

BLUES

FRANKSTON BLUES JUNIORS PROGRAM PARENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK



Introduction

This document is designed to be a resource for parents for all relevant information relating to the Frankston Junior Blues program. The Handbook will provide insights into club operations for new and existing families and as well as answer the most commonly asked questions regarding the Frankston Blues program. Please save this document and refer to it as needed over the course of the upcoming season.

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Welcome

Congratulations on your selection into the Frankston Junior Blues program which is the elite junior basketball program within the Frankston and District Basketball Association (Frankston Basketball). All Junior Blues athletes are selected from within Frankston Basketball's junior domestic competition, which consists of 28 junior domestic clubs and has over 9,000 players and coaches actively involved each year.

This document is designed to provide athletes and parents with an overview of how the Junior Blues program operates and the processes and policies in place to make your season with the Blues an enriching experience both on and off the court.

Being a Junior Blues player requires a high level of commitment by way of time and hard work, but it will also provide you with a chance to further develop your basketball skills and play at a higher level along the Basketball Australia High Performance pathway. You will also make new friends and learn some valuable life lessons while having a lot of fun along the way.

As a selected junior representative player, you will have access to highly accredited and experienced coaches who assist athletes to improve and develop their technical skills, match skills, sportsmanship, teamwork and driving a greater level of self-discipline with an ethos of continual improvement underpinning the club's approach to its operations on and off the court.

Frankston Blues teams compete in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) competition against other Victorian based basketball association's representative teams predominately across metropolitan Melbourne. The competition is run by Basketball Victoria (BV) and it represents the highest standard of junior basketball in the state.

Teams go through an intensive grading process commencing in mid-November each year to qualify in one of the following Leagues:

- Victorian Championship (VC)
- Victorian Junior League 1-4+ (VJL)

All representative teams play on Friday evenings. Be advised that junior representative basketball involves a considerable amount of travel to various basketball venues across the Melbourne metropolitan area and, in some cases, to regional venues. This high level of commitment from parents and players is rewarded with athletes competing against some of the best players across the state on a weekly basis. There is an expectation that players will attend all games.

With an ethos of continual improvement, there are opportunities for Blues athletes to further develop their skills through attendance in Frankston Basketball's high intensity programs for individuals and small groups as part of the Frankston Regional Academy program.

Contacts

The Frankston Blues program is primarily managed by the FDBA Basketball Development Manager, supported by the Blues Chairperson from the FDBA Board, the Junior Blues Coaching Coordinators, and the Frankston Blues Working Group to ensure that members have access and assistance throughout the week in a timely and professional manner.

FDBA Competitions Coordinators

Bailey Roberts

Email: bailey.roberts@fdba.com.au

9776 8999

Role/Function: Junior Blues day-to-day administration

Merchandise Officer

Tanya Thomas

Email: merch@fdba.com.au

Role: Merchandise

Manager – Frankston Blues

Daniel Spangler

Email: daniel.spangler@fdba.com.au

Role/Function: Program Strategy, Grievances, Systems & Processes, VJBL delegate

Frankston Blues Chairperson (FDBA Board)

Brenda Cotta

Role/Function: To provide support and direction on behalf of the FDBA Board

Junior Blues Working Group

Chairperson:	Brenda Cotta
Member:	Cindy Shacklock
Member:	Jade Chaberka
Member:	Narell Enno
Member:	Jodie Prendergast
Member:	Tam Philippe

Frankston Blues:	www.fdba.com.au/frankston-blues
Frankston and District Basketball Association:	www.fdba.com.au
Victorian Junior Basketball League:	www.vjbl.com.au
Basketball Victoria:	www.basketballvictoria.com.au

Frankston Blues Philosophy

The Frankston Blues basketball philosophy is quite simple. We want to provide the best opportunities for our players to reach the highest level of basketball they can achieve. We will leave no stone unturned in providing resources for both our players and coaches to reach their goals.

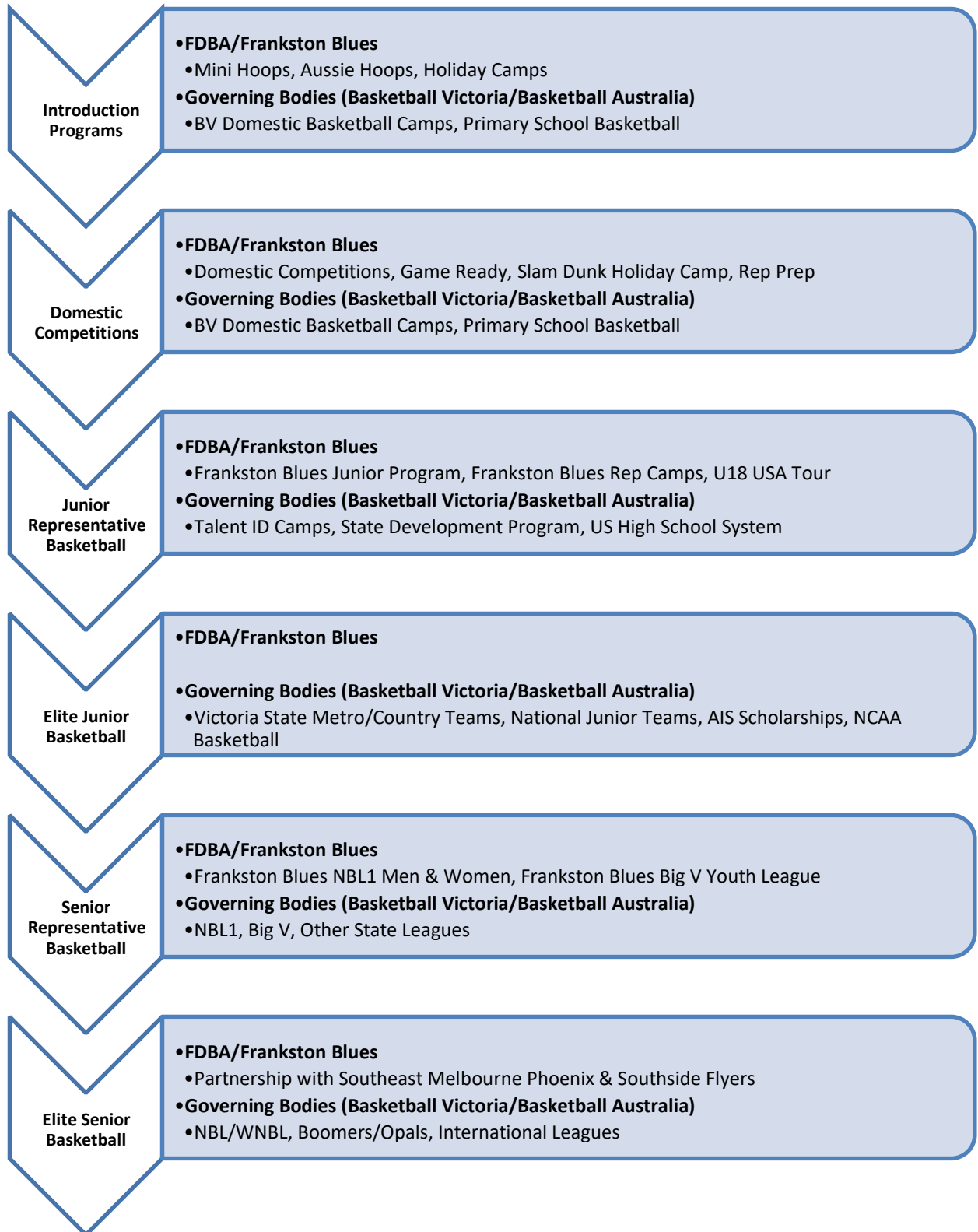
We have a proud history that we are working to build on. Two of our former junior players in David Andersen and Ryan Broekhoff have represented Australia in basketball at the Olympics, played in the NBA and have had successful careers in Europe.

The Blues journey usually begins in our U12's age group where getting a focus on developing the fundamentals is a priority for our coaches. Most training sessions over these two/three years are skill based as we provide the players with the tools required to advance into the older age groups. At the U14's level we start challenging the kids a little more and our more developed players will start to be identified by Basketball Victoria (BV) in talent identification camps. At the U16's and U18's level players are given the opportunity to try out for the Victorian State teams and compete in National tournaments. Many of our players were identified by Basketball Victoria this year and were selected to be a part of the State Development Program and the National Performance Pathway. Bonnie Deas from our U16 Girls program was selected to the Vic Metro U16 Girls side, unfortunately Victorian teams could not compete in 2021 due to COVID-19.

We are fortunate to have two senior men's and women's teams who play in the NBL1 and Big V competitions. The NBL1 is the 2nd highest league in the country behind the NBL and WNBL and the Big V is our senior development teams that compete in the Youth League competition for U23's. In 2019 we had members of both our U18's and U20's teams play for our men's and women's teams. We believe it is important to develop from within, providing a pathway for our juniors to transition into elite senior competitions, to support this we have training programs set in place as our junior players come through the ranks such as One-on-One workouts and Representative Holiday camps.

We will have over 40 teams representing the Blues in season and are fortunate enough to have many high-level coaches in our ranks. This year's coaching panel boasts Victorian Junior Championship title winners, National Classic winners, Australian Club Championships winners, ex WNBL players, ex-NBL players, SEABL/NBL1 and Big V coaches, current NBL1 and Big V players and previous Victorian State coaches. Having coaches of this caliber enables us to produce elite players who can play at Representative, State, National and International levels.

Frankston Blues Pathway



Player & Parent Commitment

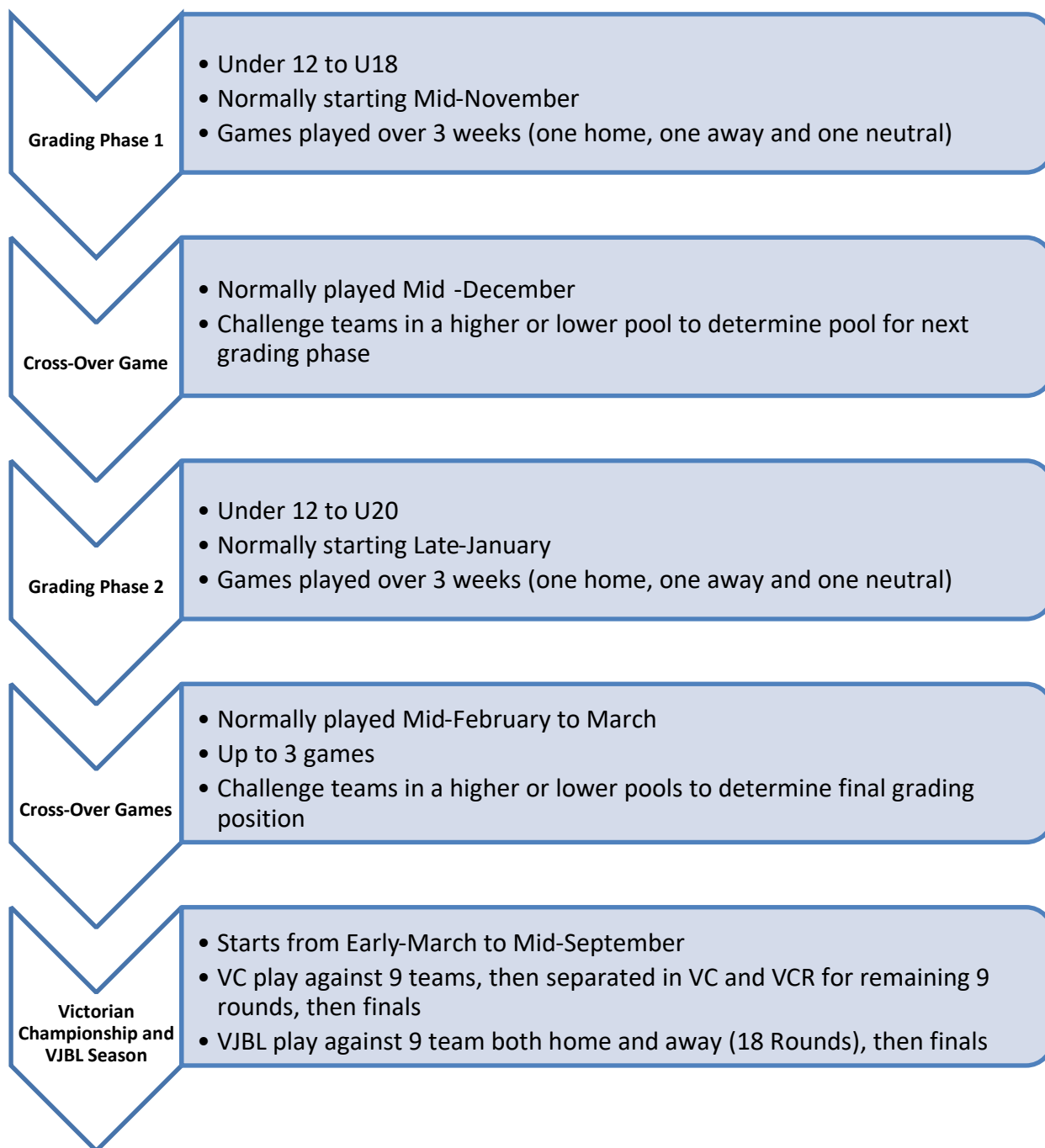
All players are required to play in Frankston Basketball's domestic competitions. The association's competitions team can assist players looking for clubs/teams to join. In most cases players must play in the junior domestic competition with a club, however there are policies in place that permit older players to compete in senior domestic competitions. Exemptions are generally only accepted for players involved in elite/high performance programs such as Basketball Victoria state teams; these exemptions are granted on a case-by-case basis in writing to via email blues@fdb.com.au

It is BV's policy that only club delegates can contact BV directly regarding club and league related matters. As you can appreciate, if BV were required to answer all individual enquiries from athlete's parents, they would be often fielding thousands of calls a week. Only Frankston Basketball staff and the nominated Frankston Blues club delegates are authorized to contact BV directly regarding club and league matters.

The VJBL season is scheduled from mid-November through to early September each year. The competition breaks over school holiday periods and generally teams will not train during these periods. There are numerous tournaments and clinics for player development throughout the year along with specific programs tailored for athletes which the club oversees in conjunction with BV and Basketball Australia. The club has specific policies in place to determine which tournaments and programs athletes are permitted to participate in; this information is distributed to players, parents, and team managers throughout the year.

The Frankston Blues program generally operates along a 'pyramid' system which has increased team numbers in the lower age groups (Under 12's) and team numbers slowly reducing in the older age groups as the focus becomes more concentrated on high performance and elite development pathways.

Grading is conducted in the following format:



Conduct

Frankston Blues promote desirable personal and social behaviour; respect for opponents, coaches, game officials and teammates is always expected. Any inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and will be met with sanctions as deemed fit by the coach, coordinators, or the Basketball Development Manager.

BV has developed the Codes of Conduct that stipulate the accepted standards of behaviour for players, parents, spectators, coaches, officials, and administrators. Breaches of these Codes can result in BV sanctioned tribunal hearings and suspensions. The codes are listed in this handbook, and it is important that you review them for your information.

The BV Codes of Conduct are available to download from www.basketballvictoria.com.au

Players Journey

Stage One:

Player Transfer or Clearance may be required before the season commences. VJBL policy requires all existing players (previously registered in VJBL competition) to obtain relevant documentation if they intend to try out for and/or transfer to another club. The Permission to Train and Clearance forms are available at: www.vjbl.com.au.

Stage Two: Tryouts

Tryouts are conducted in October of each year following Term 3 School Holidays.

Tryouts are overseen by the Basketball Development Manager, Junior Coaching Coordinators, and the Junior Blues Working Group. Dates, times, and venues are located on the Blues website.

Stage Three: Squad Membership

During the tryout period players and parents should not regard a position in a team as permanent. Players are placed into squads at the conclusion of the tryout process. It is not uncommon for coaches and coordinators to continue moving players. In some circumstances, player changes between teams may also occur after the first phase of grading.

Changes can occur for many reasons including, but not limited to:

- Best interests of individual players for their development
- Team requirements in terms of playing positions/opportunities
- Level of commitment to training and games
- Compliance with program rules/policies

Stage Four: Uniforms and Merchandise

All players are required to have the full Frankston Blues playing and training gear. All Blues families need to be aware that in 2022/2023 all teams will be expected to have our new uniform. New players can purchase training jerseys and shorts, backpacks, T-shirts, hoodies, socks, and pro zip jackets from our merchandise store.

Each player is assigned a singlet number based on availability within each age group. Due to the size of the program and to avoid future clashes we are unable to take requests or preferences.

The FDDB Merchandise shop is open during competition hours (Monday – Sunday); if you have any enquiries about our merchandise please contact: merch@fdb.com.au.

Stage Five: Training

Players will be notified of training times; attendance is recorded and is mandatory – failure to attend may jeopardize your child’s place within the program. Players who miss training for no valid reason may not be considered for selection in the next subsequent game or as advised by the coach.

Most Blues teams train on Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings at the Frankston Stadium or Langwarrin Stadium.

Training schedules are posted on the Frankston Blues website (www.fdb.com.au) and via regular correspondence from the FDDB office to team managers and coaches.

Parents should not drop and leave players at stadiums for training or games. The Blues program, and its volunteer coaches and team managers are not to be expected to take responsibility for your child. If you are unable attend a training session or game, it is your responsibility to ensure an appointed adult has been allocated caretaker responsibility in your absence.

Stage Six: Fees

This year to confirm your child’s acceptance of their position within a Frankston Blues squad you will be required to pay a non-refundable \$100 confirmation of acceptance prior to 5pm on Tuesday the 11th of October 2022

If this payment is not received your child’s spot could be offered to another player.

This payment is because in recent years players have withdrawn from the program after being selected in a team, this causes a great deal of disruption and that is why we have named EMERGENCIES for certain age groups.

*Pending final team selections, players listed as EMERGENCIES will be entitled to a refund if they are not elevated to a team

2022/2023 Fee Structure

Acceptance of position = \$100, Due by 5:00 pm Tuesday the 11th of October 2022
(Registration Form Links will be available after Squad Announcements)

*Collection method for the remaining fees will be via invoice to be sent out by early November 2022.

Coaches

The Frankston Blues, like many community-based programs, are (for the most part) run and managed by dedicated volunteers – this includes coaches within the junior ranks. We have a proud history of developing coaches from our domestic clubs/competitions, with support and development provided via FDBA's Basketball Development Manager, Junior Coaching Coordinators, and accredited training facilitated by Basketball Victoria.

Many of our coaches start off as assistant coaches under the tutelage of our most experienced coaches; many of which have coached in the State Development Programs, at State Level and at higher senior levels. We also provide opportunities for coaches to develop their knowledge and skills by working with senior coaches within our NBL1 and Big V programs.

The program is always keen to hear from anyone with playing or coaching experience that may be interested in contributing to the continuing development of our junior players. All coaches must have a current working with children's card

Team Managers

Your team manager is the person responsible for the administration and communication on behalf of your team. They will collect team money which covers court fees for Friday night games as well as other administrative items for the team. All Friday night games will be paid via the Teampay app for the 2022/2023 season and all future seasons.

Duties include, but are not limited to:

- The point of contact for training times, change of game times and social events
- Keeping the team's finances and game day procedures in order
- Filling out the team sheet as well
- They are also the point of contact for the coach
- On Friday nights the team manager ensures that the players have filled their water bottles to ensure they are hydrated throughout the game

They are not coaches, nor should they assume that role. You can be a great support for your team manager by ensuring that you pay your team fees in a timely manner and keep communication regarding your child's attendance, or any pending issues open and transparent. All team managers must have a current working with children's card.

Travel and Fixtures

The venues for the Friday night games are usually in the Metropolitan area. Some teams do play at country venues. In some instances, it may be a good idea to carpool with other members of the team to assist in travel to and from games. Parents should not just drop off their child and expect another parent to drive them.

Game times vary from age group to age group, with early times for U12 / U14 and later times for U16+.

At most venues times are:

- 7:00, 8:20 or 9:40pm for VC competitions
- 6:40, 7:40, 8:40 or 9:40pm for VJL or EQ competitions

Times are available on the VJBL website (www.vjbl.com.au) and your team manager will notify you during the week of game changes and venue changes. Please note: the VJBL is an extremely large competition, and the FDDBA / Blues have no control over the release time for upcoming games. VJBL does not accept fixture requests.

Players are expected to arrive at the game at least 20 minutes before the game is scheduled to start. Your coach may specify something different for team preparation purposes and player / parents are expected to comply.

It is club policy that players do not travel to venues with their coach unless they are family members.

Scoring Rosters

All families are required to score at games on a rotational basis – a roster will be prepared by the Team Manager. The Frankston Blues in conjunction with FDDBA will run a scorers course each season to help new parents. There is a video available to help you (https://youtu.be/OdTboL_uYqk).

Depending on the venue set up and VJBL directive, some games will use Electronic Scoring (used at FDDBA for domestic competitions) or paper-based scoresheets. Some competitions (such as U21 and VC) require a scorer and a timekeeper for the shot clock; two families should be rostered. Frankston Stadium can organize timekeepers for teams playing at Frankston venues for a small fee – for more information regarding this please contact the FDDBA office.

Tournaments

There are many other tournaments throughout the season, both in Victoria and interstate, that teams may elect to play in under the directive of the Blues management. Some of the most common tournaments for representative teams are:

- Southern Peninsula (November 13th and 14th)
- Eltham / Dandenong – Australia Day (January)
- Norwood Easter Classic (Adelaide)
- Ballarat – Queen’s Birthday (June)
- Nunawading – Queen’s Birthday (June)

- Australian National Championships (invitation only)

Tournaments are optional endeavors (The Classic), and teams are required to cover their own costs which may include team and/or player registration, venue entry, travel, accommodation, and meals.

Complaints

There may be times when you need to discuss problems with a coach. Please do so in a respectful manner BUT never during or after a game, and not when there are other team members or parents present. Speak to your team manager and if you feel there is no resolution your team manager will refer you to the respective Coordinator (Boys/Girls). Most grievances can be resolved if discussed sensibly and respectfully. Please keep in mind that sometimes you will need to agree to disagree on certain issues.

Should you feel, an issue cannot be resolved with your coach or team manager and is having a negative impact on your child's participation in the Blues program you should follow the procedures within Grievance Policy.

Discipline Policy

The following incidents are examples of offences that may result in a verbal or written warning on the first occurrence or depending on the seriousness of the incident, instant dismissal from the Blues program.

- Inappropriate, mischievous behaviour
- Unauthorized operation of stadium equipment
- Failure to wear correct uniform
- Failure to abide by BV codes of conduct
- Refusal to properly wear correct uniform
- A substantiated complaint of harassing or discrimination against another athlete
- Falsification of documents or records
- Breaching confidentiality during investigation of a grievance
- Theft or pilfering
- Willful damage to Blues, FDBA or any other auxiliary property
- Fighting or assaulting personnel
- Defiant refusal to follow direction of coach, team manager on a substantial issue or assigned task
- Abusive behaviour toward coaches, team managers or fellow athletes either verbally or via social media
- Victimization of another athlete or any other behaviour which attempts to subvert the outcome of a grievance or disciplinary investigation

Note – the above incidents are examples only and do not exclude other offences which may attract similar discipline.

Grievance Policy

Purpose

This policy provides the Junior Blues community with a guide as to how we deal with related problems, concerns, or complaints in the Junior Blues Program. The objective of this policy is to also ensure consistent and equitable treatment of all Parties. Contacting BV directly is strictly prohibited unless all other options within this grievance policy have been exhausted.

Definitions

Grievance: A grievance is any type of problem, concern or complaint related to the Junior Blues Program. A grievance may be about any act, omission, situation, or decision that you think is unfair, discriminatory, or unjustified.

Victimization: Victimization occurs when someone is treated in an adverse manner or is threatened to be treated in an adverse manner because they have made a complaint, threatened to make a complaint, or is supporting someone who has made a complaint.

Member Protection

Junior Blues Grievance Policy guarantees to be:

- **CONFIDENTIAL** - Only the people directly involved in making or investigating a complaint will have access to information about the complaint.
- **IMPARTIAL** - Both sides will have a chance to tell their side of the story. No assumptions will be made, and no action taken until all relevant information has been collected and considered.
- **FREE FROM PERSECUTION** - No action will be taken against anyone for making a complaint or supporting a complaint made by another person. The Committee will take all necessary steps to ensure that no victimization occurs against anyone who makes a complaint, but action may be taken in respect of any vexatious or malicious complaint.
- **TIMELY** - All complaints will be dealt with as quickly as possible. We aim to address all complaints within 1 week if possible.

Procedure

Please follow the procedural steps below if you believe you have a legitimate grievance as defined above. Be reminded that all people involved in the Junior Blues community are entitled to participate in an environment that is safe and free from harassment, discrimination, bullying, victimization, and vilification.

- **STEP 1** – If you feel comfortable, try to resolve the grievance directly with the person involved.
- **STEP 2** – If step 1 doesn't work, or you feel that you cannot resolve it directly yourself, speak to your team manager or coach (where appropriate).
- **STEP 3** – If speaking to your team manager or coach is not possible for any reason, or you have not been able to resolve your grievance, you should elevate your concern to the relevant Junior Coaching Coordinator.
- **STEP 4** – As a last resort, and only after all other options have been explored, if you believe your grievance has not been adequately addressed, please direct your concerns in writing to our VJBL delegate Bailey Roberts.

BV: Codes of Conduct

BV has developed the Codes of Conduct that stipulate the accepted standards of behaviour for players, parents, spectators, coaches, officials, and administrators. Breaches of these Codes can result in BV sanctioned tribunal hearings and suspensions.

The BV Codes of Conduct are available to download from www.basketballvictoria.com.au

Parents Codes of Conduct

1. Encourage your children to participate for their own interest and enjoyment, not yours.
2. Encourage children to always play by the rules.
3. Teach children that an honest effort is always as important as a victory.
4. Focus on developing skills and playing the game. Reduce the emphasis on winning.
5. A child learns best by example. Applaud good play by all teams.
6. Do not criticize your or others' children in front of others.
7. Accept decisions of all referees as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
8. Set a good example by your own conduct, behaviour, and appearance.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
10. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
11. Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials, and administrators.
12. Keep children in your care under control.
13. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.

Players Codes of Conduct

1. Understand and play by the rules.
2. Respect referees and other officials.

3. Control your temper.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and 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 facilities and equipment provided.

Spectators Code of Conduct

1. Remember that most people play sport for enjoyment.
2. Accept decisions of all referees as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
3. Always be positive in your support for players.
4. Condemn the use of violence in any form.
5. Respect your team’s opponents, officials, and spectators.
6. Encourage players to obey the rules and to accept decisions of officials.
7. Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches, or officials.
8. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
9. Keep children in your care under control.
10. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.

BV: Member Protection By-Laws

The BV Member Protection By-Laws are available to download from www.basketballvictoria.com.au

The by-laws speak to the health, safety, and wellbeing of all its members and participants. In the game of Basketball, we are committed to a safe environment for the enjoyment of all.

The benefits of basketball go beyond regular exercise, it encourages and promotes social interaction and lifts an individual’s self-esteem and sense of belonging to their local community.

The By-Law discusses the impact of harassment in sport and how it undermines the benefits of playing. Acts of discrimination, harassment and abuse are not only unlawful but have no place in the sport of basketball. It can have a devastating effect not only on individuals but the club itself. We wish to avoid this by adopting the BV by-law and protecting our membership base. This takes commitment by all participants of the game so we can ensure the safety of our sport well into the future.

Terms & Conditions of Registration

As a registered member of the Frankston Blues program each parent / guardian must consent to the following terms and conditions of registration.

By registering to this program, I consent to FDBA taking photography or video footage of my child in the program for promotional and marketing purposes. I permit the staff of FDBA to act on my behalf should my child require medical attention, and hereby release FDBA from any liability should my child be injured during the program. In the event first-aid treatment is required, the FDBA in compliance with Basketball Victoria will provide basic first aid only, anything requiring specialized treatment an ambulance will be called. For details on this policy, please visit www.basketballvictoria.com.au.

Basketball Victoria, together with the FDBA and Frankston Junior Blues, sets out a standard of behaviour that is a mandatory requirement for all participants in Frankston Blues Representative program. This Code of Conduct is not limited to players, but includes coaches, administrators, officials, parents, and spectators. For detailed information regarding the Code of Conduct, please refer to the following websites: www.basketballvictoria.com.au blues.fdba.com.au

By registering your child with Frankston Junior Blues, you acknowledge, understand, and agree to abide by the Codes of Conduct available on the above-mentioned websites. Breach or suspected breach of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated and will be investigated. The outcome of this investigation may result in disciplinary action including but not limited to; suspension, stadium ejection or removal/exclusion of your child, parent, associated spectator or others you are responsible for from the Junior Blues Program.

All fees must either be paid in full as per the set out dates.

If payments are not paid by this time, the Frankston Junior Blues will assume that you are not accepting your position on a Frankston Blues team. Non-financial players will be unable to train, practice or participate in all matches until their account is paid either in full. The FDBA reserves the right to impose a 10% administration fee on all outstanding/late payments. No non-financial player will not be granted a clearance until all financial liabilities are settled. Any refund request due to player withdrawal is at the discretion of the Junior Blues Committee. No refund is available from the commencement of the championship season.

It is a requirement under Junior Blues By-Laws that all representative players are a registered and active member in Frankston Basketball's domestic competition. Participation in the FDBA domestic competition is compulsory to be eligible for selection. Players must participate in at least 50% of games during the Summer & Winter domestic seasons. Non-compliant players will be unable to participate in the Blues program