

PARENT AND PLAYER HANDBOOK

I welcome you to the Mornington Breakers in 2023.

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, our 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, parental 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 2023!

Samantha Browne
General Manager

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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 above 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

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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)

This 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 High Performance Programs, the State Development Program and State teams. Nominations are at the discretion of the Director of Coaching and are normally offered to

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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 events. Grading also impacts our teams rankings position in seasons to come.

VJBL Calendar and Fixtures

You can view the full VJBL Calendar by following this link: [2022/23 VJBL Calendar \(morningtonbasketball.com.au\)](https://morningtonbasketball.com.au/2022/23-VJBL-Calendar)

Fixtures can be viewed at vjbl.com.au During grading phases fixtures are released weekly.

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

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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.

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Breakers Coaching

The Director of Coaching takes overall responsibility for coach appointments and management. Breakers coaches are either qualified or offered the opportunity to become qualified 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

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Eligibility

To be eligible to represent the Mornington District Basketball Association (MDBA) as a Mornington Breaker it is compulsory for any player under 18 years of age to participate in our MDBA domestic competition.

All junior Breakers players must make a regular commitment to participate in the domestic competition. A regular player is someone who plays in both the Summer and Winter competitions and plays enough games to be eligible for domestic finals in accordance with MDBA By Law 4.9. Follow this link to view the full eligibility policy [ELIGIBILITY – Mornington District Basketball Association \(morningtonbasketball.com.au\)](http://morningtonbasketball.com.au)

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Team Manager Responsibilities

A Team Manager will be appointed to each team and is normally a parent of a player in the team.

Team Managers are 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.
- Ensuring that a First Aid kit is available.
- Carrying all medical indemnity and player contracts to all games.
- At each game, paying for and completing the score sheet, getting reimbursed by the players or their families, arranging a scorer, ensuring players sign the score sheet, ensuring the Coach's name is on 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, [Basketball Victoria's Code of Conduct](#) and [Mornington Basketball's Values](#).
- Other duties as directed by Mornington Basketball.

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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. Please make time to meet with your coach outside of match times. If you are not satisfied with the outcome or response you should direct your inquiry to the MDBA General Manager - manager@morningtonbasektball.com.au

Parent Behaviour

Our parents are a vital resource in the successful running of the Breakers program. There are times where a very small percentage of parents create friction and tension amongst a team. Parents that cause conflict with players, coaches, team managers and officials are not welcome at Mornington Basketball in 2022/23. Conflict causes major disruptions to teams and we have a zero tolerance towards behaviour outside of Basketball Victoria's Code of Conduct. Please familiarise yourself with the [Codes of Conduct](#) prior to and during the Season. As a parent you are expected to understand and behave in line with the [Mornington Basketball values](#).

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Registration and Match Fees

2023 Junior Breakers Fees

\$680.00 - Victorian Junior League (VJL) 1 or below – approx. \$17.45 p/w

\$730.00 - Victorian Championship (VC) – approx. \$18.75 p/w

Deposit: \$150.00 - non-refundable deposit is paid at the same time as signing the Player Contract (due 48 hours after squad announcements) & **Compulsory Uniform Pack: \$200**

Total: \$350 due at time of deposit

Payment 1 - due by 5pm on 16th November 2022 - \$265.00

Payment 2 - due by 5pm on 6th March 2023- \$265.00 (VJL 1 or below) or \$315.00 (VC)

Family discount:

Player 1 - 100% of total fees

Player 2 - 10% reduction of fees

Player 3 - 20% reduction of fees

All fees are to be paid online via our website

Teams that qualify for Victorian Championship (VC) are charged an additional \$50.00 for payment 2. This charge contributes to the cost of additional support and training provided to high performance teams.

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.

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 \$120 - \$150. 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 to have a confidential conversation.

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Training

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 [Mornington Basketballs values](#)
- Abide by MDBA, [By Laws](#), Rules and Policies
- 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.

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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. There are no compulsory tournaments for Breakers teams in 2022 however, we do encourage the Eltham/Dandenong Tournament over the Australia Day long weekend in January.

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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.

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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.

[Uniform Shop](#)

The Mornington Breakers uniform comprises of the following compulsory items:

- Playing singlet
- Playing short
- Training singlet (reversible)
- Socks

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