



# **Ringwood Basketball Association**

**2026 Season Handbook**

## Welcome

Welcome to the Ringwood Hawks Representative Program, a program operated by the Ringwood Basketball Association (RBA).

The RBA is a voluntary organisation that currently provides competitions for approximately 2,300 male and female basketballers of all ages in and around the City of Maroondah and is a member of Basketball Victoria (BV), the governing body for organizing basketball in the state. Home games are played at The Rings located on Canterbury Road in Ringwood opposite Cadbury (close to the Canterbury Road exit off Eastlink). The Stadium has four air-conditioned courts, a function / meeting room and a canteen.

The Rings is the venue for the following Ringwood Basketball Association competitions:

- Junior Saturday Domestic – GEBC (Under 8 - Under 23)
- Men's & Women's Open Age (Age 15 onwards)
- Women's Daytime
- Men's & Women's Over 30's
- Open Mixed Competition (Age 15 onwards)
- Ringwood Hawks Junior Representative (Under 12 - Under 20)
- Men's & Women's Big V
- Men's & Women's NBL1

For further information regarding any of these competitions please contact a member of the Committee of Management.

## Committee of Management

The Committee of Management is a voluntary group who are responsible for the operation of all the programs of the Ringwood Basketball Association. For any enquiries, please contact one of the below.

<b>President</b>	Tim Mottin	president@ringwoodbasketball.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Mark Sutton	suttonms@cba.com.au
<b>Association Secretary</b>	Michelle Haroun	secretary@ringwoodbasketball.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Natasha Harrington	treasurer@ringwoodbasketball.com
<b>Committee Member</b>	Jeremy O'Toole	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Ken Harrington	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Kristy Sealey	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Ali Haroun	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Shaun Clarke	

## Junior Representative Contacts

<b>Director of Coaching</b>	Ken Harrington	coach@ringwoodbasketball.com
<b>Coaching Coordinator</b>	Jeremy O'Toole	coordinator@ringwoodbasketball.com
<b>VJBL Delegate</b>		VJBL@ringwoodbasketball.com
<b>Team Manager Coordinator</b>	Michelle Haroun	clubsupport@ringwoodbasketball.com
<b>Uniforms &amp; Merchandise</b>	Nastasha Harrington	uniforms@ringwoodbasketball.com
<b>Merchandise</b>	See the "Hawks Merchandise Shop" link on the webpage	

**For all general enquiries/correspondence please contact [secretary@ringwoodbasketball.com](mailto:secretary@ringwoodbasketball.com)**

## **Representative Basketball**

Ringwood Hawks is a Representative Basketball Club which provides selected players from associated domestic clubs the opportunity to take their basketball to the next level. Associated domestic basketball clubs which feed into the Ringwood Hawks are Heathmont Hornets, Spirit Magic, Ringwood Celtics and Mitcham Thunder. Representative basketball is not in competition with their associated domestic clubs but an extension thereof.

Ringwood Hawks fields both boys' and girls' teams in all levels of the Victorian Junior Basketball Leagues Championship Competition, which play on a Friday and Sunday night at venues in and around Melbourne and some regional areas, and Senior Competitions such as the NBL1 and Big V.

Representative Basketball provides an opportunity to further develop and hone strong basketball skills where players aspire to play at elite levels and demonstrate a strong personal and team discipline to develop their skills and potential.

In order to be selected for the Ringwood Hawks, players must play domestic basketball, preferably for one of the associated clubs either in a mid-week or Saturday competition.

## **Seniors**

Ringwood Hawks currently have four senior teams: NBL1 Women and Men and Big V Victorian Youth Championship Women and Men. The RBA makes a commitment every year to play as many of their juniors as possible.

NBL1 and Big V is played on Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons around Melbourne and country Victoria. Games are played on a home and away basis against other associations from March through to July with finals in August. All senior home games are played at The Rings where a canteen is available, and a licensed bar operates for some games.

The Ringwood Basketball Association have been recipients of the prestigious Big V Club of the Year Award in both 2008 and 2010 and our Big V State Championship Men's team were 1999, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018 Champions and 2009, 2010 and 2013 Runners Up and our Big V State Championship Women's team were Champions in 2015 and Runners Up in 2013, 2014 and 2016. Our Big V Victorian Youth Championship Men

## **Juniors**

The aim of junior Representative Basketball is to develop younger players for the future. Participation allows players to play to their potential and requires dedication and commitment on the part of players and parents.

It is possible that one day you could be playing senior basketball and participating in prestigious competitions such as the NBL1, Big V or even the National Basketball League (NBL) / Women's National Basketball League (WNBL). Representative basketball is played at venues in and around Melbourne on Friday nights against other Associations within Victoria and is managed by the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL).

Games are played on a home and away basis and are designed to suit players who wish to play at a higher level than domestic basketball. They usually start at 6:40pm for the younger teams continuing through to 9:40pm for the older teams. The competition covers age groups from under 12 through to under 21.

Victorian Championship (VC) is the highest level of junior competition, and these teams travel around Melbourne and country Victoria. It is from these teams that players are generally selected for State teams.

Below VC, the VJBL competition is divided into multiple divisions, generally known as Victorian Junior League 1 - 9 and enables higher skilled players the opportunity to play against others of a similar standard. These games are played primarily within the metropolitan area.

## **GETTING STARTED**

### **Permission to Train and Clearances**

If a player wishes to attend tryouts at the Ringwood Hawks from another Association, they must first obtain Permission to Train from their current Association and the process is documented on the VJBL website [www.vjbl.com.au](http://www.vjbl.com.au). Players must have a Permission to Train from their current Association before taking part in any training sessions at Ringwood.

If players wish to move permanently from one Association to another, they must submit a Clearance request via PlayHQ. The player or the new Association must obtain the approved clearance before the player is eligible to compete for their new Association. A fee is payable to the VJBL for the processing of the clearance.

### **Junior Representative Tryouts**

Tryouts are generally held in October. Tryouts are designed to give players the opportunity to show potential coaches their strengths. The age qualification cut-off is December 31 of the year in which the representative season occurs, i.e. the year after try-outs are held. All current Hawks players are required to attend the tryout phase for selection as well unless otherwise advised by the Director of Coaching or the Coaching Coordinator.

#### **Important things to remember:**

- Representative players registered with other basketball associations must have a valid "permission to train" form signed by an official from their current association
- All players (new & returning) are required to attend all sessions. Note that in some years the first scheduled session will be for "new players only".
- If a player is unable to attend for any reason including injury or illness, notification must be provided to the club prior to the session
- Attendance at tryouts does not guarantee a position in a training squad (this is a selection process)
- Selection into a training squad does not guarantee a position in a final team
- Any player with outstanding fees will not be allowed to register nor will a clearance be authorised until the outstanding fees are paid.

### **Team Selection**

Teams are generally selected by the coaching panel of the relevant age group. Selections are made with the following criteria in mind:

- development of squads,
- bottom age / top age,
- attendance at tryouts,
- team balance,
- skill level and
- physical development.

To ensure optimum team balance and as the need arises, players may need to be moved between teams in an age group during the Spring Phase (Oct/Nov), a non-competitive series of games to aid coaches in team selection.

Teams are selected prior to the commencement of the Grading Phase (Nov/Feb), which determines which grade each team will play in for the representative season. It should be noted that being selected does not guarantee court time.

Accordingly, being in the 'first team' one season does not guarantee that you will be in the 'first team' the following season. The dedication required at representative level should not be underestimated.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Competition Calendar**

Unlike domestic basketball, which is played in two seasons, representative basketball is played throughout most of the year in three phases:

- October/November - 'Spring' phase,
- 'Grading' phase, November - March with a break during Christmas and New Year, and
- 'Championship' phase, March to August with finals being played in September.

A copy of this year's calendar is available on [www.vjbl.com.au](http://www.vjbl.com.au).

### **Registration**

All players must register for tryouts online prior to the tryout process using links advertised on the Ringwood Hawks website [www.ringwoodhawks.com.au](http://www.ringwoodhawks.com.au). Once a player has been offered a position in a squad, they must complete their registration online and acceptance of the offered position will be confirmed by signing of the Player Agreement by both player and parent, together with the payment of fees. This process registers the players to the Ringwood Basketball Association with the VJBL. The registration stays valid for the current season with Ringwood Hawks and with the VJBL for as long as the player plays junior representative basketball or until they obtain an approved Clearance to another Association.

### **Membership/Registration Fees**

#### **Player Fees**

The Junior Representative Program is self-funding and must cover costs relating to competition entry fees, training, venues & equipment, insurance and administration costs.

Individual player Membership (see below for membership extra benefits) and Registration fees for 2025/26 season are \$680 (inc GST) per player

Ringwood Hawks use PlayHQ for online registration and fee payments system (credit card only). Fee payment options are as follows:

- **A \$100 non refundable deposit payment must be made within 24 hours of receiving your offer** (this confirms the position in the squad). Note that you will receive an invoice for the balance, less the \$20 try out registration fee, which will be due by the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

#### **Representative fees are non-refundable.**

Failure to pay by the due dates will mean the player will be ineligible to continue in any capacity until such time as fees are paid. Ringwood Hawks have a strict 'no pay' 'no play' policy. Any player who has fees outstanding from a previous season will not be allowed to attend tryouts or play until all outstanding fees have been paid, nor will a Permission to Train Form or Clearance be provided.

If due to financial difficulties you need to make special payment arrangements, please contact the Treasurer ([treasurer@ringwoodbasketball.com](mailto:treasurer@ringwoodbasketball.com)) who will handle the matter in confidence.

#### **Extra Benefits**

Ringwood Hawks members enjoy many extra benefits including a free family pass to any Ringwood Hawks Senior (NBL1 and Big V) Home Game. There may also other benefits that are seasonal with Hawks sponsors and our relationship with NBL and WNBL teams.

The Ringwood Basketball Association is a strong believer in developing a strong path from junior Hawks to senior Hawks and on to the National League and National team.

#### **Venues**

Venues will vary depending on the competition, e.g. VC, VJL 1 through 9 and the teams you will be playing against.

A complete list of venues can be obtained from [www.vjbl.com.au](http://www.vjbl.com.au)

## Fixtures & Ladders

Fixtures and ladders can be obtained from the VJBL website <http://www.vjbl.com.au>.

Fixtures for Spring and Grading are released on a week-by-week basis due to the dynamic nature of those Phases, but as the season progresses into the Championship Phase, fixtures are posted in blocks. Ladders are updated on a weekly basis.

## Uniforms

The core pieces of uniform compulsory for all junior players consist of:

- Playing Singlets x 2 (one Green and one White)
- Playing Shorts x 2 (one Green and one White)
- Reversible Training Singlet (Green/White)
- Warm up Top (personalised with name) -- short or long sleeve
- Back pack
- Hoodie

## Game Day Playing Attire

Both playing singlets must be brought to all games

The green playing singlet must be worn for home games unless there is a colour clash or blood rule in accordance with the VJBL rules. The white alternate playing singlet is to be worn when required if there is a colour clash or blood rule in accordance with the VJBL rules. It may also be worn as an away strip at the coach's discretion.

**No other casual playing attire is to be worn before or after VJBL games.**

## Training

**No street wear or non-Hawks attire is to be worn.**

Thank you for your assistance in maintaining the professional appearance of the Ringwood Hawks Basketball Club. If you have any queries relating to any of the above, you should contact our Uniform Co-ordinator.

## Basketballs

The following size basketballs are used at training and in games.

Boys	Girls
Under 12 – size 5	Under 12 – size 5
Under 14 – size 6	Under 14 – size 6
Under 16 – size 7	Under 16 – size 6
Under 18 – size 7	Under 18 – size 6
Under 20 – size 7	Under 20 – size 6

Basketballs can be purchased through the RBA – contact our Uniform Co-Ordinator for details.

## First Aid

All staff at The Rings are First Aid trained and all VJBL venues are expected to have basic first aid facilities, including ice.

At no time are Team Managers to issue pain killers as parents must be responsible for carrying and administering these themselves. The RBA does not recommend Team Managers carry an extensive first aid kit unless they are trained and comfortable to use it, however having a small supply of band aids and/or tape may be prudent.

## **Mouth guards**

The RBA recommends that all players wear mouth guards during games and training. If you are in need of a mouth guard please contact your dentist.

## **COMMITMENT**

In order to have a successful and enjoyable season for all concerned, a large degree of commitment is required by Committee members, volunteers, coaches, parents and players alike.

We are committed to ensuring that the Association provides the best possible environment for all concerned and there are a number of areas where we can all assist.

## **WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME**

Championship (VJBL) Basketball is played on a Friday night with home games being played at The Rings, Great Ryrie Primary School or Kalinda Primary School. Away games are played mainly in metropolitan Melbourne but on a rare occasion may be in a regional centre like Ballarat. Don't be scared off by the travel as most games are played within 30km of our home courts and carpooling is common.

You will be required to train with your team twice a week or as organized. You will also have the opportunity to undertake individual training to improve your basic fundamental skills like shooting.

The Club expects teams to enter a minimum of two tournaments during the season. The club expects all teams to participate in the Eltham/Dandenong tournament in January and the second and subsequent tournaments are at the discretion of the coach (e.g. the Southern Peninsula Tournament in November, Queens Birthday Tournament in June).

It is imperative that there is a balance of schoolwork and other commitments (home duties and part time work) but still ensure that you attend both training session each week. If you have any issues, you will be expected to let the Coach know as soon as you can.

If your family is new to representative basketball, you might notice that coach/player expectations are higher than you could be used to at domestic level. For some, this is the first step towards a career in basketball playing NBL or WNBL. Being a Ringwood player also provides the opportunity to play at a state level. Training will be noticeably more focused, with a greater emphasis on quality and improvement. ***An important note is that this "step up" also means you'll find coaches less concerned with equal court time for all players.*** This may be an important consideration for your family before deciding on a commitment at representative level.

## **Training**

Attendance at training is compulsory even when injured or sick, unless under a doctor's orders. Common sense should be applied to players suffering from a potentially infectious illness.

Attendance and work ethic at training directly affect a player's court time. If you are unable to train for any reason it is expected that you would notify your Coach or Team Manager. For safety reasons during training and during games, jewellery should not be worn, and long hair should be tied back. Hawks shorts and reversible training singlets are compulsory uniform to be worn at training sessions and players are expected to bring a basketball and a drink bottle to every session.

Training is held on Sundays (1 ½ hours) and Midweek (1 hour). Session times will be advised. While specific training times are established following team selection, some changes may occur due to court availability on some Sundays, however you will be notified well in advance.

## **Senior team (NBL1 and Big V) Duty**

Your team will be rostered onto duty at different times throughout the year to assist with our Senior Home games. Our highly successful NBL1 and Big V teams are great to watch and your support is what keeps them and our Club successful.

These duties include but are not limited to, set up, filming the game, collecting entry fees, sweeping the court, food preparation for players and members after each game, clean up and pack up etc. Each team **must ensure** that a

**minimum of 6 adults and 6 players** attend these sessions as rostered, however the expectation is that all players and parents attend

### **Team Managers**

The Team Manager is a key role in assisting the coach, team and parents with the smooth running of the season and is usually a parent volunteer.

During the season the Team Manager manages the scoring rosters, issues information from the club throughout the season, collects scoresheet fees, pays the team sheet at the venue and completes scoresheets details prior to the game, making sure that players are correctly ticked off for each game they play. The Team Manager ensures that they are aware of potential clashes of singlet colours and ensures that players have their white singlets in the event of a clash. It is currently the responsibility of the 'first named team' to change their singlets in the event of this situation. Actual game day responsibilities for Team Managers will vary from venue to venue (e.g. digitally scored venues may not require a paper team sheet to be completed) so be sure to arrive early and ask.

### **The Team Manager is also responsible for ensuring that the team performs their scheduled team duty for the Senior team games**

All Team Managers are required to have a current Working with Children Card and provide a Statutory Declaration every two years in line with the VJBL Screening Policy.

### **Scorers**

Each team is required to provide a competent scorer each week. It is expected that all families provide a scorer on a rostered basis, either a parent or a sibling over the age 14. If you haven't scored a game before then it is encouraged that you attend one of the short scoring courses that the Association runs for beginners. There is also a short video on the VJBL website showing how to score.

The Team Manager will provide a roster early in the season to assist with planning. If you are unable to score on your allocated night, please arrange for someone else to do it. Do not leave it to the Team Manager on the night to organise as they have more than enough to do. **Remember we all need to contribute.**

### **Coaches**

Many of Ringwood's coaches are NCAS accredited and are regularly screened in accordance with BV's Member Protection Policy. Our objective is to provide the best coaches possible for our players and while it is always preferable to appoint independent coaches rather than parents, this depends on availability.

The Committee of Management appreciates the time and effort contributed by our Coaches and requests your support of them, again, remember they are also volunteers.

### **Referees**

The Referees are a necessary part of the game and while we may not like their decisions at times, verbal or other abuse of Referees is unacceptable behaviour, particularly by parents, as it is a bad example for the players.

### **Codes of Conduct**

The RBA expects all involved in our programs to make themselves aware of the Codes of Conduct on the BV website <http://www.basketballvictoria.com.au> and to conduct themselves in a manner which does not bring discredit to themselves or the RBA. Hard copies of all Codes of Conduct are also on display in the foyer of The Rings.

### **Fund Raising**

The RBA generally arranges several fund-raising activities each year such as Trivia Night, Bunnings BBQ etc. It is hoped that all families will assist with these activities to their best ability as it is necessary to the successful operation of the RBA. Note that no fundraising activities can be organised without prior approval from the committee of management.

## Grievance Process

Whilst it is envisaged that we all contribute as a team to make the club and the season a success, from time to time issues arise. In the event that you have an issue or concern during the season, the following escalation process applies:

Nature of issue or concern	Player	Administrative
First point of contact:	Your child's Coach	Your Team Manager
If not resolved satisfactorily contact:	Coaching coordinator	Team Manager Coordinator
If still not resolved satisfactorily contact:	Director of Coaching	Secretary

Notes:

1. Contact details for the roles listed are included in this book
2. For matters relating to player fees contact the Treasurer
3. Issues relating to the VJBL should be directed via the VJBL Delegate. Under NO circumstances should anybody other than the VJBL Delegate make contact with the VJBL.

## PLAYING

### Games

Attendance at games is compulsory even if you are sick, injured or suspended. Players are expected to be at games at least 20 minutes prior to the fixtured starting time. This time is used to stretch and receive instructions from the coach. If a player is unable to attend a game for any reason, they must notify their Coach or Team Manager well in advance.

Players must be in full uniform (Singlet, shorts and warm. up top) with no visible street apparel. **Alternates (white singlets) must be taken to every game.** Alternates are required not just where there might be a clash of colour but in case of injury where the blood rule is invoked and all players must change their singlets – no alternate, no game.

Court time is at the discretion of coaches and is decided by a number of factors including:

- attendance at training,
- work ethic,
- skill level and match ups.

It is possible that some players will get little or no court time in some games, however, this would be an exception to the norm. If you have a query regarding your child's court time **do not** speak to the Coach during or immediately after the game. Arrange a mutually convenient time to speak with the Coach, perhaps via the Team Manager, in a more relaxed setting.

The overall objective for each team is to be successful, whilst developing individual players. For players to continue to improve they must spend time working on their skills at home. Players develop (physically and skill wise) at varying rates as they progress through the age groups, better players at 12's and 14's are not necessarily the better players at 18's and 21's.

If a player is ill or injured and unable to play during the season, a medical certificate should be obtained and sent to [secretary@ringwoodbaksetball.com](mailto:secretary@ringwoodbaksetball.com) so that it can be lodged with the VJBL and the missed games can be considered for grading games and finals qualification.

### Finals Qualification

To be eligible to represent a team in finals, a player must play a minimum of 40% of games with that team. In the case that 40% would not be a round number then the total will be rounded up. (i.e. 7.2 games would become 8 games) Grading games are not included in the total.

For the sole purpose of game qualification, a player shall be considered to have played in that particular game when the player is in uniform and takes the court, players may be made active at any stage of the game.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **Junior Development**

Junior training sessions will be conducted, and camps are generally held during the school holiday periods.

The sessions cover individual basketball skills including ball handling and shooting. Attention is given to correct shooting technique and footwork for both offence and defence. Specialist coaches and players from Ringwood's NBL1 and Big V teams are often utilized to teach areas of expertise. The success of the program can be measured by the number of players who have received Most Valuable and Most Improved player awards since its inception.

### **Tournaments**

Tournaments are held throughout the year, some examples of these are, but not limited to:

- Australia Day long weekend in January - Bendigo or Eltham/Dandenong Tournament
- Queens' Birthday long weekend in June – Nunawading Tournament
- Last weekend in November – Southern Peninsula Tournament.

Tournaments are a great experience for players, coaches and parents alike. It is usual to play two or three games a day so most teams would spend a lot of time together where everyone can bond.

Teams are required to participate in two tournaments during the year.

- The club considers the Australia Day Tournament (Eltham/Dandenong) to be compulsory and will register and pay the team registration fee for all teams. Teams are responsible for the balance of the entry fee.
- Each Coach will decide on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament for their team. Entry fee for tournaments is normally between \$350 to \$395 per team, the cost of which is shared between players. It is up to each Team Manager or Coach to enter teams into the 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament. Some tournament venues also charge entry fees for both players and spectators.

### **Social Networking Sites**

Ringwood Hawks takes the issue of cyber bullying very seriously and in the past has not hesitated to suspend or de-register players for misconduct in this regard. Parents should be aware of this and discuss it with their child so that there is a clear understanding of expectations.

A letter to all Basketball Participants:

*Basketball Victoria is concerned at the increasing number of complaints being made about the use of Facebook, Twitter, U-Tube and other social networking sites by people involved in basketball, for unacceptable content. This also applies to testing on mobile phones.*

*We have seen examples where the sites have been used to bully other basketballers, to criticise referees and to make racist or sexist remarks about other participants. This sort of behaviour is totally unacceptable in basketball and will not be tolerated.*

*Many of the remarks are being made with the posters believing that because those remarks can only be seen by people they have accepted as friends on their pages, they will not be made public. However, fortunately, there are enough decent people around who bring this behaviour to the attention of Basketball Clubs or Associations or Basketball Victoria. This occurs even when the posts are made by friends because those people recognise the harm and distress this sort of behaviour can generate.*

*Under Basketball Victoria's Tribunal By-laws and Member Protection By-laws, behaviour which is unacceptable can be brought to the Tribunal, even if it didn't occur on the*

*basketball court. As long as the incident is basketball related, the Tribunal can deal with it. A number of Facebook issues have already been dealt with by the Tribunal and other hearings are pending.*

*Basketball Victoria will have no hesitation in reporting to the Tribunal, people who misuse such sites if it relates to basketball. Please be mindful of other basketball participants and don't place yourself at risk of finding yourself reported to the Tribunal, as has happened to several people already.*

**Gerry Glennen**

*Governance and Operations Manager*

*Solicitor*

*Basketball Victoria*

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Sportsmanship  
is an  
Expectation**

Let the players play  
Let the coaches coach  
Let the officials officiate  
Let the spectators be positive.

Personal Information

Name .....

Team .....

Coach..... Phone .....

Team Manager ..... Phone .....

**Where will the future take your game?**



Check out all the latest Ringwood Hawks news at:

[www.ringwoodhawks.com.au](http://www.ringwoodhawks.com.au)

**YOUR CHILDS SUCCESS  
OR LACK OF SUCCESS  
IN SPORT  
IS NO REFLECTION OF  
YOU AS A PARENT.**

**BUT**

**A CHILD WHO IS  
RESPECTFUL, RESILIENT  
AND TRIES THEIR BEST  
IS A REFLECTION OF  
YOU AS A PARENT**

