The 2020/21 Season

Junior Steelers

Information Handbook

WESTERN PORT
BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

STEELERS

VJBL

WESTERN PORT BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
Home of the STEELERS

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CONTACT DETAILS

Office Details:

Address: **14 Edward Street, Somerville 3912**

Contact Number: **(03) 5977 7533**

Postal Address: **P.O Box 501 Somerville 3912**

Hours: **Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm**

Junior Representative Sub-Committee (JRC): jnrrep@wpba.com.au

WPBA Staff:

General Manager: Tyler Molloy - tyler@wbpa.com.au

Contact Tyler for all association matters, basketball matters including Representative programs VJBL and Big V.

Domestic Officers: Ned Weideman and Naomi Notman **-** office@wpba.com.au

Ned & Naomi are in charge of the domestic basketball competition as well as providing development programs and opportunities for our members.

Director of Coaching: Sinisa Markovic- coachingdirector@wpba.com.au

Sinisa along with Janine Davies assisting are in charge of the on court direction of our basketball program including Selection and coaching queries and team issues and the like

Website and Social Media:

These contain the latest updates and notices regarding the Steelers Junior Representative Program and all information and news relating to Western Port Basketball.

It is highly recommended that parents and players monitor our website and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages regularly for updates.

WELCOME

The Western Port Basketball Association prides itself on being one of the most progressive basketball associations on the Mornington Peninsula in regard to the mental health and wellbeing of its players, coaches and their respective families. We hold family values in high regard, ensuring we offer all our members the strongest opportunities at the elite level of basketball.

Development programs for all junior representative players will operate in 2021. We aim to assist and develop all coaches with assistance in coaching clinics and workshops within WPBA and externally.

It is acknowledged that there may be occasions that the Director of Coaching, Basketball Operations Manager and/or Junior Rep Committee will make decisions that may not always be to the liking of a coach or a parent but will always be made in the best interests of the player.

Western Port Steelers stands firmly behind the belief that above everything else (i.e. the coaches, managers, committee, parents etc.) the players come first.

The intention of this information guide is to help explain representative basketball for new families and reinforce the message to the ongoing members.

The Junior Representative Committee
Western Port Basketball Association

PLAYING REPRESENTATIVE LEVEL BASKETBALL AT WESTERN PORT

The Philosophy of the WPBA Juniors is one of **DEVELOPMENT**. To this end, our results are not measured in the win/loss record of our junior teams, but in the overall development and improvement made by each and every player during the season, through commitment to attending practice sessions and respecting coaches and teammates.

WPBA junior players are becoming adults who have learned desirable Personal & Social Values is what this Club hopes to develop in all their players, regardless of their talent level. This will also be a measure of our success as a club.

Our coaches have been empowered by the Club to make objective decisions in regards to your son/daughter and their teammates. The Coach of your son/daughter will have a **TEAM FIRST** policy, which means they need you to support your child within the context of the **TEAM**. Individual recognition such as points scoring and selfish play should be discouraged, rather than highlighted.

The commitment level required at this elite level is high. Your son/daughter will be expected to train every Sunday morning during school terms and also a second time during the week. Your son/daughter may need encouragement to work on their skills outside of TEAM training times. There is a great amount of travel involved. In the younger age groups, this is often done late Friday afternoon, as these games start at 6:40 PM, perhaps on the other side of Melbourne.

Whilst all the information above may seem a bit daunting, should your child be successful in making it into the Steeler Club, you will not find a better sporting or social experience for your child. A great many of our players continue to play basketball, ensuring that you will be more likely to know where your 16, 17 or even 18 year old is on a Friday night and more importantly, who their friends are

PLAYING DOMESTIC AT WESTERN PORT BASKETBALL

Please be aware that all Representative Players at Western Port are expected to play in the Western Port Basketball Domestic Competition. If players do not register with a domestic team at WPBA, then players position in a representative WPBA will be under review. All exemption requests from domestic competition must go through the Junior Representative Committee via the office office@wpba.com.au

(Insurance/affiliation fees are not included in your Junior Representative fees and are payable online during domestic registration)

PLAYING TIMES & VENUES

Matches are played on Friday nights ranging from a 6:40 start for the younger age groups to a 9:40 start for the senior age groups.

Venue locations will vary from week to week. Players are expected to arrive 30-40 minutes before tip-off at the team coach's discretion. For parents with multiple children car-pooling has proven a successful option in the past to lighten the load.

TRAINING

All teams are required to train for 1.5 hours twice a week with the U18s and U21s likely having sessions on weeknights and all other age groups having one session over the weekend and where possible, teams will undergo training with another team. The second session is held during the week. Western Port Basketball pay for the weekend training session, with the weeknight session being paid for by the team.

All players should arrive at training, ready to start at their allocated time.

Players cannot develop individually or understand the team structure if they do not train. The Steelers Junior Representative Program require attendance at all training sessions, to ensure skill development and understanding of the team structure. Inability to attend training sessions need prior notifications to the coach; court time may be limited for those players.

TOURNAMENTS

The Steelers Junior Representative Program incorporate tournament participation as a part of their development plan. Where possible, all teams will enter into at least 2 Tournaments throughout the year.

These may be selected from:

- Southern Peninsula Tournament - November
- Dandenong / Eltham Tournament -Australia Day weekend (January)
- 1st Teams - Basketball Vic Country Championships (Feb/Mar/April)
- Ballarat & Nunawading Tournaments – June

THE TRY OUT PROCESS

Tryouts involve identifying players' strengths and limits and running scrimmages to simulate game conditions. Squads will be listed on our website and Facebook the week following the final Try outs. Players will receive an email of their selection, along with all registration information as outlined in the Registration Fees section contained within this booklet.

During pre-season and grading, the association reserves the right to make changes to team selections if deemed necessary. Training will commence in October after tryouts and will continue until early December. Training will resume the Sunday prior to the Australia Day weekend to enable those teams entering the tournament to get some practice in during the school holidays.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: Parents are not permitted to approach any coach or member of the Selection Panel during the tryouts with a view to influencing player selection.

Coaches will have a focus on 5 key elements during the tryout process.

1. TALENT/PHYSICAL ABILITIES/MASTERY OF FUNDAMENTALS
2. WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN, LEARN AND THE ABILITY TO APPLY WHAT IS LEARNED
3. SELF DISCIPLINE
4. CONDUCT
5. ATTITUDE

IN ADDITION, the following things are also considered:

- How many returning top age players do we have?
- How many starters are returning to this age group?
- Have there been any transfers into our area and what level of proficiency do they display?

By no means, this is not all-inclusive list we use to evaluate players but it does cover many of the things we look for in the selection of our teams. We strive to use our best professional judgment, and if we error, we try to do so by keeping more players on teams, rather than less. As always, we appreciate and value each player as an individual, but will base all decisions on what is best for the CLUB and its' TEAMS.

UNIFORMS:

All new junior representative players are required to purchase a compulsory uniform pack ($170) which includes;

- playing uniform (Shorts & Singlet)
- Reversible training singlet
- Steelers Socks

For further information regarding uniforms & merchandise, including costs and time frames for ordering, please email merchandise@wpba.com.au

We expect a level of professionalism for all our junior representative players and coaches. Team staff must be in club issued polo top with black pants (No tracksuit pants). Players must be in correct club uniform and apparel.

SCORING

Comprehensive instructions on how to score are available in the team managers pack or can be found on the VJBL website.

Parents are required to score on a roster basis throughout the season. Your Team Manager will prepare a roster so you have plenty of notice for when you will be scoring.

Costs – SEASON 2020/21

The cost of Rep Basketball can also be daunting for many parents. Club Fees of $495 Uniform costs will be approximately $170 and weekly game fees approximately $15/week, with games running 40 weeks of the year. Spectators and players are charged stadium entry on Friday nights $3 each, depending on which stadium they play at.

The registration fee Includes:

- Court hire cost for one training session a week
- League administration fee's
- All Coaching/Administration
- Fundraising Levy ($100)

The registration fee does not include:

- Domestic registration and player insurance ($45 per player per domestic season)
- Additional training session/s court hire costs
- Additional tournament/s entry fees
- Friday night game costs

Fee Structure:

If paying in full;

Child 1 - $495.00 Additional - $350.00 3rd or more- $320.00 each

U/21's has a flat fee of $350 per player

Payment Plan:

This year WPBA have sourced a 3rd party, EziDebt to process any payment/instalment plans. Additional fees and transaction costs would be involved and are at the expense of the family.

REGISTRATION & UNIFORM NIGHT

All players once selected will again need to register online via PlayHQ, a registration link and information will be made available after the tryouts.

Ordering of uniforms can be done online, and sizes can be tried on at the WPBA office. Given the current Covid-19 time we are working on ways to ensure everyone's safety. Please await further information when the time comes.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

When a situation occurs that raises concern (pertaining to all matters EXCEPT playing time, game strategy, or issues concerning other players), we ask to follow this chain of command to resolve said situation:

- Encourage player to seek out his/her coach in a private meeting
- Arrange a meeting with players coach.
- Arrange a meeting with the Steelers Director of Coaching.
- Arrange a meeting with the WPBA General Manager or Junior Committee

The contents of these discussions/meetings will be kept confidential. As previously mentioned, it is advisable to refer to the club mission statement; vision statement; codes of conduct and rules and policies - all of which can be found on our website.

Parents are not contact the VJBL directly and must go through the Western Port Basketball Office.

COACHING

Our coaches are valued members of the Western Port Steelers community, who freely share their time and talents to develop the players on the team. All team coaches are essential volunteers, with some being parents of players.

Each age group will have a coordinator, who is responsible for all the teams in that age group. They will assist the other coaches involved in that age group to ensure quality coaching with uniform structure is provided to all our junior representative players.

The group nature of our training sessions ensures that coaches along with the players are learning all the time.

All coaches are led by Director of Coaching Sinisa Markovic who is assisted by Janine Davies.

TEAM/PLAYER PHOTOS

Western Port will conduct a player and team photo session, all players, coaches and managers will be required to attend. These photos are done by professional photographers and as such, all team members must be in attendance.

Details will be released in early 2020.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are various ways players and parents can further help the club. Volunteers are required for the following important functions at the club:

- **Team Manager**
- **Assistant Coach: Coaching courses will be made available**
- **Big V floor wipers, setting up and cleaning up (There will be a roster for this, but many parents assist at all home games)**
- **Referees: Players can learn more about the game and earn some money. Contact the office for more details**
- **Become A Sponsor: Perhaps your company can help by providing sponsorship. Contact the office for more details**
- **Sub-committees: Parents can help by joining one of the sub-committees that help with the running of the club**

JUNIOR PATHWAY

Junior Representative basketball begins with Under 12 and continues up to Big V.

From entering WPBA junior representative program, players skill set, game strategy and team play are developed to assist each player be the best they can be.

Big V Basketball is one of the largest semi-professional basketball leagues in the world and the 3rd highest level of elite senior basketball in Australia.

Our Big V coaches look to our junior representative program for potential recruits. It is from the WPBA junior representative teams that the future Big V players are identified, resulting in our Big v coaches showing a keen interest in the development and progression of our junior players.

Western Port Basketball has 4 teams in Big V:

Division 1 Men

Division 1 Women

Youth League Men

Youth League Women

CODES OF CONDUCT

Basketball is intended to be a recreational activity for enjoyment and health.

This code of conduct has been developed by Basketball Victoria to give participants some guide to the expectations it has on those participants. It is intended to assist everyone to obtain the maximum benefit and enjoyment from their involvement in basketball.

As a result, the quality of participation will be improved so people are more likely to start and continue their involvement in basketball.

Western Port Basketball abides by Basketball Victoria's code of conduct for players, parents and spectators.

Additionally, Western Port Basketball believes that correct behaviour extends to comments made on social media outlets such as Facebook and the like. Negative and derogatory comments made about Western Port, players, coaches, referees, officials or even opposition teams will not be tolerated, and Western Port will deal with such infringements seriously. It is now a reportable offence and players and parents who breach any codes of conduct via a social media outlet are referred to the Basketball Victoria Tribunal

The full version of these expectations is located on the Basketball Victoria website and can also be found posted on stadium noticeboards.

Any breaches of these codes of conduct by any player, parent or spectator will be reviewed by the Junior Representative Committee or referred to the General Committee for more severe breaches.

Where applicable, punishment can include suspension from attendance at all domestic and Junior Representative games

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Understand and play by the rules.
- Respect referees and other officials.
- Control your temper.
- Work equally hard for yourself and for your team.
- Be a good sport.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
- Play for the "enjoyment of it" and not just to please parents and coaches
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Be prepared to lose sometimes.
- Listen to the advice of your coach and try to apply it at practice and in games.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Never disrespect your club, teammates or opposition on a social media outlet

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Encourage children to participate for their own interest & enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to always play by the rules.
- Teach children that an honest effort is always as important as a victory.
- Focus on developing skills & playing the game and less on winning.
- A child learns best by example. Applaud good play by all teams.
- Do not criticise your or others' children in front of others.
- Accept decisions of all referees as being fair & called to the best of their ability.
- Set a good example by your own conduct, behaviour and appearance.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal & physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators.
- Keep children in your care under control.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Never disrespect any members of your club or any other club on a social media outlet

SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

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

TEAM MANAGER'S DUTIES

Each team must elect a Team Manager. The following list details the duties of a Steelers Team Manager. The Team Manager will be issued with a team bag at the start of the season containing:

- First aid kit
- White board
- Team Ball
- Various other items.

It is the team manager's responsibility to ensure all items are looked after and not misplaced.

A team manager's main job is to ensure that the coach "just coaches" and doesn't have to worry about:

- Who is scoring?
- Whether there is a uniform colour clash (home team needs to change)
- Whether all players can play.

Team Manager's should take to each game the following:

- List of player details – name, playing number, date of birth, address, phone, parents names. These will be supplied by the front office before your first game
- Fixture
- Scoring roster
- List of venues

Put all notices received in a folder as these may be handy to refer to during the season.

Managers serve as a liason between the parent body and the coach and if any problems with parents or players within the team come about, then the coach needs to be aware of what is happening.

Be aware that if there is a colour clash the HOME team or, if at a neutral venue the first named team must change colour.

Each team must provide a competent scorer. All parents are to take a turn and a roster is to be provided by the Team Manager. Any parent not confident to score should be given assistance by another parent in the team. Draw up a roster so that scoring is shared.

The team manager pays the team sheet fee at the door. It is advised to team managers that they get parents to pay games in advance (i.e. $50 per parent to start a kitty up). This saves time for the team manager in chasing up players for team sheet money.

All venues should use the Stadium Scoring program run on laptops/tablets. The following paragraph may not always apply but in case paper scoresheets are used please ensure the following happens. All the relevant details are completed i.e. Coach's name and team members names and numbers (Most times this will be pre-printed, please double check numbers). All players must sign (full signature and not just initials) the back of the score sheet! DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE!

To play finals all player must play a required amount of games and signatures are the only verification of this. Fines apply for incomplete score sheets. These fines invoiced to WPBA and will then be passed on to the team.

We ask all managers to attend the team managers meetings. Western Port Basketball hold a couple of these throughout the season. It is at these meetings that concerns can be raised with the club. Further, these meetings give a great opportunity to be able to offer advice and suggestions, and to work together to build the Steelers Junior Representative Program. Communication is the key to ensuring a season runs smooth. Constant communication with the front office staff will ensure any potential problems can be taken care of

Finally, all Junior Steelers teams are required to assist with the running of Big V games, run between March & August each year on a roster basis, all Junior Steelers teams will be required to assist in 1 or 2 home games per season. The team manager will be required to notify parents and players for each of these home games the team is rostered on for.

USEFUL WEBSITES

The following website links will assist greatly in ensuring any information you may require can be found:

- **Western Port Basketball: www.wpba.com.au**
- **VJBL: www.vjbl.com.au**
- **Basketball Vic Country: www.bvcc.net.au**

All the above organisations have Facebook/Instagram pages. We encourage you to join all of them to stay up to date with all thing's basketball