



CAMBERWELL
DRAGONS

2025-2026 VJBL Season
Player and Parent Handbook



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OVERVIEW

Camberwell Dragons are celebrating more than 25 years of successful representative basketball in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) competition.

With 56 teams competing in the VJBL last season, Camberwell is one of Melbourne's fastest-growing basketball associations.

PATHWAYS DEVELOPMENT



DRAGONS REPRESENTATIVE BASKETBALL

The Camberwell Dragons Junior Representative program continues to flourish. It is the CDBA's elite pathway element for talented young basketball players to represent the Basketball Association. Representative basketball is played throughout the state on Friday nights. Entered in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL), Dragons teams compete against other teams representing their association, mostly from the metropolitan region with some country associations being involved.

In recent seasons, the Camberwell Dragons have had approximately 55 teams play in the VJBL which has 1,300+ teams entered throughout the various U12 – U20 female and male divisions.

The Dragons program provides an opportunity for all athletes and officials to develop to their full potential and compete at the highest possible level. Our basketball program enables you to practise and improve your skills under the guidance of our coaches and gives you the opportunity to contribute to our strong sense of team and sporting community.

Camberwell Dragons are held in high esteem and we strive to achieve excellence on and off the court, in a safe, positive and disciplined environment, and to allow for the best possible development of each individual member.

Representative basketball does require a large commitment by players and their families, but it also offers an opportunity to share in many rewards. Lifelong friendships and connections can be formed during your time with the Dragons. We encourage our players and their families to become involved within their team and the wider program. There is only one way to experience what it is to be a part of something great ...

Join the Dragons today and you'll never look back!

VICTORIAN JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE

VJBL Competition

Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) competition for players in the Under 12-18 age groups is played on Friday nights at venues across the state, with the Under 20s competition played at stadiums in metropolitan Melbourne on Sunday nights.

Each week approximately 1500 teams participate in the competition, which equates to more than 20,000 games a season. The VJBL is arguably the largest league of its kind and offers a graduated system of junior competition that provides players with the opportunity to reach the highest level. It comes under the governing body of Basketball Victoria.

The VJBL was designed to give keen junior basketballers an opportunity to participate at a more competitive level than in local domestic competitions and is one of the strongest breeding grounds for elite players graduating to senior ranks. Most associations utilise their junior representative programs to provide opportunities for players to advance. There are several players competing at the highest level internationally that have come through the VJBL, including, but not limited to, Josh Giddey, Ben Simmons, Ezi Magbegor and Rebecca Allen.

The VJBL consists of various levels of competition. There is an extensive grading period for all teams that enter the VJBL at the start of each season to determine the grade each team shall play in within their respective age groups.

The highest level of competition is the Victorian Championship (VC) grade, followed by VJL1 -4 grades, then VJL5+ grades (the number of grades is age group-dependent). Teams that are graded into VJL5+ are regionalised.

Playing Season

Unlike domestic basketball, which is generally played across two seasons in a calendar year, VJBL is played throughout most of the year in three phases. The first two phases are for grading, where teams are sorted into pools of similar level of ability, followed by the home and away (championship) competition.

In 2025-2026 the dates are as follows:

- Grading Phase One: November 21-December 12, 2025
- Grading Phase Two: January 30-February 27, 2026
(These two phases decide where teams will play throughout the home and away season and finals)
- Championship Phase - March through to August, with finals in August/September 2026

TRYOUTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Tryout process

Dragons teams are selected following a series of tryouts run by our age group coaches, coordinators and directors of coaching. At the tryouts, our coaches will assess the skills and ability of each player that attends their respective age group tryouts to determine if there is place for them in one of our teams in that age group. During the tryout process, coaches may move players around to assess their skills against different players in their age group.

Age groups

Players are “grouped” depending upon age. Age groupings are as follows:

Under 12 – eligible players must not turn 12 in 2026; they are born in 2015, 2016, 2017

Under 14 – eligible players must not turn 14 in 2026, they are born in 2013, 2014

Under 16 – eligible players must not turn 16 in 2026, they are born in 2011, 2012

Under 18 – eligible players must not turn 18 in 2026, they are born in 2009, 2010

Under 20 – eligible players must not turn 20 in 2026, they are born in 2007, 2008

All junior players play a maximum of two years in each age group (unless they start in Under 12s at a young age).

Tryout attendance

Players must attend all tryouts for their age group. All players must register for tryouts. This is done online and the registration form can be found [HERE](#). If you can't attend one of the tryouts you must submit an absence form in advance. The form can be found [HERE](#). Coaches will take players through several drills and skill activities to assess each player's individual ability. Structured games will also take place to assess a player's team play and ultimately, team structure. Each player must bring a basketball, drink bottle and a reversible singlet (or light and dark top).

Team selection

Camberwell Dragons ensure every player is given an equal opportunity to try out. Unfortunately, in some age groups we can't accommodate all players into teams at the conclusion of tryouts. We do our best to ensure a fair, consistent and transparent tryout process.

The number of teams in each age group depends on a variety of factors, including the number of coaches and court space available and the skill level of the age group. The number of teams is determined at the discretion of the basketball coordinators, directors of coaching, Camberwell Dragons chief executive officer and committee.

At tryouts, players are assessed on several key skills, including but not limited to:

- Offensive – Ball skills, structure, basketball IQ
- Defensive – Skills, structure
- Commitment
- Ability to learn
- Teamwork
- Fitness
- Playing history
- Attitude, effort
- Team structure

The skills listed above will differ somewhat between age groups but are all taken into consideration when selecting teams. An important factor in selecting any team is the vision of achieving the same goal. All our players must understand that team cohesion and team dynamics are crucial aspects of selection of players.

Following the selection of teams, each team will play in several practice matches before the commencement of the VJBL grading phase. In some limited circumstances, coaches may move players between teams during this time. If this is to occur, our coaches and directors of coaching will communicate this with the player and their family so the reasons for any movement are clearly explained.

Once teams have been selected, players will be notified of the team they have been selected on, who their coach will be, and when their scheduled training times are (which may be subject to change). Each team is required to have a volunteer team manager, which is usually a parent of a player in the team. The team manager's role is to inform the team of training and game times, scoring rosters, and other information provided by Camberwell Dragons from time to time.

TIME COMMITMENT

Representative basketball is a high-level competition that requires a greater time commitment than domestic basketball. It requires a commitment from players and their families who have a serious intention to develop their skills and contribute to their team and the Dragons on and off the court.

Training requirements

Each Dragons team typically has two training sessions a week. One session is usually on a Sunday morning and the other on a midweek night. Training sessions run for 1-1.5 hours and players are expected to attend every session. The specific days and times are confirmed once teams are selected.

Training sessions run from October through to August/September, with midweek sessions every week during normal school terms. Sunday trainings are held weekly apart from public holidays and school holidays.

There is a significant amount of work that goes into the scheduling of training sessions for our Dragons teams and sometimes training will clash with other sports. While we realise players will also participate in other sports, we expect basketball to take priority so please take this into consideration before attending tryouts and accepting a place in a team.

Games

Games for U12-U18 run every Friday night at different locations. Game times are generally 6.40pm, 7.40pm, 8.40pm and 9.40pm, and will often correspond with age group (e.g. Under 12s will have the earlier time slots, and Under 18s will have the later time slots). Teams from across Victoria play within the VJBL so at times players will be required to travel some distance, depending on the grade their team is competing in.

Tournaments

Dragons teams participate in various tournaments throughout the VJBL season. Some are mandatory for Dragons teams to play in, while others are optional.

The following tournament is compulsory:

- Eltham Dandenong – Australia Day: January 24-26, 2026 (the dates for this tournament are TBC)

Camberwell Dragons usually recommend coaches and players participate in:

- Southern Peninsula Representative Tournament (Dromana): November 7-9, 2025

Optional tournaments run throughout the year include:

- Adelaide Easter Classic: April 3-6, 2026
- Nunawading Spectres Tournament (King's Birthday): June 6-8, 2026

EXPECTATIONS – PLAYERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The following is expected of all players selected in a Dragons team:

- 1. Players must attend all games and training sessions.** If unable to attend a game or training session due to a family or school commitment, contact must be made with the coach at **least two hours** before the game or training session commences. If a player is injured, contact must be made with the coach and team manager. If it is a moderate or serious injury where a player will miss more than three weeks, contact with the club must be made and a medical certificate provided. This is to cover the player in the instance they need to qualify for VJBL finals, as well as for insurance purposes. Injured players are expected to attend games and training sessions as follows, unless otherwise agreed with the coach:
 - a. Minor injury (1-3 weeks) – Players are required to attend all games and trainings
 - b. Moderate injury (3-6 weeks) – Players are required to attend all games and Sunday trainings
 - c. Serious injury (6 or more weeks) – Player and coach must come to suitable agreement
- 2. Players must arrive a minimum of 10 minutes before training session starting time, and 30 minutes before scheduled game starting time** (i.e. for a 7.40pm game, players must arrive no later than 7.10pm). This ensures players are present for the coach's pre-game address and ready to take the court.
- 3. Players must be dedicated to training hard, learning new skills, and playing as part of their team.**
- 4. Players must understand they are not guaranteed the same or equal court time in all games.** Court time needs to be earned and is at the discretion of the coach having regard to the needs of the team during each game. Player attitude, effort at training, commitment, team spirit, and willingness to learn are all factors that are considered when determining court time. Consequently, provided the player is meeting these expectations, we expect no player will receive less than 10 minutes on court per game. Occasionally, there may be some variance to this guideline including critical games where the teams playing future may be determined by the outcome (e.g. grading games and finals).
- 5. Players must abide by the Camberwell Dragons uniform requirements.** Only approved uniforms are to be worn on court during pre-game warm up (i.e. no street wear to be worn on court). Players must wear Dragons playing or training shorts or plain black shorts and the Dragons reversible training singlet for all training sessions.

The following is expected by all parents and guardians:

1. Ensuring your child adheres to the player expectations outlined above.
2. Each player's family will be asked to score several times during the season as per the team scoring roster.
3. Each Under 12-Under 18 team is expected to carry out "Game Day" duties at a Big V home game according to the club roster. The primary duties are to collect admission fees, provide court sweepers, and to video the game. This is a condition of accepting a position in a team.
4. If you have a query or concern regarding the conduct of your team or someone in the team, please adhere to the protocol below.

It is important that players and their families understand the nature of the commitment required to play in a Dragons junior representative team.

Queries and Concerns Protocol

Camberwell Dragons understand there may be times during the season that players and/or their families wish to raise a concern regarding conduct that occurs during a game (either from the opposition or within their team) or wish to query a process or decision that is made.

When doing so, we expect that players and their families will respect and acknowledge that everyone is doing their best to contribute to a successful program. Please approach the relevant contact person with respect, always seeking a constructive discussion.

- If the query is of an administrative nature, the query should be raised with the team manager. If the team manager is unable to provide an answer, they will contact the operations manager to seek an answer to the query.
- If the query relates to an on-court question or concern it should be raised with the coach in the first instance. Any query or concern regarding anything on-court related should not be raised with the coach until **at least 24 hours** after the game has concluded

In order to provide a safe and happy environment for our players, coaches, parents and officials, we ask that parents please refrain from discussing any queries or concerns they may have before, during or after a game.

After waiting 24 hours, parents can ask their coach to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet to discuss any queries or concerns. If necessary, the age group head coach and/or Director of Coaching may also participate in the initial or subsequent discussions to resolve the query or concern.

Referees

Referees are part of the game, and while we may not like their decisions at times, verbal or other abuse of referees is unacceptable and sets a bad example. Copies of our Codes of Conduct are available [HERE](#). By accepting a position at Camberwell Dragons, players and parents are agreeing to the Code of Conduct as set out by Basketball Victoria. We encourage every parent/player to read this. Players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring discredit to themselves, their parents, and their club.

Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct

Basketball Victoria has various codes of conduct to give participants guidance regarding its expectations. At Camberwell Dragons, we are committed to following these codes, which cover administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators.

By accepting a place in a Camberwell Dragons team, players and their families agree to abide by these codes, which can be found [HERE](#).

Basketball Victoria Concussion Protocol

In the instance of a serious head knock during a game or training the player must cease training or playing immediately and not recommence. The player must not train or play again until a medical practitioner clears him or her of concussion. Basketball Victoria guidelines must always be followed for head injuries and are set out at:

<https://api.basketballvictoria.com.au/api/assets/bfjdhm7lzb40scok>

PLAYER AND PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT – AT A GLANCE –

1. Understand and play by the rules.
2. Respect referees and other officials.
3. Control your temper.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and for your team.
5. Be a good sport.
6. Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
7. Play for the enjoyment of it and not just to please parents and coaches.
8. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
9. Be prepared to lose sometimes.
10. Listen to the advice of your coach and try to apply it at practice and in games.
11. Always respect the use of equipment and facilities provided.

FEES AND UNIFORMS

Program Costs

There are a range of costs involved in Junior Championship basketball. Following is a breakdown of approximate costs associated with participating in the Championship program:

Registration fees for 2025-2026:

- VJBL Under 12-Under 18: First child – \$750 (inc. GST)
- VJBL Under 20: TBA
- Second and subsequent child: 8% discount

Fees cover:

- Court hire for Dragons training sessions games and trainings
- Free player entry to all Dragons Big V home games
- Elite coaches, all specialist and other coaching
- Australia Day Tournament team entry fee (not player entry fee)
- Program administration

Fees do not cover:

- Weekly team sheet fees. VJBL will be cashless for 2026. We expect the team sheet fee will be \$125 for (VJL1-5+) and \$160 (Victorian Championship). This is paid via EFTPOS by your team manager, who will keep a team kitty or by Teampay if your team prefers.
- Uniform
- Tournament entries
- Non-compulsory events (other tournaments, entry prices will vary depending on the tournament)
- Team photos

Details of how to pay these will be provided once teams are selected and should your circumstances not provide for the prescribed fee payment as outlined, please contact our Finance Manager [Jacci Jones](#) to discuss an alternative payment schedule.

Uniform

Uniform is also a compulsory purchase. Each new player is required to purchase a playing uniform, which includes a singlet and shorts, warm-up top, a reversible training singlet and a hoodie. Players are not permitted to warm up in “street gear”, Adelaide tournament hoodies or old uniform pieces. Players must wear Dragons playing or training shorts or plain black shorts and a Dragons reversible training singlet for training. Uniform pricing is TBA.

Team Photos

Dragons team photos will be taken on Sunday February 15, 2026. It is expected that all players and coaches attend in full game-day uniform unless extraordinary circumstances apply. Team and individual photos will be taken and available for purchase.

SUPPORTING THE CLUB

At Camberwell, we rely on family support and volunteers to ensure the club can run, continue to develop all players' skills, and maintain enjoyment for all involved. As such, we require Dragons families to assist with the following:

Team Manager

As mentioned above, team managers are required for all teams and are essential to the smooth running of the team. The responsibilities of team manager are not onerous, and parents usually volunteer for the role. However, if no one volunteers a team manager will be appointed. General responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Communication with parents – relaying messages from the club and coaches
- Weekly emails, including game details (time and venue), scoring family
- Performing game day responsibilities, including:
 - Ensuring all players are marked as present (or absent) on the stadium scoring computer
 - Ensuring the rostered scoring family is in attendance
 - Payment of game fees via the team kitty
- Noting any issues, injuries or incidents that occur at games or training
- Liaising with coaches and parents regarding tournament participation

Scoring Roster

A scorer is required at every VJBL game from each team. A scoring roster is implemented by the Team Manager. It is the responsibility of each family to provide a scorer when they are required to do so according to the roster. The scorer can either do "the clock" (home games) or "the computer /stadium scoring" (away games).

Depending on the grade and age group of the team there may also be the requirement for a third scorer to do the "shot clock". A "shot clock" class is run by Camberwell Dragons at the start of the season.

When a family is not able to score, it is its responsibility to source an alternative scorer. Swapping scoring duties with another family is often the easiest way.

Big V Duty

Big V is the semi-professional senior competition run by Basketball Victoria. Camberwell Dragons have a senior Men's and Women's team, as well as a Men's and Women's Youth League team (for players under 23 years – a bridging division between VJBL and Senior Big V).

The commitment and resources required to accommodate this level of basketball are quite extensive. As such, we require assistance from our junior teams to ensure the program will be available for players when they reach that age/skill level. Teams are required to participate in "Big V duty" during the season. Responsibilities are minimal – for one Big V game, either a Saturday night or Sunday, the following is required:

- Parents – man the door and collect entry money
- Parent/older player – to video the game
- Players – to sit along the side of the court and sweep the floor when requested by the referees

Not only does this assist in the running of the day, but also gives the junior players an insight into the level they are aiming to play and the hard work that is required to get there.

Volunteering / Committee

Camberwell Dragons is a family oriented club with the ability to provide opportunities for development. As such we rely heavily on the members of our club who are willing to assist. Anyone can help with any task, ranging from simply marking attendance at tryouts, to helping to organise one of our fundraisers. Our committee consists of parents and senior players/coaches and new members are always welcome. Across the season, the committee organises several functions and fundraising activities as well as ensuring our teams are court ready and able. Within our committee there are many roles, including sponsorship, club culture, club operations and communications.

To help out, you are not required to be on the committee. There are multiple sub-committees made up of volunteers, including fundraising and sponsorship, which are always looking for assistance. Please contact the [Secretary Camberwell Dragons](#) if you are interested in being involved on committee or helping out on a sub-committee.

Sponsorship

The club is always looking for potential partners and sponsors. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in promoting a business to more than 5500 participants within Camberwell District Basketball Association and their families, please contact [Andrew Johnstone](#) to discuss a proposal. There are many opportunities available that can be tailored to suit your needs.

USEFUL CONTACTS AND LINKS

Convenors/Delegates

Basketball Director/CEO:	Ross Wignell	basketballdirector@camberwellbasketball.com
VJBL Boys Coordinator:	Mark Jeffers	Mark.Jeffers@camberwellbasketball.com
VJBL Girls Coordinator:	Mark Jeffers	Mark.Jeffers@camberwellbasketball.com
Girls Director of Coaching:	Michael Dimattina	girlsdoc@camberwellbasketball.com
Boys U12-U16 Director of Coaching:	Steve Lunardon	steve.lunardon@camberwellbasketball.com
VJBL Administrator:	Mandy Mathews	operations@camberwellbasketball.com
VJBL Delegate:	Mandy Mathews	operations@camberwellbasketball.com
Big V Delegate:	Ben Wardlaw	bigv@camberwellbasketball.com

Websites and Links

Camberwell Dragons	https://camberwellbasketball.com/	Anything club related
VJBL	https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/vjbl/home	Fixtures, venue locations, VJBL season calendar, Rules of Operation, timing rules, score sheets and a host of VJBL information
Basketball Victoria	www.basketballvictoria.com.au	Codes of conduct and insurance details, along with other useful information
Basketball Australia	https://www.australia.basketball/	

Policies

[Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct](#)

[Behavioural Tech Foul Penalties](#)

[Photography and Filming Policy](#)

[Social Media Policy](#)

[Spectator Behaviour Rule and Penalties](#)

[Uniform Policy](#)