2027 Breakers VBL Policy & Handbook

History Of
Mornington Basketball

The journey of Mornington Basketball began in late 1991 with the formation and incorporation of the Mornington District Basketball Association (MDBA). With the support and sponsorship of the Doncaster Basketball Association to the Victorian Basketball Association (VBA), everything was in place for Mornington to officially enter competition in the 1992 season.

To help establish the new association and cover the many start-up costs, foundation memberships were offered to the community — Adults for $30 and Students for $15. Special mementos were also presented to the many volunteers and supporters who helped bring the vision to life.

In November 1991, the uniforms for the association's first four representative teams were selected. Purple, green and white were proudly adopted as the official club colours — colours that continue to represent Mornington Basketball today. The inaugural representative teams included Division 4 Men, Under 18 Boys, Under 18 Girls and Under 16 Boys.

At the same time, the domestic competition was already thriving with 56 teams participating across the region. The association's first games were played at Mt Eliza Secondary College and Padua College.

A community competition was held to name the representative program and, following an overwhelming response, the committee proudly chose the name "Breakers" — a name that has since become synonymous with Mornington Basketball.

The association later partnered with "Life. Be In It", who managed the two new courts at Peninsula School. These courts became the home of the Breakers until the move to the David Collings Leisure Centre on Dunns Road in late 1993.

From 1993 onwards, the Mornington District Basketball Association operated from the David Collings Leisure Centre before eventually achieving another major milestone — the construction of its own three-court stadium in partnership with Mornington Secondary College.

From humble beginnings built on passion, community spirit and volunteer support, Mornington Basketball has grown into a proud and thriving association with a rich history and strong connection to the local community.

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Welcome to Mornington Breakers in 2027

Mornington Basketball (MDBA) was established in 1991 and has grown to be the largest basketball Association on the Mornington Peninsula. We have over 5500 members and operate a large and robust domestic competition, development programs and Junior and Senior Breakers representative programs.

Our Senior Program is made up of current and former athletes from the Mornington Breakers Junior Program, who are selected to represent the Mornington Breakers in the Victorian Basketball League (VBL).

The Mornington Basketball team comprises myself Samantha Browne - Chief Executite Officer, Director of Coaching - Andrew Sherwell, Basketball Development Manager - Nathan Cumberland, Finance Coordinator - Deb Kruger and Administration & Communications Coordinator - Madison Smith. We are governed by a Committee of Management with Amy Faulkner as the President.

This booklet has been prepared to assist you in understanding the Senior Breakers program, various processes, procedures and policies that govern player and coach involvement. Please take time to read this booklet and to refer back to it as the season progresses.

Please feel free to reach out to the staff during the season. We are here to support you on your basketball journey.

I very much look forward to a strong and successful Breakers 2027!



Samantha Browne
Chief Executive Officer

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and structure to how the senior program operates at Mornington District Basketball Association.

Player Welfare and Management

- All players involved in the senior program must be treated in line with our core values of respect, integrity, sportsmanship, community and accountability;
- Every player deserves the right to be treated honestly, receive regular constructive feedback, feel valued and held accountable;
- The program should be a positive and enjoyable experience. Open, honest and ongoing conversations regarding court time are encouraged and often avoid unnecessary conflict and players leaving the program;
- A positive culture where everyone feels equally valued from the 1st player through to the 16th player is paramount to our success;
- The Breakers VBL program is the final step in our pathway and everyone involved must demonstrate behaviour which aligns with our core values and demonstrates the integrity of the program;
- The Mornington Basketball community underpin our VBL program and therefore our people and players are our first priority.

Senior Open Team

MDBA's VBL senior open team is the ultimate achievement of the Mornington Breakers program. Winning is the number 1 priority and focus of the senior open team. Given this, the best players available, regardless of age, will be selected in our senior open teams.

Youth League Team

Player development and preparation for future senior open team selection is of equal/more importance as winning for the Youth League team. The Youth League team is the major source for future senior players.

Management Structure

The Director of Coaching is responsible for the appointment VBL coaching staff and the overall management of the program. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the overall administration of the program. The Director of Coaching and Chief Executive Officer work together to deliver the program and report activities to the Committee of Management.

VBL Delegate

MDBA is responsible for appointing a VBL Delegate each year. The Delegate is responsible for managing all communication between the League and MDBA. The Delegate acts as the MDBA representative at VBL Delegate Meetings and may vote on any matter on behalf of our Association. The Delegate is the first point of contact for match day issues.

VBL Commissioner

MDBA will appoint a Match Day Commissioner for all home matches. The Commissioner is responsible for stadium set up, match day administration and match day operations in accordance with the VBL Rules of Operation.

Team Registration

MDBA may apply to enter teams at its own discretion. MDBA will not register a team unless a Head Coach is appointed and has signed a contract and a minimum of 12 suitable players are available for selection. Teams are not automatically accepted into the VBL competition. Approval from the VBL Senior Representative Commission is required.

MDBA may apply to enter up to four teams as follows:

- Senior Men
- Senior Women
- Youth League Men
- Youth League Women

Number of Players Selected Per Team

Senior Team

12 Players

Youth League Team

Up to 16 players with a maximum of twelve players selected for each match. The Director of Coaching has the final say each week on team selection.

2027 VBL Fees

The cost for each player to register for the VBL Season is $650.00.

All players, whether contracted or not, are required to secure a minimum player sponsorship. A Player Sponsor is $700.00, which covers the player's fees and associated administration costs, with all sponsorship payments required to be received by March 1st 2027. Alternatively, players can secure a Breakers VBL Sponsor for $1,000.00, which includes a 12-month stadium sign and coverage of the player's registration fees. Teams may also choose to fundraise towards player fees through activities such as a BBQ, trivia night or other approved fundraising initiatives.

Athletes registered with a Mornington Breakers VJBL Team will have their VBL Fees waived.

Athletes appointed as full-time VJBL Head Coaches or Assistant Coaches within the Junior Program will have their VBL Fee Balance waived once the $150.00 Acceptance Deposit has been paid. Further details regarding these fee exemptions and discounts are outlined on page 13.

Any unpaid or outstanding fees by the below dates will result in the player being ineligible to participate in matches or training sessions. Fees will need to be paid online.

2027 VBL ACCEPTANCE DEPOSIT

Acceptance Deposit - due one week after team announcements.

- $150 per player (plus processing fees), non-refundable acceptance deposit. This payment covers the player's personalised VBL playing kit, as outlined on page 13.

2027 VBL REGISTRATION FEES

Balance of Fees - due by 5pm on 1st March 2027

- $500 per player (plus processing fees)

The balance of fees is paid via PlayHQ when you register to Mornington Breakers Basketball Club. You have the option to pay via credit/debit card, PayPal, Google Pay, Apple Pay, PayPal Pay in 4. If you wish to pay via instalment you must create a PayPal account and select Pay in 4.

* no sibling discount applies

Junior Breakers Eligibility

To be eligible for selection into the VBL Senior Program, including the Senior or Youth League team, a player must be a current registered Junior Breakers player.

Junior players selected in a VBL Senior Program team must:

- Meet the Junior Breakers eligibility requirements as outlined in the MDBA By-Laws, with the exception that players under 18 years of age who are selected in a VBL Senior or Youth League team are not required to participate in domestic basketball.
- Maintain regular attendance at their scheduled Junior Breakers training sessions.
- Communicate with and manage their training load in consultation with both the Junior Team Head Coach and the VBL Senior Team Head Coach.
- Recognise that Junior Breakers commitments take priority.

VBL Player Availability

The Senior Coach may nominate player(s) from the Youth League team to fill vacancies within the Senior team. The Youth League team serves as the feeder program.

Players from the Junior Breakers program may also be selected during the season to participate in the VBL Senior Program.

Any movement of a player between teams must first be approved by the Director of Coaching. The Director of Coaching will coordinate the move in consultation with the relevant player and coaching staff.

Coach Contracts and Expectations

Each VBL team will have a Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Team Manager.

VBL coaches are to adopt a whole program approach to the preparation and development of all VBL players. A commitment to a united approach is expected and required at all times. Coaches working productively and positively together is an expectation.

All VBL coaches must:

- Sign a VBL Coach Contract prior to undertaking any work with a team.
- Comply with the terms and conditions of the VBL Coach Contract from the date the contract is signed.
- Read and acknowledge the MDBA Child Safeguarding Policy and comply with all relevant child safeguarding requirements.
- Hold a valid Working with Children Check and ensure MDBA is listed as an organisation with which they are associated.

Coach Accreditation

All coaches appointed to the VBL program must hold the required coaching accreditation for their appointed role. It is the responsibility of the appointed coach to obtain the required accreditation by December preceding the VBL season.

Failure to obtain the required coaching accreditation by the specified deadline will result in the coach's contract being deemed void.

Senior Championship, Division 1 & 2

- Head Coach – Representative
- Assistant Coach – Competition
- Development Coach - Competition

Youth Championship, Division 1 & 2

- Head Coach - Competition
- Assistant Coach - Participation
- Development Coach - Participation

Team Manager Expectations

The Team Manager is appointed to provide administrative and logistical support to the players and coaching staff. They do not have any involvement in team selection or undertake any coaching responsibilities.

The Team Manager is responsible for:

- Registering with MDBA and VBL and maintaining a valid Working with Children Check.
- Ensuring all players have the required uniform and playing kit.
- Ensuring all players and coaching staff are signed in at matches.
- Assisting with player hydration during matches.
- Assisting with First Aid requirements and managing any blood-related incidents during matches, including coordinating uniform changes where required.
- Managing team communication.
- Coordinating team transport arrangements, including arranging minibuses where required and at the team's discretion.
- Acting as the primary communication link between the team and MDBA.

Senior Coach Responsibilities

The Senior Coach is responsible for leading and coordinating the Senior Program. This appointment encompasses the following key responsibilities:

- Oversee pre-season training.
- Regularly meet with the Director of Coaching and Youth League Coach to determine team selections, replacement players and finals preparation.
- Provide a summary report outlining the performance and outcomes of the Senior Team at the conclusion of the season.
- Comply with the Working with Children Check and the Member Protection Declaration requirements.
- Comply with the Basketball Victoria VBL By-Laws, MDBA VBL policies and procedures, the Basketball Victoria Child Safeguarding Policy, and the terms and conditions of the MDBA VBL Coach Agreement.

Youth Coach Responsibilities

The Youth League Coach will coordinate and lead the youth program. This coaching appointment will encompass the following key performance tasks:

- Work with the Director of Coaching, Basketball Development Manager and junior coaches on talent identification;
- Lead training of the youth league squad;
- Oversee pre-season training;
- Meet with the senior coach to determine team selections, pre-season competitions, replacement players and finals preparation;
- Player development;
- Provide a summary report outlining the performance and outcomes of the Youth League Team at the conclusion of the season.
- Comply with the Working with Children Check and the Member Protection Declaration requirements;
- Comply with the Basketball Victoria VBL By-Laws, MDBA VBL policies and procedures, the Basketball Victoria Child Safeguarding Policy, and the terms and conditions of the MDBA VBL Coach Agreement.

Player Commitment

Players must be available for all fixtured games of the season and play in all matches in which he/she is selected to play or as otherwise directed by the Club unless a duly qualified Medical Practitioner rules him / her unfit to play. A player that is going away for an extended period during the season must make this information available at the time of team selections. A player may not be selected if they are away for a number of weeks during the season. Players are expected to attend all scheduled training sessions and other events scheduled by the Club.

BEHAVIOUR

Players must obey all reasonable directions of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager and Association. Players must adhere to the MDBA VBL policies and guidelines and the Rules and Regulations of the Association, Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct of the Club and rules and regulations of VBL. All players are required to sign a Player Contract prior to participating in any formal training or matches. There is a zero-tolerance approach to poor player behaviour taken by MDBA Management. In the event that a player behaves in the opinion of the MDBA Chief Executive Officer outside the Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct or MDBA Values, the player can expect to be reported to a Basketball Victoria Tribunal and/or suspended or removed from the program entirely.

JUNIOR BREAKERS SUPPORT

All senior players must commit to attending no less than 2 hours of support per month to a Breakers junior team either at training sessions or matches.

COACHING A JUNIOR TEAM

- Players appointed as a full-time Head Coach or Assistant Coach (attending all matches and training sessions) in the junior program will have their VBL fee balance waived, once the $150.00 deposit has been paid.
- Only one Head Coach and one Assistant Coach per junior team are eligible.
- VBL players who receive full or partial fee waivers under this coaching arrangement are not eligible for a Breakers coach payment.

Uniforms

All members must adhere to the VBL Rules of Operation in regards to uniform.

PLAYERS

Players are required to purchase a personalised VBL uniform kit at cost price upon accepting their position in the VBL program.

The uniform kit includes:

- Playing Singlet
- Playing Shorts
- Training Singlet
- Warm Up Top
- Polo Shirt
- Hoodie
- Socks

Players must arrive at and depart from all matches in appropriate VBL attire. This may include their playing uniform or plain black track pants or Breakers track pants, together with sports shoes, the VBL polo shirt and hoodie.

COACH AND TEAM STAFF

Coach and Team Staff receive the following uniform items:

- Polo Shirt
- Hoodie
- Jacket

Coach and Team Staff will need to wear at matches:

- Black Pants
- Polo Shirt
- Hoodie and/or
- Breakers Jacket

Equipment

Each team will receive the following team equipment, which remains the property of MDBA and must be returned at the end of the season.

- Team Sports Bag
- Team Training Balls (4-6 Balls Per Team)
- Basic First Aid Kit (To Be Replenished By The Team During The Season)
- Drink Bottle Holder

Insurance

It is the player's responsibility to maintain membership of recognised hospital and medical benefits fund which provides hospital, medical and dental benefits coverage and must have ambulance subscription.

Travel

MDBA may assist with travel costs and travel organisation for matches scheduled in Mildura, Albury, Wodonga, Benalla and Shepparton. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager or Coach to contact the MDBA Delegate or MDBA CEO a minimum of 6 weeks prior to make travel arrangements.

ALL OTHER TRAVEL

All travel two hours or less from Mornington Basketball Stadium, players will need to make their own travel arrangements. If the team wishes to travel on a mini bus this is to be organised and paid for at the team's own expense.

Contact Details

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