



Keilor Thunder Basketball Tryouts – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are Keilor Thunder tryouts?

Tryouts are held to select players to represent Keilor Thunder in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL). Tryouts are held annually over several sessions. Dates and times are posted on the Keilor Basketball Association (KBA) website and social media.

2. What is Keilor Thunder and VJBL?

Keilor Thunder is the representative basketball program of the Keilor Basketball Association (KBA). It encompasses a wide range of teams, including 58 junior male and female squads, Big V Youth League teams, and senior men's and women's teams competing in the NBL1 South league. The program serves as a development pathway for players aspiring to compete at higher levels of basketball.

The Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) is a statewide competition managed by Basketball Victoria, catering to junior players from Under 12s to Under 20s. Recognized as one of the most competitive junior basketball leagues in Australia, the VJBL provides a platform for young athletes to develop their skills and compete at various levels, including the prestigious VC division. Keilor Thunder participates in the VJBL, fielding multiple teams across different age groups and divisions.

For younger players aiming to transition into representative basketball, Keilor Thunder offers the Emerging Thunder Academy. This program is designed for established Under 10s domestic players seeking to advance to the VJBL level, providing them with training and competition opportunities to prepare for the next stage in their basketball journey.

3. Who is eligible to attend tryouts?

Players born between 2007 and 2017 can try out for U12 to U20 age groups.

- All players must register online.
- Players from other VJBL associations must submit a VJBL "Permission to Train" form from their current VJBL club. Players who have not played VJBL on a Friday night or have not registered for a VJBL club that plays on a Friday night do not need to do this.

4. What should I expect during tryouts?

Sessions usually include:

- Warm-up and skill drills
 - Small-sided games (2v2, 3v3)
 - Full-court scrimmages
- Coaches assess skills, decision-making, and teamwork.

5. Can my child still be selected if they miss a session?

Yes, however, you will need to let us know before the session. If your child misses a session, their selection is based on previous coach and coach coordinator feedback. If your child is new to rep and they miss tryouts they will not be selected.

If your child is injured, please submit a medical certificate letting us know. They will still be required to attend Tryouts (exceptions to this may be granted on a case by case basis)

6. What happens after the tryouts?

Selection Panels and age group Coaches will review all player performances and announce the selected teams.

Selected players receive info on training, uniforms, and next steps.

7. What are the costs involved?

Fees for the 2025/26 season will be: TBA

There will also be uniform costs and weekly teamsheet fees.

Financial assistance may be available via our Hardship Policy

Full Rep Fees are payable upon acceptance of position and registration. We also have Paypal and Paypal pay in 4.

8. How can I register for tryouts?

All registration is online through the Keilor Basketball website.

Be sure to complete your registration before attending any session.

9. What if my child doesn't make a team?

Not being selected isn't the end. Players are encouraged to keep training and return for

future tryouts. Keilor has a range of development programs available, like masterclasses and camps.

10. Why is my child in a lower numbered team compared to last year after moving up an age group?

In a two-year age group system, it's completely normal for players to shift several team numbers when moving up to a new age group.

The players are now competing against a different and often more advanced pool of athletes, many of whom have developed at different rates. As such, comparing team numbers between age groups doesn't provide an accurate reflection of progress.

11. Why is my child not in the team above when they are better than some players that have been selected in that team?

It's natural to make comparisons, but team selection involves many different factors beyond what's visible from the sidelines. These include, but aren't limited to:

- 1v1 offense and defense
- Shooting and decision-making
- Game sense and basketball IQ
- Physical development
- Coachability and attitude
- Positional needs and team fit
- Potential for future growth

Being stronger in one area doesn't guarantee selection over another player. Our tryout process is designed to highlight a variety of skill sets through structured activities, modified games, and coach observations beyond just match results.

12. Can we please meet to discuss my child's team placement?

Due to the number of players trying out we unfortunately will not be having any meetings or discussions around team placements.

13. My child has been selected for a team without a coach — what does this mean?


With over 50 teams selected each season, there are times when we haven't yet secured a coach for every team. If your child's team currently doesn't have a coach, don't worry — we're actively working to find a solution. This may involve reaching out to parents within the team, past players, or domestic coaches to help guide the team.

All coaches involved in our program — whether experienced or stepping in to help — receive ongoing support from our high-performance coaching team. This includes access to planned training sessions, coaching clinics, and a range of resources to ensure they feel confident and prepared to support their team.

14. Who can I contact for more information?

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