



# **Sunbury Basketball Association**

## **VJBL**

### **Tryout Policy and Guidelines**

This document provides policy, general information and operating guidelines for VJBL Tryouts.

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## 1. Introduction

The Sunbury Jets Program is an elite program for talented junior players from Under 12 to Under 21. Sunbury Jets has successfully competed at a Victorian representative level for many years winning State titles as well as having developed many players who have been selected to represent Victoria and go onto play in Big V, NBL1, NBL, WNBL and Australian National teams.

At VJBL level the Club aspires to win championships and gain representation in the finals series of each division as well as develop our junior players.

Each year, selection for VJBL teams is conducted in order to fairly assess and select players into the appropriate team based on certain criteria. The selection process can be challenging for coaches, players and parents and to assist in this process, the following policy and guidelines have been adopted by the Junior Jets Committee.

## 2. Tryouts

### 2.1. *Tryout Process and Guidelines*

#### 2.1.1. **Number of Teams**

The numbers of teams vary from year to year. Determining the number of teams per age group each year is dependent on balancing the following factors:

- Availability of quality coaches
- Balance between bottom age and top age players in certain age groups
- Court availability for required training
- Ensuring sufficient teams to accommodate varying stages of development

The above factors are underscored by the fact that the Jets Program is an representative program for talented players and the SBA is not obligated to field teams to satisfy every player who shows interest.

Certain age groups have a large number of top age players. Teams should be selected on merit however consideration should be given to age group balance.

The maximum number of teams that may be entered into the VJBL will be as follows: U12 - No maximum but dependent on coach availability.

U14: 6 Teams max.

U16: 4 Teams max.

U18: 2 Teams max.

U21 - 1 Team max. Dependent on player numbers and coaches.

#### 2.1.2. **Parent Access to Tryouts**

All parents will be excluded from the playing court area before, during and after tryouts for the benefit of both players and coaches. An exception may be made for a player with underlying health concerns that need to be constantly monitored.

Should an injury to a player occur, common sense should prevail, and the parent may be required to enter the court area.

### **2.1.3. Injury**

All pre-existing injuries must be communicated at the point of tryout session registration (it must be asked of each player if they are injured). Any long-term injuries must be communicated in writing. The injured player will then be taken by a committee member to advise the Head Coach or Director of Coaching prior to the commencement of the Tryout session. This is to protect the player and the Club from unintended consequences. Players may also sustain an injury while participating in the tryout process. Under no circumstances are injured players to be pressured to further participate to assist in the selection process.

While uncommon, players may have a longer-term injury which precludes their participation in the entire selection process. Their selection in a team will therefore be based on previous season performance and educated assessment of their potential. Where this occurs, extensive consultation with prior year coaches must be undertaken and coaches need to be clear of the basis for their decision.

### **2.1.4. Attendance required to be selected**

The tryout process consists of tryout sessions and practice games, where arranged.

Players are expected to attend ALL tryout sessions to be eligible for selection in a team. Should circumstances arise where a player is unable to attend either through travel (National Championship or school holidays), illness or injury, permission must be sought and granted by the Coaching Director who will consult the Junior Jets Committee and with the Coaches of the Age Group. Email: [juniorsjets@sunburybasketball.com.au](mailto:juniorsjets@sunburybasketball.com.au) and [coachingdirector@sunburybasketball.com.au](mailto:coachingdirector@sunburybasketball.com.au)

Injured players are expected to attend every tryout session even if unable to participate. Attendance at another Club's tryouts is not an acceptable reason for absence.

### **2.1.5. Tryout Registration**

All existing and potential players will be required to register their intention to tryout on a prescribed form before the tryout process commences. This is to assist in the smooth running of the tryout process. Please see the link to register for tryouts here: <https://forms.gle/D2S4rdKMTk8iQd4J7>

### **2.1.6. Coach Appointments**

Coaches of each age group will be published on the SBA website prior to the tryout process. First team Coaches may be named prior to tryouts. All other Coaches will be appointed to teams based on experience first and then where their child is placed after the selection process has taken place.

#### **The SBA has the following criteria for all of its coaches;**

- All coaches MUST hold or be willing to complete a National Accreditation Scheme coach's course prior to the start of, or during the VJBL season.
- Adhere to the Basketball Victoria Coaches Code of Conduct
- Complete a Working with Children (WWC) Form and a VJBL Statutory Declaration Form
- Assist at the Sunbury Jets representative trials in various age groups and work with fellow Sunbury Jets coaches in selecting the final teams.
- All Coaches will be highly organised, be willing to work as a team and possess the ability to teach basketball at the appropriate level.
- Must attend domestic games and finals to encourage identified players to come and try out.
- Must attend ALL Coaches Meetings and Development opportunities as requested by the SBA.
- Must meet all the standards and expectations of the SBA and follow instructions and direction of the Director of Coaching.

## **2.2. Team Selection Guidelines**

### **2.2.1. Selection Criteria and Process**

The SBA will consider the culture and success of the VJBL Program as well as the individual development of players and provide the following guidelines that should be adhered to in conducting the selection process for VJBL teams.

Selection of VJBL teams is a process which is overseen by the Coaching Director across all age groups. All coaches and assistant coaches will be involved in the selection process under the guidance of the age group coaches. The structure of tryouts will be determined by the Coaching Director.

The SBA will use assistance from non-age group coaches to assist in the smooth running of the tryout process. After each and every tryout session the age group coaches of each age group will convene in a meeting, which will be overseen by the Coaching Director and Selection Panel to assess and rank players from best 1 – 10, 11 – 20, 21 – 30 and so forth.

As this is a representative development program, **there is no guarantee** that a player who attends tryout sessions will be offered a place in a team. Teams are selected from the first team down, based on the player selection criteria below and the need for court balance in every team.

The following criteria should be assessed during tryouts:

- Basketball skill: Passing, ball handling, shooting, individual defence & offence etc.
- Basketball I.Q: Ability to make adjustments, retain information etc.
- Character values: Attitude, persistence, work ethic, coachability etc.
- Mental attributes: Resilience, concentration, focus etc.
- Physical attributes: Strength, speed, fitness etc.
- Potential for improvement.
- Past commitment to training, games and the program may also be taken into account.
- Team balance and positions will also be taken into account.

Players must attend a minimum of (2) tryout sessions to be considered for a position. Players who attend (1) tryout session only and haven't advised the Junior Jets committee and Coaching Director of illness, holidays or injuries will not be considered for a position. Players who have moved to Melbourne and were unable to attend the tryout process may be considered for inclusion into a team, subject to the approval of the Coaching Director, Junior Jets Committee and Head Coach.

Once teams have been published on the SBA website players will be notified via email and will have exactly (7) days to confirm their position and commitment to the program. If a player does not confirm their position on a team, they may forfeit their position. In a situation where either a player does not wish to commit or forfeits their position the Head Coach of that team in consultation with the Head Coach of the team below and Coaching Director may offer another player a spot in the team above. If there is no team below the Head Coach must first look at players who came to tryouts and were unsuccessful. If none accept or there were no players to select, the coach may then look to recruit from our domestic program.

### **2.2.2. Imports**

Accepting players from other clubs are subject to rules set out by the VJBL. Sunbury is always seeking to strengthen its teams with talented players, and it is a sign of a strong program where players from other Clubs are looking to transfer.

The SBA believes that when deciding to accept transferring players, consideration should be given equally to capability and impact on Club culture. All import players must have a signed "permission to train" form and provide proof of age prior to the pre tryout session.

The following guidance in respect to acceptance of transferring players should be considered throughout the selection process:

- Transferring players may be selected for Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 age groups with no restriction, subject to adherence to VJBL guidelines.

### **2.2.3. Head Coach Responsibilities**

The Head Coach of each age group, with the guidance of the Coaching Director, is to manage and assist with the selection process. The expectation of the SBA is that the Head Coach will:

- Ensure that all coaches understand and respect the expectation of confidentiality of selection deliberations.
- Actively seek feedback from prior season coaches on players. An invitation may be made to prior season coaches to provide verbal feedback at the first tryout session.
- Remain after each tryout session to meet with all age group coaches to go through tryout process and selections as described below.
- Help identify the top 1 – 10, 11 – 20, 21 – 30 players etc. With input from other age group coaches.
- Actively assist all other age group coaches in their selections.
- Ensure that consideration is given to top/bottom age and imports, following guidelines set by the SBA and Coaching Director.

Where there is disagreement over a player ranking / selection, the Coaching Director with Selection Panel will make the final decision.

Where there is a new coach to the Sunbury Program, the selection of their team MUST have significant input from existing Sunbury coaches to ensure that prior experience and knowledge of players is appropriately considered.

If there is a parent coach in a particular age group that his or her child is trying out, at the discretion of the Coaching Director, that coach may be asked to leave the room once discussion about their child commences. Parents who have only nominated to coach their own child will be appointed to the team where their child is selected. In a situation where there are two coaches with children in the same team the Coaching Director will make the final decision.

### **2.2.4. Tryout Process**

All players wishing to be considered for selection in a team must be pre-registered in line with points 2.1.5 & 2.1.6. The registration list will be numbered beginning with bottom aged players in numbers below 50, then top aged players with the higher numbers above 50. When signing in for each tryout session, all numbers will be written on both legs and arms.

An independent coach will be convened to manage tryouts to enable the age group coaches to focus on assessing player for selection. Each coach in the age group will be assigned an equal number of players from the list to observe during drills and game play, take notes and fill in assessment checklists. At the completion of each tryout session, coaches are to meet and share notes about players observed. Where possible at a subsequent session, coaches are given a new list of players to assess so as to cross-check assessments. Coaches are expected to move from court to court unless the Coaching Director has assigned you a specific task.

Before the final tryout session, the Age Head Coach will lead the creation of initial squads to allow for movement up and down during game play so that all players are given the opportunity to achieve the most appropriate team level. This must be made a priority in the last session.

Balance in teams is to be considered, ensuring a tall player in each team at lower ages. An emergency list is to be created with player position and in order of potential future acceptance in case of player drop-out. Records are to be kept so that the Head Coach can provide feedback to parents based on tryout assessments.

## 2.3. Communication

### 2.3.1. Team Announcements

All players will be notified regarding selection as follows:

#### Open Tryout Session

- All players who attended the open tryout session will be advised of the outcome via our Facebook page, SBA website [sunburybasketball.com.au](http://sunburybasketball.com.au) and email from the SBA following the completion of the open tryout session. Those players considered to have the right skill set for representative basketball will be invited to attend the invite only tryout sessions.

#### Invite only Tryout Sessions

- Following the completion of the final invite tryout session all players will be notified via posting to the SBA website to advise whether they were successful in being selected into a team.
- Further changes may occur before the end of grading phase 1 but only where absolutely necessary after discussions with the Head Coach, Team Coaches, Coaching Director and Junior Jets Committee.
- Players who miss out on an offer may be placed on a waiting list. If a player either withdraws from the program or elects not to accept the offer, then an offer may be made to a player on the waiting list after consultation between Head Coach, Team Coaches and Coaching Director.

Team lists will be published on the SBA website. Players will be notified within one week of tryouts concluding with individual offers, to be accepted with non-refundable first fee instalment payment before the first practice game. All fees must be paid in full before the end of grading phase 2 with payment plans available upon request. Exact dates to be included in the email correspondence.

### 2.3.2. Selection Queries and Feedback

The selection process is subjective and often parents do not understand decisions made by the coaches. How we handle this process has an impact on the Club culture and the loyalty of players and their families.

Where a player/parent is seeking further information on selections, the process is as follows:

- Team Coaches are **NOT** to be approached directly about selections.
- Any questions or queries in regards to selection or non-selection can only be requested respectfully via email to the Junior Jets Committee [juniorsjets@sunburybasketball.com.au](mailto:juniorsjets@sunburybasketball.com.au) with the Coaching Director cc'd in at [coachingdirector@sunburybasketball.com.au](mailto:coachingdirector@sunburybasketball.com.au). **Feedback must be requested within 3 days of the teams being named. Requests received after this time may not be provided with feedback.**
- The Junior Jets Committee should seek clarification from the age group Coaches and Coaching Director before responding to the query.
- Once the above process has been followed and all Coaches have sent feedback, the feedback will be collated and sent in writing via email within 10 days of receiving the email.
- Feedback will only be given in relation to where **YOUR** child or children have been selected. The feedback will be specific to skills and areas of improvement.
- Feedback for all players is conditional on them accepting their position in a VJBL team. Feedback will only be given to players who are invited back for the last section of tryouts.

## 3. COVID Practices and Procedures

COVID-19 has already changed many processes and may change the approach we have to a number of additional procedures we have in the basketball and tryout landscape. Certain policies in this handbook can and may be adapted based on Basketball Australia, Basketball Victoria, Government restrictions and at the SBA's discretion. The SBA staff, coaches and players will all need to practice and follow all COVID safety hygiene and standards throughout the tryout process and VJBL season.