

KEILOR THUNDER

VJBL HANDBOOK



THUNDER UP!

KEILORBASKETBALL.COM

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Welcome to the 2025/26 season!

Welcome to the 2025/26 season, everyone! We're excited to kick off another fantastic season in the Keilor Thunder program.

On behalf of the Keilor Basketball Association (KBA), we would like to extend a warm welcome to you as we step into the new season for the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL).

We understand that representative basketball demands a significant commitment from both players and their families. However, it also brings numerous rewards and opportunities. Over the past few years, we've had teams representing almost every age group at the prestigious Victorian Championship (VC) level, and many of our athletes have been selected for state development programs.

Beyond the opportunity to compete at the highest level, our program strives to create a strong sense of community within the basketball world. Keilor is dedicated to fostering a positive and supportive environment for our young athletes, encouraging both personal growth and teamwork.

This booklet provides important details regarding the expectations, commitment, and standards we hold here at Keilor Basketball Association. We ask that you take the time to carefully review the information. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact our High-Performance administrator via email at susan.banon@keilorbasketball.com.au, or call the stadium at 03 9336 0178.

We're looking forward to seeing you thrive in the Keilor Thunder program.

Go Thunder!!!

Regards,

The Keilor Thunder High Performance Team





KEILOR THUNDER VJBL PROGRAM CONTACTS

HIGH PERFORMANCE MANAGER

Megan Jarvis: megan.jarvis@keilorbasketball.com.au

HIGH PERFORMANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Susan Banon: susan.banon@keilorbasketball.com.au

UNDER 12s COORDINATOR

Aaron Cliffe: 12scoordinator@keilorbasketball.com.au

BOYS COORDINATOR

Jarrold Crowe: boyscoordinator@keilorbasketball.com.au

GIRLS COORDINATOR

Orla O'Reilly: girlscoordinator@keilorbasketball.com.au

AGE GROUP HEAD COACHES

UNDER 12

GIRLS

Aaron Cliffe

BOYS

Nic Banon

UNDER 14

GIRLS

Jule Ore

BOYS

Lucas Bourke

UNDER 16

GIRLS

Nyomi Cawen

BOYS

Jarrold Crowe

UNDER 18

GIRLS

Mic Salon

BOYS

Fernando Rios-Rodriguez

UNDER 20

GIRLS

Kim Gray

BOYS

Brent West



GAME DAY INFORMATION

VJBL COMPETITION*

The VJBL competition is played on a Friday evening at associated venues across the state. Each week over 1300 teams participate in the competition which equates to about 650 games on 200 Courts across approximately 80 venues. The VJBL is arguably the largest competition of its kind, offering a graduated system of junior basketball competition giving opportunities for players to reach the peak, but also to climb the foothills.

The VJBL is made up of associations who enter representative teams. These teams are selected from a 'domestic' competition that is played out of that particular association.

The VJBL Competition comes under the governing body of Basketball Victoria.

The League was designed to give keen junior basketballers an opportunity to participate at a more competitive level than their local domestic competitions. The VJBL allows teams to compete against composite teams from other Associations. The competition has developed as such to incorporate Associations Victoria wide.

AGE GROUPING*

Players are 'grouped' depending upon age. Age groupings for 2025/26 are as follows:

- Players born in 2018 or later are not eligible to play VJBL.
- Under 12 – eligible players must not turn 12 in 2026; they are born in 2015, 2016, 2017
- Under 14 – eligible players must not turn 14 in 2026, they are born in 2013, 2014
- Under 16 – eligible players must not turn 16 in 2026, they are born in 2011, 2012
- Under 18 – eligible players must not turn 18 in 2026, they are born in 2009, 2010
- Under 20 – eligible players must not turn 20 in 2026, they are born in 2007, 2008

SEASON*

Games within the VJBL structure are usually played for about 40 weeks of the year commencing approximately early-mid November and going through to September the following year. There are usually two areas of competition played throughout the year as follows:

Grading Phase One & Two – Usually late November – March

These two different phases decide where the teams will play throughout the Championship season.

Championship Phase for the whole competition, goes from March through to September.

The basketball year finishes usually mid-December and recommences at the end of January.

**extract from VJBL Parent Player Handbook 23-24*

WEEKLY TEAM SHEET FEES

All players are required to pay an equal share of the weekly team sheet. The weekly team sheet covers all game day fees and venue entry for all spectators. Currently this fee ranges from \$125 to \$160 per game (Note: Scoresheet fees for Finals will differ). This fee is set by the VJBL and is based on the standard played and the time allocated for each game depending on the level of games during the season.

This is a Team Cost and so must be paid by all team members regardless of a player's availability or game time played. For example – if your family is on holidays during regular season and your child will be absent for 1 or 2 games you are still required to pay their share of the weekly team sheet, if your child is unwell one week you are still required to pay their share of the weekly team sheet. The fee payment is required for the entire season.

Should a player have a long-term injury (minimum of 6 consecutive weeks) or leave a team, the remaining players will share the team costs, unless a replacement player is found (See the section on Medical Refund for further information).

If a player is not financially up to date with either Keilor Thunder (i.e. they have not paid their registration fees) or with their team (i.e. they have not paid team sheet fees), they will be unable to train or play until their payments are up to date.

Should a family or team be experiencing any difficulties with payments please advise the VJBL administrator as soon as possible. The earlier we know, the earlier we can help resolve the situation.

COURT TIME

Players must understand that they are not guaranteed the same or equal court time in all games. Court time must be earned and is at the discretion of the coach, considering the needs of the team during each game. For teams in VJL2 and below, player attitude, effort at training, commitment, team spirit, and willingness to learn and apply learnings are all factors considered when determining court time. Provided players are meeting these expectations, we expect that all players will receive approximately 10–15 minutes of court time across the first three quarters of each game. The fourth quarter will be at the discretion of the coach, based on the flow and requirements of the game. Occasionally, there may be some variance to this guideline, including during critical games where future team progression may depend on the outcome (e.g. grading games and finals).





TRAINING INFORMATION

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

All players are expected to attend every training session and scheduled games (including injured players). If you are unable to attend a session/game, you must contact your coach or team manager **prior** to the session.

Training sessions run from October through to September with midweek sessions occurring every week during normal school terms. Sunday trainings (practice matches or organised team activity) occur weekly apart from public holidays, the first and middle weekend of school holidays and from mid-December to mid-January.

Players are required to wear their Thunder reversible practice singlet and plain black shorts (no pockets). Failure to do so could result in your child having to sit out of practice. All players must ensure they have a basketball, appropriate footwear and enough water for training (access to water fountains is not guaranteed at all training venues).

Players who do not train, or do not put in sufficient effort during training may receive less court time at the discretion of their coach.

CLUB SESSIONS

Throughout the course of the season we will run Club Sessions. These sessions involve all teams in an age group coming together for practice and provide a great opportunity for connection between teams and coaches.

We will occasionally have special guests attend the sessions including high performance coaches, NBL1 and Big V coaches and players.

Attendance at these sessions is compulsory.

MULTI-SPORT ATHLETES

We encourage multi-sport athletes at Keilor as it can be beneficial to an athlete's short- and long-term development. Our expectation is that players selected for Keilor Thunder prioritise Thunder games and training sessions first. It is not acceptable for players to miss full sessions every week, or the majority of a session every week.

On the occasion that another sport clashes with your child's Thunder training/game written correspondence to the HP via megan.jarvis@keilorbasketball.com.au is required prior to the event, to determine the effect this may have on the team. At the discretion of the HP and your coach continuously missing practice may result in reduced court time or even de-registration from the Keilor Thunder Representative program.





GENERAL INFORMATION

All Thunder information can be found on the Keilor Basketball website,

<https://www.keilorbasketball.com>. You will be able to find:

- fixtures & results
- required forms and calendars
- Thunder development programs
- Thunder holiday clinics

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents and Guardians are an integral part of selection into the Keilor Thunder Representative program, you will be required to:

- Score or film/record Friday night games on a roster system.
- Help and encourage your child and their teammates.
- Help your child's team (e.g. scoring when rostered, volunteering as required, attending team meetings/activities).
- Supporting Keilor Thunder Special Events.

Being involved helps your child become part of the Keilor Thunder community and creates opportunities to meet other parents and families in the program.

INJURIES

Given your child is now part of the Keilor Thunder program, there is additional trainings and games they will be participating in each week. This can place stress on young bodies, and injuries can occur during practice or matches. Our coaches are aware of the potential for sports injuries and will place your child's welfare as a priority. If you have concerns regarding your child's health, please discuss them with your coach or team manager.

If your child does sustain an injury and is unable to play and/or train for a certain amount of time, they are still expected to attend game and practice sessions to support their team. Although your child will not be practising, by attending, they will be exposed to the drills and game plays taught. It is also highly recommended that you obtain a medical certificate outlining your child's injury and how long they will be unable to play/practice for. Medical certificates may be needed for players to qualify for finals under VJBL rules should they miss a number of games. Please send your medical certificate to your team manager and copy in susan.banon@keilorbasketball.com.au.

Injured players must attend all games if physically able. When attending games while injured, players must:

- Sit on the team bench as normal.
- Be supportive of their team and actively engaged.
- Wear casual Thunder attire (e.g. Thunder branded hoodies, tracksuit pants or t-shirts).
- Must not wear hats, beanies, thongs or slides etc.
- Must not use their phones.

CREATING CONNECTIONS WITH BIG V AND NBL1

During the Thunder Senior Representative seasons, each U12 - U18 team will be required to assist at NBL1/BIGV games. This will be scheduled and advised to teams in advance.

Duties may include but are not limited to:

- assisting with set up and pack up
- floor sweeping during the game
- high-fives as Thunder players enter the court at the beginning of the game
- other small jobs required on game day.

This is an exciting experience for our junior players as they get the opportunity to be part of the Senior Thunder game day and see the Keilor Thunder Pathway in action. All Keilor Thunder Junior Representative players will receive free general admission to all Big V and NBL 1 home games (children 14 and under must be accompanied by a paying adult).

RAISING A CONCERN/ISSUE

Administrative Concerns

First Instance go to your Team Manager

Escalation point is the High Performance Administrator Susan Banon

General Concerns and Coaching Concerns

First Instance go to your coach - This can be done 48 hours after a game, at no point is a parent/guardian to approach a coach with concerns after a game. Please contact your coach via a message to arrange a time to meet

Escalation point is the relevant Coordinator - Either 12s Coordinator for any under 12 team, Boy Coordinator for teams in under 14s and up or Girls Coordinator for teams in under 14s and up

Welfare and Child Safety Concerns

Please raise any of these concerns straight to the High Performance Manager (court time is not a welfare concern)

For any concerns regarding fixtures, scoring, or other VJBL matters, please contact the High Performance administrator directly at susan.banon@keilorbasketball.com.au. Please DO NOT CONTACT the VJBL directly.



The referees are part of the game, and while we may not like their decisions at times, verbal or other abuse of referees is unacceptable behaviour and sets a bad example to the children.

A copy of Basketball Victoria's Codes of Conduct is available on the Basketball Victoria Website. We encourage every player, parent and Team Manager to read these.

Behavioural Tech Foul rules are also in place to discourage players, coaching and bench staff from negative behaviour. Your association may also have strict penalties for bad behaviour for players coaching and bench staff.

For more information follow this link - [VJBL BEHAVIOURAL TECH FOUL RULES](#)

Please note Keilor's Tech Foul rules are a meeting with the High Performance Manager after one Tech Foul and added weeks of suspension for 2 or more Tech Fouls

Spectator Behaviour - At no point before, during or after a game are spectators permitted to approach a referee. All spectators must abide by the Basketball Victoria (BV) Spectator Code of Conduct. If asked to leave the venue by a venue official, spectator/s must do so immediately, or reports and loss of games may be applied.

**extract from VJBL Parent Player Handbook 23-24*



BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

Coaches, players, spectators, and administrators are required to abide by Codes of conduct as set out by Basketball Victoria. Full versions can be viewed on the Basketball Victoria Website [BV Code of Conduct Policy](#).

See below extracts from the Parent/Guardian and Player codes of conduct.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CODE 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. Good manners and respect can be infectious.
6. Do not criticise yours 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
12. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.

PLAYERS CODE 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 for 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.

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

1. At no point before, during or after a game are spectators permitted to approach a referee.
2. All spectators must abide by the Basketball Victoria (BV) Spectator Code of Conduct.
3. If you are asked to leave the venue by the venue official, spectator/s must do so immediately, or Tribunal Reports and loss of games may be applied.
4. Remember that most people play sport for enjoyment.
5. Accept decisions of all referees as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
6. Always be positive in your support of players.
7. Condemn the use of violence in any form.
8. Respect your teams opponents, officials and spectators.
9. Encourage players to obey the rules and to accept decisions of officials.
10. Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches or officials.
11. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
12. Keep children in your care under control.
13. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.

Please ensure that you read these and explain the Players Code of Conduct to your child. A requirement of the KBA for entry into any stadium under the control of the Association is that the Codes of Conduct be adhered to. Failure to act in accordance with the Codes of Conduct may result in your removal from a stadium and/or exclusion from competitions.

For the safety of your child or children they must be accompanied & adequately supervised by a parent or legal guardian whilst on any basketball premises.



SOCIAL MEDIA

While most use of social media is positive in terms of being able to communicate efficiently, there is also concern as electronic communication can be used in negative way. In particular, bullying and harassment as defined under Basketball Victoria's Member Protection By laws is just as damaging via electronic means as it is via face-to-face communication.

It is expected that all members of the Keilor Thunder VJBL program abide by the following guidelines regarding social media. Any persons who breach the guidelines may be asked to remove a social media post/s, issue an apology, be removed from the Keilor Thunder VJBL program, and/or be referred to the Basketball Victoria Member Protection Tribunal.

1. Social media can be fun, helpful and sometimes dangerous.

Comments, notes and photos posted on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and on-line forums are usually constructive and positive. But negative comments and images, bullying, criticism, and sexist remarks can be dangerous and harmful to people's wellbeing and reputation and the image of the sport.

2. Do not use social media to be critical of teammates, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers, spectators, or the opposition.

Any comment you make on social media sites has the potential to be seen by millions of people. That is great if comments are positive. But it can be extremely negative and harmful if critical of people. Before you post a comment on social media ask yourself this: Would I want millions of people to read something negative about me?

3. Always assume the person you are talking/writing about will see what has been said/written.

Just because an online chat is between two people does not mean it remains private and nobody else can see it. Social media is accessible to everyone. Even if the person you are discussing does not see it, somebody else may. The result is you rather than the person you are ridiculing will be seen in a negative light.

4. Use social media as a positive outlet to promote players, teammates, teams, clubs and others involved in basketball.

Posting results and acknowledging individual and team performances on social media makes many people aware of team and individual achievements. That can have a positive effect for many people and should be used, encouraged and embraced wherever and whenever possible.

5. Remember to show respect.

When using social media, show the same respect and regard for people that you would show and are expected to show when playing, officiating, or attending a basketball game.

6. When in doubt leave it out.

If you are unsure if what you are posting on social media is appropriate then it is best not to post it. When in doubt leave it out.

7. Do not tolerate or condone poor social media behaviour or actions.

If you are aware of or observe poor social media behaviour or actions, do not accept it. There is no place for it in basketball and it will not be condoned. Remind people of their responsibilities when using social media and warn that action can be taken against them. In the instance of minors breaching the code of conduct, alert their parents to the situation. If you believe the breach is serious, report it to team, club or association officials.

8. Be aware that your actions on social media may have serious consequences.

Negative comments and images, bullying, criticism, and sexist remarks do not only impact negatively on the people they are about. If you are found to have acted improperly on social media regarding a basketball related matter, you are liable to disciplinary proceedings and may be required to face a tribunal hearing to explain your actions. A suspension from basketball could be imposed.

9. Consider social media to be your personal brand.

Your Internet presence fuels any perception of your personal brand - whether you like it or not. Does your social media identity match your real identity? Be mindful of the content of photos, status updates, Tweets. Are they truly reflective of who you are and how you want people to see you?

10. Tag Keilor Thunder

We encourage tagging 'KeilorThunder' on social media to engage with our wider audience and share achievements!

11. We do not condone fake account

We do not condone fake accounts or impersonating Keilor Thunder, please also refrain from using our logo. Any of these accounts found will be reported.



VJBL REFUND POLICY

MEDICAL REFUND

A refund (pro-rata based on the number of regular-season games missed) will be issued if a player is unable to continue to participate for a medical reason that sees them unable to play for at least six consecutive VJBL games. To qualify for a medical refund, a certificate from a registered practitioner, stating that the player should not participate in basketball, must be submitted with the request.

Any Late Payment Fee component will not be refunded. A refund is at the discretion of the Keilor Thunder administration and is not guaranteed.

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

Registration of a player is a commitment to playing the entire season to which the registration applies. Withdrawal of a player after registration can impact team structure, venue planning, coaching, and grading. Players who cannot commit to the season should not register.

A refund will not be given where a player/parent or guardian wishes to withdraw for any of the reasons listed below or for other reasons within the control of the individual:

- Disapproval/dislike/not satisfied with the grade
- Disapproval/dislike/not satisfied with the team
- Disapproval/dislike/not satisfied with teammates
- Disapproval/dislike/not satisfied with the allocated coach
- Disapproval/dislike/not satisfied with the allocated team manager
- Disapproval/dislike/not satisfied with the parents within the team
- Disapproval/dislike/not satisfied with the Association/Club or Officials
- Unavailable to train at allocated day/time
- Other sport/social/work commitments
- Change of mind by players and/or parents

CODES OF CONDUCT ISSUES

Players who violate/disregard any rules in the Code of Conduct will not be eligible for refund where the breach results in either suspension or expulsion from a team. This also applies to where parent/guardian behaviour results in the inability of a player to participate in a team or program.

OTHER OR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The Club will consider requests for refunds under other extenuating circumstances. Please detail the circumstances in the refund request, or alternatively arrange a meeting at the Club's offices. Any Late Payment Fee component will not be refunded.

REFUND REQUEST PROCESS

Requests for refunds will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applications for refunds are to be made via email to susan.banon@keilorbasketball.com.au.

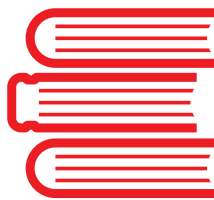
The following information will need to be supplied:

- Player's name
- Parent/guardian's name
- Contact details
- Current age group and team
- Detailed reason for request
- Supporting Documents e.g. medical certificate

All requestors will be notified in writing once a decision has been made.

All refunds will be subject to a \$50 administration fee. If approved, refunds will be calculated based on remaining season games less the administration fee. Refunds will only be paid to the account of the person who paid the fee.





USEFUL LINKS/RESOURCES

[Keilor Thunder VJBL Page](#)

[Victorian Junior Basketball League Website](#)

[PlayHQ Keilor Thunder Fixtures](#)

[VJBL Concussion Policy](#)

