate your account.
2. Log-in and search for Mornington Basketball, then request to become a member.
3. Go to the cogwheel top right hand corner, select Access Groups, select Junior Breakers VJBL



Without doing the below steps you will find it very difficult to keep up to date with all activities.

Mornington Basketball also use Facebook and Instagram and our website address is [morningtonbasketball.com.au](http://morningtonbasketball.com.au)





## VJBL GRADING

VJBL comprises of Grading Phase 1, Grading Phase 2 and the Championship season. Grading determines what level your team will participate in for the Championship season. Grading, also known as Qualifying, is considered the most important part of the VJBL season, there for, the strongest team will

be placed on the court. This not only impacts the team's championship season, but also individual player qualifications for Basketball Victoria programs. Grading also impacts our teams rankings position in seasons to come.

## VJBL DELEGATE

Our VJBL Delegate is responsible for managing communication between the League and Mornington Basketball. Parents, coaching staff or anyone else are not permitted to make direct contact with VJBL.

All communication between the League and our Club is through our VJBL Delegate only at [admin@morningtonbasketball.com.au](mailto:admin@morningtonbasketball.com.au)

## VJBL CALENDAR AND FIXTURES

You can view the full VJBL Calendar by following this link:

VJBL CALENDAR

Fixtures can be viewed at [vjbl.com.au](http://vjbl.com.au). During grading phases fixtures are released weekly.

VJBL WEBSITE





## PLAYER MOVEMENT

Mornington Basketball reserves the right to remove or regrade players to higher or lower teams in accordance with the VJBL Rules of Operation during grading or the Championship season. Players are not confirmed on a team until grading is complete. If a player is removed from a Breakers program during 'grading', fees will be refunded. Should a player during practice or grading games fail to perform to the coaches satisfaction the coach shall discuss the matter with the Director of Coaching

and General Manager. Both the Director of Coaching and General Manager will meet with the player and the parents to discuss the improvements required and a time within which those improvements are to be made. The meeting will be documented. If the player within the specified time fails to improve to the satisfaction of the coach and Director of Coaching, the player will be removed from the program and advised both verbally and in writing of the decision.

## BREAKERS COACHING

The Director of Coaching takes overall responsibility for coach appointments and management. Breakers coaches are accredited under the National Basketball Coaches Accreditation Scheme. Each team will be allocated a Head Coach and some teams will be allocated an Assistant Coach.

All coaches are required to conform with VJBL rules, which include the requirement for Working with Children (WWC) checks and the signing of a statutory declaration in regards to their character and conduct. Coaches are expected at all times to align with the [Mornington Basketball values](#) of Community, Accountability, Sportsmanship, Integrity, Transparency and Respect.

All coaches should strive to improve their knowledge of the game and how best to impart the various skills to their players. This is generally undertaken by attending MDBA coaching meetings and clinics, personal endeavours and upgrading qualifications. Our coaches are volunteers and spend many hours preparing sessions for their teams. Some coaches have years of experience coaching basketball, some are new to coaching and everything in between. We value our coaches and support them whole heartedly no matter where they are on their coaching journey.

Any queries regarding Coaching should be referred in writing to the Director of Coaching [doc@morningtonbasketball.com.au](mailto:doc@morningtonbasketball.com.au)

MDBA VALUES



# VOLUNTEER SCREENING & CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

Mornington District Basketball Association (MDBA) volunteer screening process supports our Statement of Commitment to Child Protection. MDBA is committed to safeguarding children from harm and abuse and to support this we have mandatory screening processes as outlined on this page.

## What every Coach and Team Manager must do:

Any person in our Association who works, coaches, supervises or has regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years is required to:

- Hold a valid Victorian [Working With Children Check \(WWCC\)](#) and MUST have Mornington District Basketball Association listed as an organisation you are associated with;
- Register online with their team in PlayHQ
- Complete prior to undertaking any role with your team a Member Protection Declaration and Coach Conduct form, have it signed by a Justice of the Peace and submitted to MDBA who submits to the VJBL;

## Who needs to have a volunteer check?

- Every Coach and Team Manager or any person over the age of 18 years of age who is involved with the team;
- Children aged under 18 years are exempt from the volunteer check;
- VIT holders and members of Victoria Police do not require a WWCC.

## What are the Child Safety Standards?

Child safety in sport means protecting children from abuse, providing safe, quality experiences and empowering children's voices. The Victorian Government's Betrayal of Trust report and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted just how significant an issue child safety is within sport and that action is required now.

Basketball Victoria and Mornington District Basketball Association (MDBA) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and

young people. We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times.

The Victorian Child Safety Standards apply to sporting organisations that operate and provide sporting services to children within Victoria (including National Sporting Organisations). There are several different requirements which make up the standards, and which sports will be required to comply.

The standards relate to child protection within your Association or Club, and include requirements to have practices, procedures and policies in place. Basketball organisations should be reviewing their compliance with the standards, as well as checking if the culture and environment within their organisation is supportive and protective of children.

To view the Basketball Victoria and Basketball Australia Child Safeguarding Policy, please follow this link:

**BASKETBALL VICTORIA +  
BASKETBALL AUSTRALIA CHILD  
SAFEGUARDING POLICY**



## BREAKERS ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to represent the Mornington District Basketball Association (MDBA) as a Mornington Breaker it is compulsory for all players under 18 years of age to participate in our MDBA domestic competition both Summer and Winter seasons. This requirement is strictly enforced.

To view the eligibility criteria in its entirety, click the below link.

[BREAKERS ELIGIBILITY](#)



## TEAM MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

A Team Manager will be appointed to each team and is normally a parent of a player in the team, responsible for:

- Administration support to the Team and the Coach.
- Communicating important information to players and families.
- Assisting the coach ensuring the safety of all players throughout every game and training.
- Acting as the main point of communication between the team and Association.
- Manage issues or concerns from players or parents.
- Liaise with the Head Coach in regards to any issues or concerns raised and develop an action plan for finding a resolution.
- Escalate any issues or concerns to the Association should matters not be able to be resolved at the team level.
- Ensure a First Aid kit is available.
- Maintain up to date medical information.
- At each game, paying for scoresheet, arranging scorers, ensure coaches sign the score sheet.
- Assisting Administrators with forms and the database of contact details.
- Periodically help organise social functions for players, families and the team.
- If requested by team coach, arrange for a parent to keep statistics or video of games.
- Promote to parents, players and coaching staff the:

MDBA VALUES

BASKETBALL  
VICTORIA'S CODE  
OF CONDUCT





## ISSUES AND COMPLAINTS

From time to time, contentious issues arise that may cause some concern. It is important that these issues are raised and dealt with at the earliest possible stage. Parents must respect Coaches and realise that sensible and productive discussions rarely occur if a person is upset or emotional. Most issues can be resolved through discussion with the Team Manager and/or coach. Parents and players are advised to not raise a contentious issue with a coach immediately after a game.

Any parents concerned about their child's development and desire for more court time should communicate directly with Head Coach at a mutually agreeable time outside of a match. Your Head Coach can provide valuable and honest insights into players performance and areas of improvement.

### Complaint Process

Any member of the program wishing to lodge a formal complaint must follow the below process:

- Complaint to be placed in writing, including your name and contact details and sent to the Team Manager;
- Team Manager is to contact the MDBA General Manager and forward the complaint;
- All subsequent correspondence will be sent via the Team Manager;
- Once received MDBA will decide;
- If the matter is able to be resolved internally

- If a formal complaint process is initiated
- Referral to a Basketball Victoria tribunal
- Referral to Basketball Victoria for Member Protection consideration.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome or response you should direct your inquiry to the MDBA General Manager - [manager@morningtonbasektball.com.au](mailto:manager@morningtonbasektball.com.au)



# REGISTRATION AND MATCH FEES

## 2024 Junior Breakers Fees

**\$715.00** - Victorian Junior League (VJL) 1 or below – approx. \$21 p/w

**\$750.00** - Victorian Championship (VC)

**Deposit: \$150.00** - non-refundable deposit is paid at the same time as signing the Player Contract (due 48 hours after squad announcements)

**Payment 1** - due by 5pm on 10th November 2023

**Payment 2** - due by 5pm on 1st March 2024-

Breakers fees are partially subsidised by other business areas and contribute towards, court hire, coach expenses, facility utilities, business insurance, VJBL entry fees, administration, coach expenses, staff and capital building expenditure to name a few. Breakers fees do not cover uniform, weekly match fees, tournament entry fees and uniforms.

To view fee details and/or pay your fees online visit below link:

[BREAKERS 2024](#)

Any unpaid or outstanding Breakers registration fees by the above dates will result in the player being ineligible to participate in matches or training sessions. Fees will need to be paid online

At each game, each team must pay a "team sheet fee". The amount varies between \$125 – \$165. To cover the match cost Team Managers are required to collect funds in advance from each player i.e \$100.00. To aid administration, this is managed through a "kitty" type process. Unpaid match fees will be referred to MDBA Management for action.

You can view the Mornington Basketball Refund Policy by following this link:

[REFUND POLICY](#)

If a family is having financial difficulties MDBA's General Manager at [manager@morningtonbasketball.com.au](mailto:manager@morningtonbasketball.com.au) to have a confidential conversation



# TRAINING

Breakers have a tailored squad training program which includes:

**1 team session per week 1 – 1.5 hours**

**1 squad session per week 1 hour**

Training sessions are compulsory for all players. It is recommended that players arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the starting time to stretch and prepare for the session. If for some unavoidable reason you cannot attend you must notify your coach or team manager well in advance. Our coaches spend many hours preparing these training sessions based on all players being in attendance. Notifying of non-attendance at last minute is not acceptable and may result in reduced court time. The days and times of training sessions are set by the club. Players are expected to commit to these training times and the club does not work around individual outside commitments in scheduling training. Training sessions may consist of on court sessions and a variety of off court sessions, i.e. outdoor running, gym sessions, yoga etc.

# PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

All players are expected to:

- Behave in line with:

**MDBA VALUES**

- Abide by MDBA, By Laws, Rules and Policies

**MDBA BY LAWS**

- Abide by Basketball Victoria’s Player:

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Attend all compulsory training and skills sessions
- Attend all games even when injured (although not when unwell)
- Report all injuries to their coach before playing or training
- Pay fees on time

Attendance at both games and training must be given priority as this is how a player develops. Attendance is monitored and players may be penalised, removed or not selected if attendance is considered unsatisfactory.



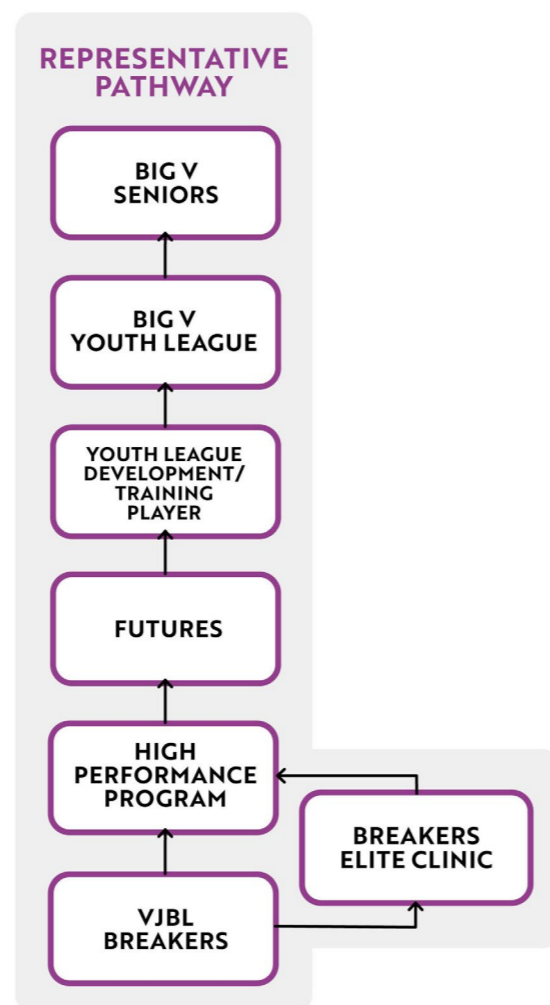
# PATHWAY

The Mornington Breakers Representative Program competes in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) and the Division 2 Big V Competition.

The Representative Player Pathway is focused on getting our players from the VJBL Breakers through to Big V Breakers as well as providing opportunities for some athletes to represent us in the State Program.

To listen to the webinar with our Basketball Development Manager, please follow this link:

**REPRESENTATIVE  
PLAYER PATHWAY**



### VJBL Breakers: U12s to U20s

The VJBL Breakers Program are teams selected to play in the Victorian Junior Basketball League. Try Outs are hosted in September/October each year and the season runs from November to September.

### Breakers Elite Clinic

The Breakers Elite Clinic is run by Avi Meyerson in consultation with Mornington Basketball. Since moving to Australia, Meyerson has quickly distinguished himself as one of the premier player development specialists in the region. His camps, clinics and academies are known for the intensity and attention to detail that will take your game to the next level. The Elite Clinic will give all U12 to U18 Breakers players the chance to be in an elite training environment focusing on player development. The Breakers Elite Clinic will also give Mornington Basketball's Director of Coaching and Basketball Development Manager the opportunities to identify players for the High Performance Program or Futures program.

### High Performance Program: U14's and U16's

Mornington Basketball High Performance Program provides additional training to a select number of identified talented U14 & U16 Breakers players that display the greatest potential within the Breakers program or have the ability to achieve selection into Basketball Victoria Development Programs. The program offers professional focussed coaching in an athlete first environment.

### Futures Program: U14's to U18's

The Mornington Basketball Futures Program acts as a bridging program between our Junior Breakers and our Youth League Men/ Women and aims to prepare players for senior basketball. The Futures Program is the next progression from the Mornington Basketball High Performance Program. Players will learn the senior system of play connected to BV and BA, learn to compete at a higher intensity and be prepared both mentally and physically for senior basketball in future years. Players will be training in groups with other identified athletes and will also have the opportunity to compete with current Youth League players. The end goal of the Futures program for athletes is to be offered a training position, development position or playing on a Youth League squad in future years.

### Youth League Training/Development Player: U16's to U20's

Through the Futures Program players may be invited to attend Big V Youth League training sessions or even be selected as a Development player which could lead to them suiting up for the team on game day.

### Big V Youth League: 23 and Under

Our Youth League teams play in Division 2 of Big V. Players aged 23 and under can be selected for this team and compete in the season from March to August.

### Big V Seniors: Open Men and Women

The Senior Big V are the pinnacle of the Breakers Player Pathway. Players selected into this team will compete in Division 2 of Big V.





## COURT TIME

Court time in the Breakers program is not guaranteed. The coaches may give some players more or less court time based on the match at hand, players skills and ability, training attendance, player attitude and player performance. Not all players in each team will be of equal ability, some players will have a key position on a team and others will be a role player (selected on a team for a specific task) with this in mind,

some players may rarely come off court while others will receive very limited minutes. Players that receive limited minutes benefit from training with and against stronger more skilled players, which will ultimately increase their opportunities for more court time in the future. Court time is solely at the coaches discretion and will be supported by MDBA Management. Complaints from parents or players in relation to court time are given little consideration.

## TOURNAMENTS

During the season the coaching staff may elect to play tournaments as they wish and this is at the teams expense. All teams will participate in the Southern Peninsula

Tournament 11-13th November and the Eltham Dandenong Tournament over Australia Day 2024.

## INJURIES

Registered players are covered for expenses associated with injuries incurred at games, tournaments and training by the Basketball Victoria Insurance Policy.

Players must advise Team Coaches of any injury prior to training sessions or games. Injured players (not unwell) are required to attend all games and training sessions to ensure an easy transition back to matches and training following the injury.

If a player has a long term injury it is imperative that a medical certificate from a registered practitioner is submitted to the MDBA office as a matter of priority as this will ensure that the player receives qualifying matches when injured.



## UNIFORMS

All players are required to wear the official Mornington Breakers uniform for pre-game warm-up, during the course of the game and at training sessions.

The Mornington Breakers uniform comprises of the following compulsory items:

- Playing singlet
- Playing short
- Training singlet (reversible)
- Socks
- Hoodie
- Warm Up Top
- Back Pack

[UNIFORM SHOP](#)

## CONTACT DETAILS

President: Antony Hirst

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General Manager: Samantha Browne

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