



CAMBERWELL **DRAGONS**

2026-2027 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 62 Dragons teams competing in the VJBL last season, Camberwell is one of the state's fastest-growing representative basketball clubs.

PATHWAYS DEVELOPMENT



DRAGONS REPRESENTATIVE BASKETBALL

The Camberwell Dragons Junior Representative Program is the premier pathway for talented young basketball players to represent Camberwell District Basketball Association (CDBA). Competing in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL), Dragons teams play against associations from across metropolitan and regional Victoria, with games held on Friday nights.

Last season the Dragons fielded 62 teams across the VJBL, which includes more than 1300 teams competing in Under 12 to Under 20 boys' and girls' divisions.

Our program provides athletes and officials with the opportunity to develop their skills, reach their full potential and compete at the highest level. Under the guidance of experienced coaches, participants benefit from a structured development pathway while contributing to a strong and supportive team culture.

Camberwell Dragons are widely respected for their commitment to excellence on and off the court. We foster a safe, positive, and disciplined environment that prioritises the development and wellbeing of every individual.

While representative basketball requires a significant commitment from players and their families, it also offers lasting rewards. Many lifelong friendships and connections are formed through the program and we encourage families to actively engage with their team and the wider Dragons community.

Join the Dragons and become part of something special.

VICTORIAN JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE

VJBL Competition

The Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL), administered by Basketball Victoria, is the state's premier representative basketball competition for junior athletes. Under 12 to Under 18 competitions are played on Friday nights at venues across Victoria, while Under 20 competitions are played on Sunday nights at metropolitan Melbourne stadiums.

Each week, approximately 1500 teams compete in the VJBL, contributing to more than 20,000 games each season. Widely regarded as one of the largest and strongest junior basketball competitions of its kind, the VJBL provides a structured development pathway for players aspiring to reach higher levels of the sport.

Designed to offer a more challenging and competitive environment than local domestic basketball, the VJBL has become a proven pathway for emerging talent. Many elite Australian players have progressed through the league, including Josh Giddey, Ben Simmons, Ezi Magbegor and Rebecca Allen.

The competition features a comprehensive grading system, with teams assessed at the beginning of each season to determine the appropriate level of competition within their age group. The highest division is Victorian Championship (VC), followed by VJL1–VJL4 grades, and then VJL5+ grades, which are generally regionalised. This structure ensures teams compete against opponents of a similar standard while providing clear opportunities for progression and development.

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.

The 2026-2027 dates are:

- Grading Phase One: November 20-December 11, 2026
- Grading Phase Two: January 29-February 26, 2027
(Grading 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 2027

TRYOUTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Tryout process

Camberwell Dragons teams are selected through a structured tryout process led by our age group coaches, coordinators and directors of coaching. During tryouts, players are assessed on their basketball skills, game awareness, athletic ability, coachability and overall potential to determine their suitability for placement within a Dragons team.

To ensure a thorough and fair evaluation, coaches may move players between groups and teams throughout the tryout period, allowing them to be assessed alongside a range of athletes within their age group. Team selections are based on the observations and recommendations of the coaching panel, with the aim of placing each player in the team best suited to their current development and potential.

Age groups

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

Under 12 – eligible players must not turn 12 in 2027; they are born in 2016, 2017, 2018

Under 14 – eligible players must not turn 14 in 2027, they are born in 2014, 2015

Under 16 – eligible players must not turn 16 in 2027, they are born in 2012, 2013

Under 18 – eligible players must not turn 18 in 2027, they are born in 2010, 2011

Under 20 – eligible players must not turn 20 in 2027, they are born in 2008, 2009

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

At Camberwell Dragons, every player is given an equal opportunity to participate in the tryout process. While we strive to provide opportunities for as many athletes as possible, team placements are subject to factors such as player numbers, coaching availability, court access and

the overall standard and depth of each age group. The number of teams fielded in each age group is determined by the basketball coordinators, directors of coaching, chief executive officer and Dragons Committee.

Our goal is to ensure a fair, consistent and transparent selection process. During tryouts, players are evaluated across a range of areas, including:

- Offensive skills, game understanding and basketball IQ
- Defensive skills and team defence concepts
- Commitment and work ethic
- Coachability and ability to learn
- Teamwork and communication
- Fitness and athletic ability
- Playing history and experience
- Attitude, effort and behaviour
- Team balance and structure

Assessment criteria may vary between age groups, reflecting the different stages of player development. In addition to individual ability, team cohesion and the ability to contribute positively to a team environment are important considerations in the selection process.

Following team selection, squads will participate in practice matches leading into the VJBL grading phase. In limited circumstances, player movements between teams may occur during this period to ensure appropriate team balance and development opportunities. Should any changes be required, coaches and directors of coaching will communicate directly with the player and their family, providing clear reasons for the decision.

When teams are finalised, players will be advised of their team placement, coach and scheduled training times (subject to change). Each team is supported by a volunteer team manager, typically a parent or guardian, who assists with team communications, game and training schedules, scoring rosters and other information on behalf of the Camberwell Dragons program.

TIME COMMITMENT

Representative basketball is a high-level competition that requires a greater commitment than domestic basketball. It is designed for players and families who are dedicated to developing their skills, competing at a higher standard, and making a positive contribution to their team and the wider Dragons program, on and off the court.

Training requirements

Dragons teams typically train twice a week, with one session usually held on a Sunday morning and the second on a weeknight. Training sessions generally run for 1–1.5 hours and players are expected to attend all scheduled sessions. Specific training days and times are confirmed following team selection.

The representative season runs from October through to August/September. Midweek training sessions are held throughout school terms, while Sunday training sessions are conducted most weeks, excluding public holidays and designated school holiday periods.

Scheduling training for more than 60 representative teams is a complex process and training times may occasionally conflict with other sporting commitments. While we recognise many athletes participate in multiple sports, players selected in the Dragons program are expected to prioritise their basketball commitments. Families should carefully consider this requirement before attending tryouts and accepting a position within the program.

Games

For Under 12 to Under 18 teams, VJBL games are played on Friday nights at venues across Victoria. Tip-off times are generally 6.30pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm and 9.30pm, with younger age groups typically scheduled in earlier timeslots and older age groups in later timeslots. As the VJBL is a statewide competition, teams may be required to travel to various metropolitan and regional venues throughout the season, depending on their competition grade.

Tournaments

Dragons teams participate in a range of tournaments throughout the year, providing valuable opportunities for player development, team bonding and additional game experience. Some tournaments are compulsory, while others are highly recommended or optional.

Compulsory Tournament

- Eltham Dandenong Tournament (Australia Day Weekend): **January 22-25, 2027**

Recommended Tournament

- Southern Peninsula Representative Tournament (Dromana): **November 6-8, 2026**

Optional Tournaments

- Adelaide Easter Classic: **March 26-29, 2027**
- Nunawading Spectres Tournament (King's Birthday Weekend): **June 12-14, 2027**

Participation in these events helps players gain experience against a broad range of opponents while strengthening team culture and camaraderie throughout the season.

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 two 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 7.30pm game, players must arrive no later than 7pm). 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. 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 team's 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.

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

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 re-commence. 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>

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 2026-2027:

- VJBL Under 12-Under 18: Training twice a week – \$780 (inc. GST)
- VJBL Under 12-Under 18: Training once a week – \$605 (inc. GST)
- VJBL Under 20: \$495 (inc. GST)
- 8% discount for second and subsequent children (please note players must be registered via the same PlayHQ account for discount to be applied)

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 2027. 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.
- Uniforms
- Tournament entries

- Non-compulsory events (other tournaments, entry prices will vary depending on the tournament)
- Team photos

Details of how to pay will be provided when teams are selected. 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 in February 2027 (TBA). 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 on 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, it also gives our 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:	Shawn King	girlsdoc@camberwellbasketball.com
Boys Director of Coaching:	Steve Lunardon	steve.lunardon@camberwellbasketball.com
VJBL Administrator:	Belinda Oakley	operations@camberwellbasketball.com
VJBL Delegate:	Belinda Oakley	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](#)