



# **WYNDHAM**

**BASKETBALL**

**WYNDHAM BASKETBALL  
2020/21 REP TRYOUTS  
INFORMATION PACK**

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# OVERVIEW

## ***ABOUT THE WYNDHAM BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION***

The Wyndham Basketball Association is the largest non-professional sporting association in Melbourne's West. Our vision is to be the basketball association of choice in Melbourne's West, providing the opportunity for everyone to participate in the game of basketball.

Our goal is to grow and strengthen our community, by providing basketball pathways that are affordable, accessible and inclusive for players, coaches and officials of all abilities.

Formally known as Werribee; our representative arm includes junior rep program competing in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL), beginning at U12s through to U21s.

The senior rep program plays in the Big V competition and includes senior men and women, and youth men and women teams (Under 23s).

Both the senior and junior Wyndham Basketball programs have a very successful history. Our junior teams have won a number of championships over the years and produced basketballers who went on to play at state, national and international levels.

# OVERVIEW

## ***GETTING STARTED IN REPRESENTATIVE BASKETBALL***

The nature of representative basketball is that players “represent” the Wyndham region at an elite level, in addition to playing local domestic basketball. Players from all domestic clubs are welcomed and encouraged to try-out for the representative program.

Benefits of representative basketball include:

1. Opportunity to compete at an advanced level
2. Improved basketball skills and knowledge of the game
3. Exposure to different coaches and coaching methods
4. Developing new friendships and social networks

Players are sorted by age. Age grouping for the 2020/21 season is as follows:

- Rising Stars - eligible players must not turn 10 in 2021, they are born in 2012 or 2013
- Under 12 – eligible players must not turn 12 in 2021, they are born in 2010 or 2011
- Under 14 – eligible players must not turn 14 in 2021, they are born in 2008 or 2009
- Under 16 – eligible players must not turn 16 in 2021, they are born in 2006 or 2007
- Under 18 – eligible players must not turn 18 in 2021, they are born in 2004 or 2005
- Under 21 – eligible players must not turn 21 in 2021, they are born in 2001, 2002 or 2003

# OVERVIEW

## ***DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REP AND DOMESTIC***

As representative basketball is highly competitive, there are increased expectations of the players to listen, learn and improve their basketball skills and knowledge. Most players enjoy this challenging environment and thrive as a result of it; however, it is important to note that there is generally higher expectations and more pressure than in domestic basketball. Other important differences include:

- No guarantee of selection – Trying out for representative basketball does not mean the player is guaranteed placement in a team, and placements cannot be appealed or disputed.
- Roles - Players are allocated specific roles in the team based on their size, their abilities and that of their teammates. They often don't have the opportunity to play in all positions in a game situation.
- Court Time – Players are not rotated evenly as is often the case in domestic. Players will have more or less time on court during the game, depending on a number of factors including skill level, match-up to opposition players, participation and attendance at training and performance on the night.

# OVERVIEW

## **COMMITMENT REQUIRED**

Representative basketball is a year-long commitment:

- Tryouts are held safely, once we are able to return to the court. There are 3 tryout times for each age group and teams are then selected by the Selection Panel and age-level coaches.
- Scheduling is subject to change this season, but regular seasons are October to February (excluding school holidays) is practice games, pre-grading and grading where teams play each other on a Friday night in order to determine the appropriate competition grade for each team.
- March to July (excluding school holidays) is the competition season, where teams alternate playing home and away on Friday night, travelling around metropolitan Melbourne and beyond.
- August is when the finals series is played to determine the winner at each level of the competition. Again, travel to different locations is required.

# OVERVIEW

## ***COMMITMENT REQUIRED cont.***

All players and parents/guardians must be prepared to meet the following commitments:

1. **Weekly Commitments:**
  - Friday night game, generally alternating home/away
  - Sunday morning training, generally between 8am and 12.30pm every week
  - Mid-Week training in the evening, generally between 6pm and 9pm
2. **Tournament Weekends:**
  - Victorian Classic Tournament on Queens Birthday Weekend in June (only for VC teams, if they qualify).
3. **Domestic Commitments:**
  - All players participating in representative basketball are required to also play domestic basketball at Wyndham. Exemptions apply in certain circumstances (refer to WBA website).
4. **General Commitments:**
  - All players, coaches, parents and spectators must agree to abide by Basketball Victoria's Code of Conduct
  - There is a financial commitment for the VJBL season. Fee structure to be finalised in the coming weeks.

# PROCESS & PROCEDURE

## ***COACH APPOINTMENT PROCESS***

- VJBL coaching applications are called for via the WBA website and social media. Potential VJBL coaches are also emailed and encouraged to apply.
- Coaching applications closed. Wyndham Basketball VJBL Coach Selection Panel meet to appoint coaches to specific age groups/ genders. Follow up interviews held at the discretion of the selection panel.
- Coaches appointed to age group/genders prior to tryouts (this includes head and assistant coaches). Announcements made via the WBA website and social media.
- At the later stages of the Representative Tryouts, coaches are appointed to specific teams and specific roles.

Please note: Coaches are not named to specific teams until later in the tryout process to ensure the upmost transparency in our selection process and to protect selected coaches from unfair accusations or perceptions.

All coaching appointments are made at the discretion of the WBA selection panel and ratified by the WBA Representative Committee and WBA Executive Committee.



# PROCESS & PROCEDURE

## **SELECTION/TRYOUT PROCESS**

- Wyndham Basketball Junior Representative Program Tryouts advertised via the WBA website, VJBL website, social media and distributed through the online database. Players trying out must register online prior to tryouts.
- Players trying out from other associations must produce a signed “permission to train” (PTT) form on the day of tryouts. The WBA will scan a copy of all PTT forms for our records (The PTT forms can be found on the VJBL website).
- During the sign in process the players will have a number written on their arm and leg (bottom age athletes in each age group will have their number circled so that coaches can clearly identify athletes)
- Players are NOT permitted to wear Representative attire of any association to tryouts. This is to ensure a fair and open tryout process, with all athletes (Representative or Domestic) given the same opportunity. Players who wear Representative attire to a tryout session will be given a verbal reminder and a written note to take home by WBA staff in the first instance and have their name recorded. In the second instance, athletes will not be allowed to train.
- Representative Tryouts are run by the appointed 2020/21 Representative Coaches and the WBA Tryouts Selection Panel.
- The tryout program and curriculum are set by the Coaching and Programs Coordinator and Representative Coaching Leads.

# PROCESS & PROCEDURE

## ***SELECTION/TRYOUT PROCESS cont.***

- The tryout sessions for each age group will be run by coaches from different age groups to ensure the age group coaches can focus on making selections. For example - when the U/12 boys try out, the U/14 coaches may run the session so that the U/12 coaches can focus on selecting.
- Head coaches and selectors compile their selections and make notes during the tryout sessions. At the conclusion of each tryout session, panel members and head coaches meet to discuss selections. All head coaches and selection panel members make selections for the entire age group, not just a specific team. This is to ensure that the right athletes are selected in all teams.
- Selections are made utilising the “Player Selection Criteria” (page 10). In instances where coaches disagree with selections recommended by the selection panel, the onus will be on the coaches to provide (basketball related) factual reasons why the selection should be changed or altered.
- At the conclusion of the last tryout all team selections are submitted to the Representative Tryouts Selection Panel for approval.

Please note: All selections are made utilising the “Player Selection Criteria” and are based on merit/performance, not reputation or connections. All selections are made at the full discretion of the WBA selection panel. Only head coaches will be involved with selections to minimise the volume of opinions.

# PROCESS & PROCEDURE

## ***TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS***

- Once teams have been selected at the conclusion of the tryouts, they will be announced on the WBA website and social media. It may take up to a week for these announcements.
- Following the team announcements, the appointed team coach will email selected athletes with further information and ask players to confirm acceptance of their position in the team.
- Teams then begin pre-season training/practice games and preparation for grading phase one.

## ***TEAM FINALISATION PROCESS***

- Throughout the pre-season period and after grading phase one, players may be moved up or down in teams based on performance, commitment or other factors.
- At the conclusion of grading phase one, teams are set and finalised for the remainder of the 2020/21 VJBL season. No changes will be made from this point onwards, except under exceptional circumstances.

Please note: Teams are finalised at the discretion of the Coaching & Programs Coordinator and Representative Coaching Leads.

# PLAYER SELECTION CRITERIA

## **PLAYER SELECTION CRITERIA – 2019/20 VJBL TRYOUTS**

This selection criteria has been developed using the Basketball Victoria guideline for “Conducting a Selection Trial”. The document provides a clear criteria for the selection panel to utilise during the 2020/21 tryout process. While this criteria provides a guideline, subjectivity is unavoidable. All selections are made at the discretion of the WBA Tryout Selection Panel.

### ***ATTITUDE – The attitude to become an exceptional basketball player***

Coachability, mental toughness, leadership, concentration, temperament, determination, commitment, performing in adverse conditions, resilience, coping with pressure/setbacks/criticism and persistence.

### ***PHYSICAL – Athleticism and physical attributes***

Physical capabilities/attributes including: height, arm length/wing span, general fitness, vertical jump, sprint speed, aerobic and anaerobic capacity, endurance, flexibility and agility.

### ***TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL ATTRIBUTES – Basketball specific skills and abilities***

Footwork, ball handling, passing, finishing, shooting, ability to defend 1 v 1, anticipation, decision making, ability to read play, understanding basketball specific concepts, cutting, spacing, playing off pick and roll, setting/using screens, ability to implement offensive and defensive structure/schemes.

### ***POTENTIAL – Potential to improve and develop into an elite basketball player***

Great attitude, coachability, room for growth/improvement, rapid improvement in performance level in a short period of time, physical attributes.

### ***APPLICATION - Individual application in training and competition***

Attendance, availability, respect to coaches/teammates/officials, outstanding work ethic, compete in every drill, compete on every play.

### ***TEAM ORIENTATION - The ability to fit into a team***

An individual’s ability, to fit in and influence the team in a positive manner. The ability of the athlete to understand and accept a role. Is the athlete a great teammate? Are they encouraging and supportive? Do they celebrate other athlete’s successes?

# SELECTION PANEL

Along with the appointed age group coaches, Wyndham Basketball has a strong field of experienced coaches to oversee the selections of all age groups. Please see below an overview of the experience and qualifications of the Rep Tryouts Selection Panel:

## ***GERARD HILLIER – WBA PLAYER & COACH DEVELOPMENT MANAGER***

- Performance Coach (Level 3) Accreditation
- Victoria Country U16 & U18 State Head Coach, 6 years' experience
- Basketball Victoria NITP/SDP/NPP Network Coach, 9 years' experience
- Basketball Victoria SDP Lead Coach – MSAC Hub
- Australian 3x3 U18 Women's Youth Olympic Head Coach, 2018
- Director of Coaching – Southern Peninsula BA, 10 years' experience
- Big V Championship Women Head Coach, 7 years' experience

## ***JACKIE GIBSON – WBA COACHING & PROGRAMS COORDINATOR***

- Association Coach (Level 2) Accreditation
- Master of Teaching (Secondary)
- Basketball Australia's Emerging Coaches program
- Bachelor of Sport Science & Coaching
- 15 years rep coaching experience including VC level
- Basketball Victoria SDP Network Coach
- Vic Metro U18 Women Assistant Coach
- Big V Championship Men Assistant Coach

# SELECTION PANEL

## ***COREY MICHAILIDIS – WBA GIRLS REPRESENTATIVE COACHING LEAD***

- Big V Championship Assistant Coach
- Big V Youth Head Coach
- VJBL Representative Coach experience at Nunawading and Wyndham
- Presenter for WBA Online Domestic Coaching Clinics
- Association (Level 2) Coach Accreditation
- Youth Engagement Officer at Banksia Gardens Community Services
- Bachelor of Law

## ***GRANT DUCA – WBA BOYS REPRESENTATIVE COACHING LEAD***

- Association Coach (Level 2) Accreditation
- Bachelor of Sports Coaching
- Big V Youth League Men Head Coach
- Basketball Victoria SDP Network Coach
- WBA Development and High Performance Programs Coach
- 10 Years Representative Coaching Experience

## ***KYLE OGDEN – WBA ASSISTANT COACHING LEAD***

- Club Coach (Level 1) Accreditation
- WBA Development Programs Coach
- Extensive Rep Coach Experience in WA & Vic

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## GENERAL REPRESENTATIVE BASKETBALL QUESTIONS

### Q) What are the benefits of playing Representative Basketball?

Playing representative basketball allows athletes to play in the biggest junior basketball league in the country (VJBL) and has been a key pathway for many of Australia's best players including Ben Simmons, Dante Exum, Liz Cambage, Andrew Bogut, Michelle Timms and Andrew Gaze. It also exposes athletes to a higher standard of competition and a higher standard of coaching. The WBA has made significant investment in employing professional coaches to support and guide our representative program, including the Coaching & Programs Coordinator and the Representative Coaching Leads. In addition to the basketball related benefits, there are also general health and fitness benefits, social benefits and the life skills learned on and off the court.

### Q) What level of commitment is required to play representative basketball?

Representative basketball is essentially a year round commitment. At minimum, athletes are expected to attend 2 weekly practices (normally one evening mid-week and a Sunday morning practice) and a Friday night VJBL game (these games are held across greater Melbourne). There is also a financial commitment required to play representative basketball which once finalised will be outlined in the coming weeks.

### Q) If I play representative basketball at Wyndham do I have to play domestic basketball?

Yes, all Wyndham Junior Representative Players are expected to play domestic basketball at Wyndham. Exemptions may be available upon application and are granted at the discretion of the WBA, please visit the WBA website for more information on the exemption process.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Q) Are representative basketball athletes allowed to play other sports?

Yes, representative basketball athletes can play other sports. However, representative basketball is a serious commitment and athletes are expected to meet the expectations as outlined throughout this document.

## Q) If my son/daughter cannot attend 2 sessions a week due to other commitments can they still play representative basketball?

Yes, however as representative basketball is a serious commitment, the inability to attend both training sessions may impact the level of team the athlete is selected in and may impact whether or not the athlete starts and how many minutes they play in games. These situations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis upon application to the Player & Coach Development Manager and Representative Coaching Leads. When registering for tryouts, athletes are required to outline any training restrictions.

## Q) Is playing time guaranteed for representative athletes?

No, court time is NOT guaranteed. However, coaches are encouraged to fairly distribute court time based on level of commitment, application and attitude at practice and in games. Playing time is distributed at the discretion of the head coach and will not be dictated by parents/guardians. Players or parents/guardians who are concerned about playing time are required to appropriately discuss with the head coach, areas the athlete can improve to receive more court time. If there are still ongoing issues, the player or parent/guardian may raise their concerns with the Representative Coaching Lead.

## Q) How were the representative coaches selected?

2020/21 VJBL coaching applications were called for via the WBA website, social media and distributed through the WBA database to domestic clubs and 2019/20 VJBL coaches. The WBA coach selection panel appointed coaches to age groups/genders prior to tryouts. At the conclusion of the 2020/19 VJBL tryouts coaches are appointed to specific teams and roles. Read more on page 6.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Q) Why aren't coaches named to specific teams before tryouts?

To ensure a transparent selection process, coaches are not appointed to specific teams prior to tryouts. Additionally, not appointing coaches to specific teams protects coaches from unfair accusations or perceptions of bias. This method of appointment also allows the WBA to have flexibility in appointing parent coaches as they can be placed where their child is selected.

## Q) When are representative coaches appointed to specific teams?

Representative coaches are appointed to specific teams at the conclusion of the tryouts. These announcements are made at the same time teams are announced.

## Q) Are all the Representative coaches qualified?

Yes. All Wyndham representative coaches are required to hold a minimum Club Coach (Level One) Accreditation prior to the commencement of the VJBL season. Additionally, the WBA invests heavily in coach education and development running multiple mandatory professional development sessions for representative coaches to attend.

## Q) What is the pathway for players at Wyndham Basketball Association?

The Wyndham Basketball Association offers the opportunity for players to progress from grassroots programs through to domestic basketball and then into state wide representative basketball competitions. The junior representative teams play in the VJBL and the senior representative teams play in the Big V competition. In addition to the core programs, Wyndham Basketball also offers a number of camps and development programs to help players progress to higher levels in the pathway. In 2017/18 the WBA Representative Program implemented the "Wyndham Way" Curriculum to ensure there is consistency of what is taught throughout the rep program. The "Wyndham Way" curriculum aligns with directives set by Basketball Victoria and Basketball Australia so that our athletes have the best opportunity to progress to higher level programs

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## TRYOUT QUESTIONS

### Q) Why are the tryouts closed to parents and spectators?

Representative tryouts are closed to all parents/guardians and spectators to ensure that all athletes are given the best opportunity to perform without outside distractions and to avoid potential for perceptions of bias to arise. Only coaches and selectors will enter the courts during tryouts.

### Q) Why can't athletes wear Representative attire to tryouts?

To ensure all athletes are given the same opportunity without perception or bias, athletes must NOT wear Representative attire of any kind to tryouts. Please refer to page 6-9 for more information.

### Q) What happens if my child cannot attend 2 or more of the tryouts?

You will need to apply for an exemption as outlined on the WBA website. Exemptions may be granted at the discretion of the WBA.

### Q) What are the coaches and selectors looking for in players?

Coaches/selectors are looking at a wide variety of skills and attributes in athletes. Page 10 outlines the key attributes that players will be assessed on at the tryouts.

### Q) How are Rep teams selected?

As outlined throughout this document, Rep teams are selected by the representative selection panel and age-level coaches.

### Q) When are the Rep teams finalised for the 2020/21 VJBL season?

While teams will be named at the conclusion of the Representative tryouts – teams for the 2020/21 VJBL season are not finalised until the end of grading phase one.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q) My child was promised that they would be in a certain team next year, why didn't this happen?**

The WBA does not make any promises to athletes about which team they will be selected in prior to tryouts. All selections are made on merit at the tryouts based on the selection criteria.

**Q) If my child has made a 1st team previously shouldn't they make a 1st team again this year?**

No, all selections are made on merit each year. Athletes that make 1st teams in younger age groups do not automatically gain selection in higher teams. Athletes all progress at different rates and some athletes may be early developers, while others may be late developers. Each year athletes are assessed by the selection panel against the selection criteria and placed in teams accordingly.

**Q) Why aren't Rep teams finalised until the end of grading phase one?**

By not finalising teams until after grading phase one, the WBA can ensure all teams are appropriately selected with athletes in appropriate teams. Movement between teams may be made in the best interest of the program and only by approval of the PCDM and Representative Coaching Leads.

**Q) What if my child doesn't tryout well or gets nervous during tryouts?**

It is unfortunate that some athletes do not perform well in tryout situations, however, it is also important for Representative basketball athletes to be able to perform under pressure as this will translate to pressure situations in games. As mentioned above, athletes can also be moved up or down if appropriate during grading phase one to ensure teams are correctly selected.

**Q) My child is better than a child that was selected above them, how can that happen?**

The selection panel will provide your child with some feedback on things to improve, however, under no circumstances will the WBA discuss other athletes selection.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q) I believe my child is in the top ten players, why didn't they make the 1st team?**

When selecting Representative teams, the WBA selection panel does not just select the 10 best skilled athletes or the 10 best scorers; there are many factors that impact the selection of teams. For example: Positional balance - when selecting teams, coaches need to ensure there is an appropriate number of athletes selected in each position (guards or bigs).

**Q) My child plays A grade in domestic basketball, yet a C grade player was chosen above them. How/why does that happen?**

Rep teams selectors and coaches do not take into consideration what level domestic team players play in. There may be many factors why a player does not play in A grade, for example, their club may not have entered an A grade team so they played in the grade their club was placed.

**Q) My child wants to play with their friends, or we want our team to stay together. Can this happen?**

All selections each year are made on merit. This is a representative program and teams will be selected accordingly based on the selection criteria and at the discretion of the selection panel. Factors such as friendship and other non-basketball factors cannot be taken into consideration when selecting representative teams.

**Q) I have two children in the same age group, can they be picked in the same team?**

Upon application the selection panel will consider these requests, however, it is our preference that all athletes be selected in teams based on merit. In such circumstances where parents/guardians request siblings be placed in the same team, athletes will always be placed in the lower team.

#WynAsOne