



SEASON 2027

Junior Warriors VJBL *program*

Player & Family Information Pack — how the program works, what to expect, what it costs, and how to get the most out of the season.



PROGRAM

Warragul Warriors VJBL Program
Victorian Junior Basketball League

SEASON

2027 • 20 November 2026 – September 2027

CONTACT

Natasha Billing —
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WEBSITE

warragulbasketball.org.au

#WARRIORSPIRIT



WELCOME

Welcome to the *Warragul Warriors*

This pack covers everything you need to know about the 2027 **Junior Warriors VJBL program** — how it works, what to expect, what it costs, and how to get the most out of the season. Please read it in full before accepting your child's position.

Who We Are

The Warragul Warriors is the representative basketball pathway of Warragul Basketball Association — the largest basketball association in Gippsland and an affiliate of Basketball Victoria. Our VJBL teams compete on Friday nights against the best clubs in Victoria, from Under 12 to Under 20.

We are proud of the players who have gone on to represent Victoria and Australia. We are equally proud of every player who pulls on a Warriors singlet for the first time — whatever level they play at.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Our *values*

Whether your child plays VJBL, CRP or both, the Warriors standard never changes.

Warrior Spirit

We compete with heart, pride and purpose. We play hard, we play fair, and we never stop. On and off the court, we carry ourselves in a way that makes our club and community proud. **#warriorspirit**

Respect

For opponents, teammates, coaches, referees, families and the game itself. Respect is not conditional on the result — it is the standard we hold ourselves to at all times.

Humility

We are humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Winning is something we strive for and celebrate, but it never defines us. How we win and how we lose says far more about who we are.

Enjoyment

Basketball should be the best part of a young person's week. Coaches and families share the responsibility of keeping the game joyful, regardless of the scoreboard. Results matter — but so does the smile on the way home.

Community

We are more than a basketball program. We are a club built on loyal relationships, shared experiences and genuine care for one another. Every player, family, coach and volunteer is part of something bigger than any single game or season.

WHERE THIS FITS

The player *pathway*

The VJBL program sits in the WBA Performance Pathway, alongside the Country Representative Program (CRP). Families can do one or both — CRP tournaments and VJBL Friday nights run on different calendars.

Both programs feed the same Basketball Victoria player development ladder.

1

WBA Domestic

Every rep player builds their foundation here first. Domestic participation is required for both representative programs.

2

Junior Warriors — VJBL, CRP, or both

Selective junior representative basketball. Identify and stretch our most committed players through high-level competition and performance-focused development.

3

BV Programs

Elite players are identified for Basketball Victoria's representative and development programs.

4

State Program

Victorian state teams, the Centre of Excellence pathway and national junior camps.

5

National & Beyond

NBL, WNBL, national teams, college and international representation.

AFTER JUNIOR BASKETBALL

The WBA pathway continues into **Warriors CBL** — the bridge from junior representative basketball to senior performance — and **Warriors Big V**, representing Warragul in Victoria's premier semi-professional competition.

Victorian Junior Basketball League



The 2027 VJBL season tips off on **Friday 20 November 2026** and runs to Grand Finals in September 2027. Every game is played on a Friday night.

The VJBL is the highest level of junior competition in Victoria and the largest of its kind. Josh Giddey, Ezi Magbegor, Andrew Bogut and Jenna O'Hea all started their competitive careers here.

1,700+
TEAMS

~845
GAMES EVERY WEEK

90
VENUES STATEWIDE

Fri
NIGHTS, NOV – SEP

Age Eligibility

Players must be under the age limit on 31 December 2027.

AGE GROUP	BORN IN
Under 12	2016, 2017 or 2018
Under 14	2014 or 2015
Under 16	2012 or 2013
Under 18	2010 or 2011
Under 20	2008 or 2009

Players born in 2019 or later cannot play VJBL in the 2027 season.

How It Is Graded

Teams are graded into divisions across two grading phases, then play the season proper in their division.

AGE GROUP	TIERS
U12 & U14	Victorian Championship (VC) · Victorian Junior League (VJL, graded) · Regional League (RL)
U16 & U18	Victorian Championship (VC) · Victorian Junior League (VJL, graded)
U20	Graded VJBL competition

The Regional League replaced the former RDL in 2026. It organises U12 and U14 competition into geographic pools — more Gippsland and regional fixtures and less time on the road for families.

DIARY

2027 season — calendar

PHASE	DATES	NOTES
Uniform pack order deadline	Sun 11 Oct 2026	ORDER BY THIS DATE
Southern Peninsula tournament	Fri 6 – Sun 8 Nov 2026	COMPULSORY
Grading Phase 1	Fri 20 Nov – Fri 11 Dec 2026	3 rounds + crossover round
School holiday break	18 Dec 2026 – 22 Jan 2027	No games
Eltham / Dandenong tournament	Fri 22 – Mon 25 Jan 2027	COMPULSORY
Grading Phase 2	Fri 29 Jan – Fri 26 Feb 2027	3 rounds + crossover rounds
Season proper	Fri 5 Mar – Fri 20 Aug 2027	18 rounds (some byes, varies by competition)
Finals & Grand Finals	Fri 20 Aug – Fri 17 Sep 2027	Grand Final date depends on competition

No games on Good Friday (26 March), the King's Birthday / NJC weekend (11 June) or during the April and July school holidays. The full round-by-round calendar is at warragulbasketball.org.au.

GAME NIGHT

Friday nights

- Games are home and away, so some Friday nights involve travel to Melbourne or regional venues after school.
- Fixtures, ladders and results are on the VJBL website and the MyHoops app.
- Each game lists up to 12 players. In U12–U16, a maximum of 10 can play in any one game; U18 and U20 can list and play 12.
- U12 and U14 play under the VJBL No Zone rule — man-to-man defence only.
- Exposed jewellery is not permitted, and fingernails must be cut to a safe length.
- VJBL Friday night emergency line: **0430 541 847**, 5–11 pm (for team officials).

Competition rules are set by Basketball Victoria in the VJBL Rules of Operation, available at basketballvictoria.com.au.



Finals *qualification*

To play finals, a player must play **at least 40% of their team's games** across Grading Phase 2 and the Championship season, rounded up (for example, 9.2 games becomes 10). Players who don't qualify can't play finals unless the VJBL grants an exception.

Medical Certificates

A medical certificate can count towards qualification if your child is injured or ill, provided they were already listed in the team before the injury. Deadlines are strict:

WHEN	CERTIFICATE DUE
Grading phases	By close of business on the Monday before any crossover game
Injured before 1 July	Before 1 July
Injured on or after 1 July	Within 14 days of diagnosis
Last two rounds	By close of business on the Monday after the final round

SEND CERTIFICATES TO WBA — NOT THE VJBL

The VJBL only accepts medical certificates from the association. Send them to Natasha Billing (tash.billing@warragulbasketball.org.au) as early as possible so we can lodge them on time.

Program *structure*



Our 2027 VJBL head coaches are confirmed. Head coaches lead selection and training across all teams in their age group, and are your first point of escalation beyond your child's Team Coach.

2027 Head Coach Appointments

U12 GIRLS	Ben Gaze
U12 BOYS	Jess Grima
U14 GIRLS	Shannon Pajdic
U14 BOYS	Chris Hartmann
U16 GIRLS	Pete McEwan
U16 BOYS	Shawn Davitt
U18 BOYS	Phil Maddocks
U20 BOYS	Tony Harris

Shannon Pajdic and Chris Hartmann also lead the U14 age group in the 2026/27 Country Representative Program. All coach appointments are ratified by the Director of Warriors Junior Basketball, Rob Dielemans.

TEAM COACHES

Team Coach appointments are made once teams are finalised and are ratified by the Director of Warriors Junior Basketball before announcement. Your Team Coach is always your first point of contact for anything team-related.

THE NUMBERS

Fees & costs

We want every family to enter the season knowing exactly what to expect financially. Here is everything in one place.

FEE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Season fee All players	\$850	Paid through PlayHQ — upfront, or in instalments.
Weekly team sheet fee	~\$10-\$16 per player, per game	Basketball Victoria charge paid to the venue every game, home and away. Shared across the team.
Compulsory tournaments	~\$120-\$135 per player, both events	Southern Peninsula and Eltham / Dandenong. Team entry split equally across the team. See Commitment & expectations.
Uniform bundle	\$200	Includes the playing jersey, which is yours to keep. Order by Sunday 11 October 2026. See Uniform & apparel.

Paying the Season Fee

PAYMENT OPTION	HOW IT WORKS
Upfront	Pay the full \$850 at registration on PlayHQ.
Instalments	Spread the \$850 across instalments on PlayHQ. The final instalment is due Friday 20 February 2027.

Estimated Season Total

SEASON FEE	TEAM SHEET FEES (EST.)	TOURNAMENTS (EST.)	UNIFORM BUNDLE	ESTIMATED TOTAL
\$850	~\$260 – \$480	~\$120 – \$135	\$200	~\$1,430 – \$1,665

Team sheet estimate based on 25–30 games across grading and the season proper, before finals. Tournament estimate assumes a team of 10–12; Eltham / Dandenong 2027 costs are not yet official. Uniform total assumes the full bundle; reused current-style items reduce this. Questions about fees or payment plans: Natasha Billing, tash.billing@warragulbasketball.org.au.

EVERY FRIDAY

Weekly team *sheet fee*

On top of the \$850 season fee, every VJBL team pays a **team sheet fee for every game**, home and away. This is a Basketball Victoria charge paid to the venue each week. It covers entry for players and spectators, so there is no separate door charge.

EVERY FAMILY PAYS — EVERY WEEK

Every family pays their share every week — whether or not your child plays that game.

The venue charges the team the same fee no matter who turns up. If one family skips a week because their child is sick, injured, away or not one of the ten to take the court, the other families in the team end up covering their share.

This is a team sport, and the weekly fee is a team commitment.

What Your Share Depends On

The fee is shared equally across the players in the team. Your share depends on two things:

- **Where the team plays** — venues run either a 60-minute timeslot (\$125 per game) or an 80-minute timeslot (\$160 per game).
- **How many players are in the team** — the more players, the smaller each share.

WEEKLY FEE PER PLAYER	10 PLAYERS	12 PLAYERS
60-minute timeslot (\$125)	\$12.50	\$10.42
80-minute timeslot (\$160)	\$16.00	\$13.33

With roughly 25–30 games across grading and the season proper (plus finals for teams that qualify), most families should budget around **\$260–\$480 per player** for the season.

Your Team Manager pays the venue each week by card or through TeamPay, and will let families know how and when to contribute.

Uniform & *apparel*

HIGH IMPORTANCE — ORDER DEADLINE



Order your uniform pack by Sunday 11 October 2026

Uniform packs must be purchased through iAthletic by this date to allow time for delivery. Late orders may not arrive in time for the first tournament or game.

Playing Jersey — Yours to Keep

Unlike the CRP, VJBL families buy their child's playing jersey (\$55), and it is theirs to keep at the end of the season. There is no jersey return or replacement fee.

Mandatory Uniform — via iAthletic

The jersey and the items below are mandatory and must be bought through our exclusive supplier, iAthletic. Items from previous seasons can be reused if they are in the current Warriors style; old-style items are not permitted.

ITEM	APPROX. COST
Playing jersey (yours to keep)	\$55
Playing shorts — current style	\$45
Warm-Up Top	\$65
Training Singlet (Reversible)	\$45
Socks	\$20
Total if bought individually	~\$230 plus delivery
Bundle rate — all five items, including the jersey	\$200

Old-style playing shorts are not permitted.

Optional Items

- Polo shirt — \$65 (game-day travel and presentation wear)
- Training shorts — \$35
- Water bottle — \$15
- Backpack — \$70

Compression Wear & Game-Day Rules

Compression garments must be black, with no visible logos, and fitted to compress. Under VJBL rules, exposed jewellery (including studs, watches and bracelets) cannot be worn in games, and fingernails must be cut to a safe length. Taped nails are not accepted.

Commitment & *expectations*

The VJBL is a big commitment of time, money and energy — a ten-month season of Friday nights. By accepting a position, you agree to the following.

Player Commitment

- Attend one compulsory training session per week throughout the season
- Attend all games, including Friday nights that involve travel
- Attend all compulsory tournaments
- Notify the coach or team manager as early as possible of any absence
- Give full effort to the team at all times — at training and on game night

Compulsory Tournaments

Alongside Friday nights, VJBL teams play two compulsory tournaments. Please diarise these dates now — selection carries a commitment to attend both in full.

TOURNAMENT	DATES	TEAM ENTRY	PER PLAYER (APPROX.)
Southern Peninsula COMPULSORY	Fri 6 – Sun 8 Nov 2026	\$540 per team — min. four games, plus player & spectator entry all weekend	\$45 – \$54
Eltham / Dandenong COMPULSORY	Fri 22 – Mon 25 Jan 2027	\$100 non-refundable team deposit, plus approx. \$65–\$70 per player registration*	\$73 – \$80

Team costs are split equally across the players in the team (per-player figures assume a team of 10–12). *Eltham / Dandenong 2027 registration costs are not yet official and will be confirmed when released.

If your child has a known conflict with either tournament, please speak with the age group head coach before accepting a position.

Domestic Competition Eligibility

Participation in WBA's domestic competition is a condition of eligibility for both Junior Warriors programs. Players must have completed a minimum of two domestic seasons, one of which must be the current Winter season or the preceding Summer season. 'Completed' means playing enough games to qualify for finals.

UPCOMING POLICY CHANGE — EFFECTIVE FROM THE 2027/28 SEASON

From the 2027/28 season, players will need to have registered and played in both the **Winter** and Summer domestic competitions.

We encourage all VJBL players to register for the Winter 2027 domestic season.

Family *commitment*

Scoring & bench duty

Every family is expected to help with scoring and bench duties at home games. Training and support are provided — no experience needed.

Volunteering

All families are asked to help at least once at a program fundraiser or club event each season. These events only work with community support.

Sideline behaviour

Your coach is the sole source of technical direction during training and games. Encouragement is always welcome. Instruction from the sideline is not.

Communication

Don't approach the coach during or straight after a game. Allow 24 hours, then raise it with your Team Coach. See *Grievance & Complaints*.

Court Time

Court time in VJBL is never guaranteed. It is at the coach's discretion and depends on training attendance and punctuality, individual performance and development, team needs and game strategy, attitude and effort, and injury or illness.

Coaches are expected to find meaningful minutes for all players across the season, but equal court time is not a feature of representative basketball. In U12–U16, only 10 of up to 12 listed players can take the court in any one game.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT COURT TIME

Arrange a private conversation with your Team Coach at a suitable time — never during or straight after a game.

WBA is committed to player wellbeing. However, WBA does not accept court time as grounds for a wellbeing concern — it is a coaching decision managed at coaching level.

If unresolved, escalate to the age group head coach, then the Director of Warriors Junior Basketball.

Codes of *conduct*

Every player, coach, parent, volunteer and spectator in the program is bound by the Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct — at training, on game night, while travelling, and online. The full codes are at basketballvictoria.com.au.

Players

- Play by the rules, and respect referees — never argue a call; raise concerns through your coach
- Control your temper; verbal abuse of officials, players or coaches is not acceptable
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team, and treat every player as you'd like to be treated
- Be a good sport — applaud good play by all teams, win or lose
- Listen to your coach and respect facilities and equipment

Parents, Families & Spectators

- Encourage your child to play for their own enjoyment, not yours
- Accept referee decisions. Under VJBL rules, spectators must never approach a referee before, during or after a game, or a referee supervisor during a game (only the Team Manager may, at the coach's request)
- Don't criticise your child or anyone else's in front of others
- Don't use foul language or harass players, coaches or officials
- Show appreciation for coaches, officials and volunteers
- Encourage only — never coach from the sideline

VENUE RULES

Spectators asked to leave a venue by a venue official must do so immediately. Teams can be reported or lose games because of spectator behaviour.

Coaches

Our coaches are bound by the BV Coaches Code of Conduct and are expected to keep demands on players reasonable, model respect for officials and opponents, act responsibly when players are ill or injured, and ensure any physical contact is appropriate to the situation.

Disciplinary *action*

BEHAVIOURAL TECHNICAL FOUL — ZERO TOLERANCE

WBA has a zero tolerance policy on poor behaviour. Any player who receives a Behavioural Technical Foul will be immediately substituted off the court and automatically suspended from their next game. There are no exceptions. The same policy applies to coaches.

Basketball Victoria Penalties

Basketball Victoria also applies its own VJBL penalties across the season, starting in Grading Phase 1.

BEHAVIOURAL TECH FOULS IN A SEASON	BV PENALTY
1	Warning
2	1-game suspension
3	2-game suspension
4	4-game suspension
5	6-game suspension

BV may add a further one-game suspension where an ejection results from two technical fouls for referee abuse.

Poor Sportsmanship

The coach may substitute a player for poor sportsmanship. A second offence results in removal for the remainder of the game. Repeat incidents are escalated to the age group head coach and, where required, the Director of Warriors Junior Basketball.

Training Attendance

Ongoing non-attendance without prior communication may result in reduced playing time or deselection from the team.

Off-Court Conduct

Behaviour that negatively affects the reputation of the Warragul Warriors program will be managed through the Director of Warriors Junior Basketball, with escalation to the General Manager where required, and may result in removal from the program.

Social Media

All participants must follow the WBA Social Media Policy, available at warragulbasketball.org.au.

OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY

Child safety & wellbeing

The safety and wellbeing of every child in our program is our highest priority. All coaches and team managers are required to hold a current Working with Children Check before taking on any role in the program.

For matters relating to child safety or integrity, please contact our General Manager, who is also acting as Child Safety and Integrity Officer pending a new appointment:

ROLE	CONTACT
General Manager / Acting Child Safety & Integrity Officer	Dave Thomas dave.thomas@warragulbasketball.org.au
Rep Programs & Community Engagement Coordinator	Natasha Billing tash.billing@warragulbasketball.org.au

RAISING A CONCERN

Grievance & complaints

If you have a concern, raise it promptly and through the right channel — working through the steps in order resolves matters faster. Please allow 24 hours after any game before making contact.

STEP	CONTACT	WHEN
1	Your child's Team Coach	First point of contact for team-level matters — training, court time, selection and day-to-day concerns.
2	Age Group Head Coach Contact via your Team Manager or Natasha Billing	If it can't be resolved with your Team Coach, or it concerns the age group more broadly.
3	Director of Warriors Junior Basketball Rob Dielemans — rob.dielemans@warragulbasketball.org.au	Program-level matters, selection decisions, and anything unresolved at age-group level. Only once steps 1 and 2 have been worked through.
4	General Manager Dave Thomas — dave.thomas@warragulbasketball.org.au	Formal complaints, governance matters and exceptional circumstances. The GM has final authority on all program matters.

Outside this ladder — administration: fees, registration, uniforms and game-night logistics go straight to Natasha Billing at any time.

Outside this ladder — child safety or integrity: never wait and never work up the ladder. Contact the Child Safety & Integrity Officer directly.

A formal complaints process is available at warragulbasketball.org.au.

Key contacts

The program is led by the following people. Your Team Coach is always your first point of contact — the rest of the structure sits behind them.

ROLE	PERSON	WHAT THEY LOOK AFTER
General Manager Acting Child Safety & Integrity Officer	Dave Thomas dave.thomas@warragulbasketball.org.au	Final decision authority on all program matters. Formal complaints, governance, child safety and integrity.
Director of Warriors Junior Basketball	Rob Dielemans rob.dielemans@warragulbasketball.org.au	Program leadership across VJBL, CRP and Future Warriors Academy. Ratifies all coach appointments and team movement.
Associate Director of Warriors Junior Basketball	Andrew Hinton andrew.hinton@warragulbasketball.org.au	Supports the Director across all junior representative programs, including selection.
Rep Programs & Community Engagement Coordinator	Natasha Billing tash.billing@warragulbasketball.org.au	Day-to-day coordination, family communication and logistics. Your contact for fees, registration, uniforms and medical certificates.
Age Group Head Coach	Named in <i>Program Structure</i>	Leads selection and training across all teams in your child's age group.
Team Coach	Appointed once teams are finalised	Your child's team. Your first point of contact for anything team-related.
Team Manager	Team volunteer	Team administration, game-night details, weekly team sheet fees and updates to families.
Website	warragulbasketball.org.au	

PLEASE CONTACT WBA — NOT THE VJBL

Please don't contact Basketball Victoria or the VJBL directly. All VJBL correspondence goes through WBA, and the VJBL refers parent enquiries back to the association — so start with your Team Manager or Natasha Billing.

Thank you for choosing the *Warragul Warriors.*

We can't wait to share the 2027 VJBL season with your family. On behalf of our coaches, staff, volunteers and Board — welcome to the program.

#WARRIORSPIRIT



WARRAGUL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION —
WARRAGULBASKETBALL.ORG.AU
VJBL PROGRAM • SEASON 2027
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