

25<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Dear Members** 

Mornington District Basketball Association (MDBA) wish to inform all members of upcoming changes to our junior domestic competition starting from the Summer 25/26 season.

MDBA's strategic vision is to increase participation, by creating a community focused environment and provide player pathways in a strong and robust domestic competition, suitable for players of all abilities. Our aim is to ensure we have a long-term sustainable model in place for our competitions and programs, that is viable for future generations to enjoy. Importantly a junior club-based competition places more robust checks and measures in place to ensure our children are participating in child safe environments and supports the growth of basketball in our region, leading to better infrastructure and funding opportunities.

Over the past 5 years we have been introducing small steps to progress towards a junior club-based competition. With the introduction of four new clubs to our association in the past 6 months, we are now in a position to formally transition to this new model.

From Summer 2025/2026, the following will be in place:

- All new independent teams U8 U18 must register via a club;
- All existing independent U8 U14 teams transfer to a club.

The teams that are registered in Under 16 and Under 18 from Summer 2025/2026 can choose to remain independent until they age out of Under 18s or may choose to transfer to a club, if they wish.

MDBA currently has 10 domestic clubs which are detailed on our <u>website</u> that independent teams can choose to register with and a potential two more on the horizon (subject to approval). MDBA has been informed by a number of our clubs that they will accept registrations from existing independent teams and will allow teams to stay together and wear their own uniform for a period of time, as determined by each club.

MDBA is able to assist each independent team with finding the most suitable club and will happily provide support to work through any concerns. Please email all enquiries directly to <a href="mailto:manager@morningtonbasketball.com.au">manager@morningtonbasketball.com.au</a> or alternatively we will email each independent Team Manager early next season to assist.

Thank you for your continued support of Mornington Basketball home of the Mornington Mitsubishi Breakers.

Kind regards

Samantha Browne General Manager