



2026 Big V Policy & 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 2026

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 Senior Program is made up of current and former athletes from the Mornington Breakers Junior Program, who are selected to represent the Mornington Breakers in the Senior BigV Competition.

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 & Communications Coordinator - Madison Smith. We are governed by a Committee of Management with Mr Brett Spicer as the President.

This booklet has been prepared to assist you in understanding the Senior Breakers program, various processes, procedures and policies that govern player 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 on your basketball journey.

I very much look forward to a strong and successful Breakers 2026!



The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and structure to how the senior Big V program operates at Mornington District Basketball Association.

Player Welfare and Management

- All players involved in the senior program must be treated in line with our core values of respect, integrity, sportsmanship, community and accountability;
- Every player deserves the right to be treated honestly, receive regular constructive feedback, feel valued and held accountable;
- The program should be a positive and enjoyable experience. Open, honest and ongoing conversations regarding court time are encouraged and often avoid unnecessary conflict and players leaving the program;
- A positive culture where everyone feels equally valued from the 1st player through to the 16th player is paramount to our success;
- The Breakers Big V program is the final step in our pathway and everyone involved must demonstrate behaviour which aligns with our core values and demonstrates the integrity of the program;
- The Mornington Basketball community underpin our Big V program and therefore our people and players are our first priority.

Senior Open Team

MDBA's Big V senior open team is the ultimate achievement of the Mornington Breakers program. Winning is the number 1 priority and focus of the senior open team. Given this, the best players available, regardless of age, will be selected in our senior open teams.

Youth League Team

Player development and preparation for future senior open team selection is of equal/more importance as winning for the Youth League team. The Youth League team is the major source for future senior players.

Management Structure

The Director of Coaching is responsible for the appointment Big V coaching staff and the overall management of the program. The General Manager is responsible for the overall administration of the program. The Director of Coaching and General Manager work together to deliver the program and report activities to the Committee of Management.

Big V Delegate

MDBA is responsible for appointing a Big V Delegate each year. The Delegate is responsible for managing all communication between the League and MDBA. The Delegate acts as the MDBA representative at Big V Delegate Meetings and may vote on any matter on behalf of our Association. The Delegate is the first point of contact for match day issues.

Big V Commissioner

MDBA will appoint a Match Day Commissioner for all home matches. The Commissioner is responsible for stadium set up, match day administration and match day operations in accordance with the Big V Rules of Operation.

Team Registration

MDBA may apply to enter teams at its own discretion. MDBA will not register a team unless a Head Coach is appointed and has signed a contract and a minimum of 12 suitable players are available for selection. Teams are not automatically accepted into the Big V competition. Approval from the Big V Senior Representative Commission is required.

MDBA may apply to enter up to four teams as follows:

- Senior Men
- Senior Women
- Youth League Men
- Youth League Women

Number of Players Selected Per Team

Senior Team

12 Players

Youth League Team

16 players with a maximum of twelve players selected for each match. The Director of Coaching has the final say each week on team selection.

Junior Breakers Eligibility

For a junior player to be eligible for selection in the Big V senior program be it the senior team or the youth league team you must be a current registered junior Breakers player.

- Commit to the eligibility requirements of being a junior Breakers player as per the MDBA By Laws except for:
 - A player under the age of 18 years who is selected on a Big V Senior or Youth League team is not required to play domestic basketball.
- An exemption from juniors is not applicable to any player if that team is graded/grading in the VJBL top 40.
- Maintain attendance at their junior weekly training sessions. Players are to train a maximum of 2 hours in any day. It is the players responsibility to manage their training load and commitment with the Head Coach of the junior team and Head Coach of the senior team. Junior commitments are the priority.
- In exceptional circumstances a junior Breaker's player Under 18's or below, may apply in writing to the Committee of Management for an exemption from playing in the junior Breakers program. In making any decision the Committee will consult with the junior Breakers Coach, the Senior/Youth League Coach and any other relevant parties. Examples of where an exemption may apply include State team selection, National team selection, National Performance Program or representation in another sport of equal or higher standard and/or the player is considered in the top 6 players of the Youth League or Senior Team.

Big V Player Availability

In the event that a senior team has 9 or fewer players available for selection the senior coach can nominate a player[s] from the youth team to fill the vacancies. The youth league players comprise the feeder group of the senior team.

The U20, U18 or U16 junior Breakers teams comprise the feeder group of the youth league team.

For a coach to move a player it must first have the approval of the Director of Coaching, who will coordinate the move in consultation with the player and coaching staff.

Coach Contracts and Expectations

Each team will have a Head Coach, Assistant Coach and a Team Manager.

Big V coaches are to adopt a whole program approach to the preparation and development of all Big V players. A commitment to a united approach is expected and required at all times. Coaches working productively and positively together is an expectation.

- Coaches must sign a Big V Coach contract prior to performing any work with the team or squad.
- Terms and Conditions of the Coach Contract are in force from the time the contract is signed.
- Coaches must read and agree to the Child Safeguarding Policy.
- Hold a valid WWCC and have MDBA listed as an organisation they are associated with.

Coach Accreditation

All coaches appointed to Big V must have the following accreditation. It is the responsibility of the appointed coach to have this accreditation by December preceding the season.

Failure to have the appropriate qualification will make the coach contract void:

Senior Championship, Division 1 & 2

- Head Coach – Association
- Assistant Coach – Club
- Development Coach - Club

Youth Championship, Division 1 & 2

- Head Coach - Club
- Assistant Coach - Community
- Development Coach - Community

Team Manager Expectations

The Team Manager is appointed to provide support to the players and coaching staff. Team Managers do not have input in team selections or take any coaching responsibilities.

Team Managers must ensure:

- Hold a valid WWCC and have MDBA listed as an organisation they are associated with.
- Players have full uniforms kit.
- Players and coaching staff sign in at matches.
- Assist with hydrating players during matches
- Assist with First Aid or any blood during a match that requires a change of uniform
- Manage team communication
- Manage any transport or arrange mini buses at the teams discretion
- Manager communication between the team and the Association
- Return all uniforms and equipment at the conclusion of the season (\$250.00 refunded to Team Manager if this is completed)

Senior Coach Responsibilities

The Senior Coach will coordinate and lead senior program. This coaching appointment encompasses the following key performance tasks:

- Oversee pre-season training;
- Regularly meet with the Director of Coaching and Youth League Coach to determine team selections, replacement players and finals preparation;
- Provide a summary report of the performance of the senior open team at the end of the season;
- Comply with the Working with Children Check and the Member Protection Declaration requirements;
- Abide by, Basketball Victoria's Big V by-laws, MDBA Big V policies, BV Child Safeguarding Policy and the conditions of MDBA's Big V coach's agreement.

Youth Coach Responsibilities

The Youth League Coach will coordinate and lead the youth program. This coaching appointment will encompass the following key performance tasks:

- Work with the Director of Coaching, Basketball Development Manager and junior coaches on talent identification;
- Lead training of the youth league squad;
- Oversee pre-season training;
- Meet with the senior coach to determine team selections, pre-season competitions, replacement players and finals preparation;
- Player development;
- Provide a summary report of the performance of the youth team at the end of the season;
- Comply with the Working with Children Check and the Member Protection Declaration requirements;
- Abide by, Basketball Victoria's Big V by-laws, MDBA Big V policies and the employment conditions of MDBA's Big V coach's agreement and BV Child Safeguarding Policy.

Player Commitment

Players must be available for all fixtured games of the season and play in all matches in which he/she is selected to play or as otherwise directed by the Club unless a duly qualified Medical Practitioner rules him / her unfit to play. A player that is going away for an extended period during the season must make this information available at the time of team selections. A player may not be selected if they are away for a number of weeks during the season. Players are expected to attend all scheduled training sessions and other events scheduled by the Club.

BEHAVIOUR

Players must obey all reasonable directions of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager and Association. Players must adhere to the MDBA Big V policies and guidelines and the Rules and Regulations of the Association, Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct of the Club and rules and regulations of Big V. All players are required to sign a Player Contract prior to participating in any formal training or matches. There is a zero-tolerance approach to poor player behaviour taken by MDBA Management. In the event that a player behaves in the opinion of the MDBA General Manager outside the Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct or MDBA Values, the player can expect to be reported to a Basketball Victoria Tribunal and/or suspended or removed from the program entirely.

JUNIOR TEAM SUPPORT

All senior players must commit to attending no less than 2 hours of support per month to a Breakers junior team either at training sessions or matches.

COACHING A JUNIOR TEAM

- Players that are appointed as a full time (attends all matches and training sessions) Head Coach in the junior program will have the balance of their Big V fees waived after the deposit has been paid.
- Players that are appointed as a full time Assistant Coach (attends all matches and training sessions) in the junior program will have 50% of their Big V fees waived after the deposit has been paid.
- Only 1 Head Coach and 1 Assistant Coach who is a registered Big V player will be eligible for a fee reduction per junior team.
- Big V players that are a Head Coach or Assistant Coach and have their full or part fees waived as per above are not eligible for a Breaker coach payment.

Uniforms

All members of the team must adhere to the Big V Rules of Operation in regards to uniform.

PLAYERS

The playing singlet and playing shorts remain the property of MDBA. If a player loses any items they must be replaced at the player's expense. All players sign a contract agreeing to these terms prior to receiving the uniform.

Players receive the following uniform items:

- Playing singlet
- Playing shorts
- Warm up top
- Polo shirt
- Hoodie

Players will need to purchase the following uniform items:

- Breakers socks (compulsory)

Players must arrive and depart matches in uniform which can be their playing uniform and/or plain black track pants or Breakers track pants, sports shoes, polo shirt and hoodie.

COACH AND TEAM STAFF

Coach and Team Staff receive the following uniform items:

- Polo shirt
- Hoodie

Coach and Team Staff will need to wear at matches:

- Black pants (compulsory)
- Polo Shirt
- Hoodie and/or
- Breakers soft shell jacket or equivalent (not compulsory)

Equipment

Each team will receive the following team equipment, which remains the property of MDBA and must be returned at the end of the season.

- Team sports bag
- Team training balls 4-6 balls per team
- Coach board
- Cones
- Basic First Aid Kit (to be replenished by the team during the season)
- Drink bottles supplied by Big V
- Drink bottle holder
- Hand towels

Insurance

It is the player's responsibility to maintain membership of recognised hospital and medical benefits fund which provides hospital, medical and dental benefits coverage and must have ambulance subscription.

Travel

The following travel expenses will be covered by MDBA:

MILDURA

- Flights and accommodation paid for by MDBA.
- Maximum of 10 players and 2 team staff.
- Additional players or team staff traveling will be at their own expense.
- Players travelling under 18 years of age will need to be accompanied by a parent or carer for the duration of the tour. Players under the age of 18 years if staying overnight must be in a room with their parent or carer.
- All on ground tour and incidentals are to be covered by the team.

ALBURY/WODONGA/BENALLA/SHEPPARTON

- Accommodation will be booked at MDBA's discretion for a maximum of 10 players and 2 team staff.
- Additional players or team staff traveling will be at their own expense.
- Players travelling under 18 years of age will need to be accompanied by a parent or carer for the duration of the tour. Players under the age of 18 years if staying overnight must be in a room with their parent or carer.
- If the team wishes to travel on a mini bus this is to be organised and paid for at the teams own expense.

ALL OTHER TRAVEL

All travel two hours or less from Mornington Basketball Stadium, players will need to make their own travel arrangements. If the team wishes to travel on a mini bus this is to be organised and paid for at the team's own expense.

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