

Junior **WPBA** REPRESENTATIVE



2024-2025 SEASON **JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE** **STEELERS HANDBOOK**

WESTERN PORT
BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION



STEELERS

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KEY CONTACTS:

General Manager
Representative Program Administration

Cam Roberts
Sophie Adams

ACCOUNTS

Our accounts are based offsite. If you have any questions or queries, please email: **accounts@wpba.com.au**

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

Email: **jnrrep@wpba.com.au**

OFFICE DETAILS:

Address: 14 Edward Street, Somerville 3912
Telephone: 03 5977 7533
Email: **office@wpba.com.au**

ADMINISTRATION:

www.wpba.com.au/admin/



The best way to contact the Association is via email:
office@wpba.com.au

Congratulations on being selected to represent the Western Port Basketball Association (WPBA) in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL). The VJBL is an elite competition where the best players, coaches, teams and officials from around Victoria compete each Friday night.

WPBA has identified you and your teammates as players that have potential to represent us at this level. To our new players and parents, we welcome you to the Steelers Program. We hope that through hard work, dedication and participation, you will achieve excellence in basketball.

With your commitment to the WPBA Steelers Program, we will be able to enhance your skills, ability and basketball knowledge through our experienced coaches and training structure. It is crucial that you attend all training sessions and games as a priority for your improvement and development.

Accepting a position in the Steelers Program is a year long commitment with tryouts, grading phases, tournaments and the VJBL season spanning between October and September the following year.

For returning players and families, welcome back for another season and we thank you for your ongoing support of our Association.

We would also like to thank our Domestic Clubs for their tireless efforts in providing a local competition for all players. WPBA exists because of our home grown and local players desire to pursue excellence in basketball at the Representative level.

Above all else, selection into Representative basketball is only the first step into basketballs elite pathway. What you make of it is entirely up to the amount of work you put in. Believe in yourself and build a bond of trust with your team and together be the best you can be.

Please take the time to read this handbook and utilise its reference material as the season progresses. You will find useful information on our website <https://wpba.com.au/juniors/> and the VJBL website: <https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/vjbl/home> which has fixtures, results, ladders and a host of other information for the coming season.

Kind Regards

CAM ROBERTS - WPBA General Manager

Basketball Victoria

The governing body for basketball in Victoria and is responsible for operating the Victorian Junior Basketball League. Basketball Victoria also organises and operates development programs, talent identification camps, the state team program and participation programs such as Aussie Hoops and Hooptime.

The VJBL Competition – Junior Steelers

The Junior Steelers teams play on a Friday evening in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL). The VJBL is managed by Basketball Victoria, the peak body for basketball in Victoria, under Basketball Australia.

The competition includes the Victorian Championships (VC) and the Victorian Junior League (VJL). Teams in these competitions play at stadiums throughout the Greater Melbourne Metropolitan and Country Victoria.

Grading for the Competition begins in December and is broken into two parts – Phase 1 in December. Teams are then regraded pending the results of Phase 1, then Grading Phase 2 is held throughout late January and February, before the season commences in March and finals are held at the end of September.

The Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) Rules

The VJBL have several operational rules that the Association and participants must abide by. Later in this handbook, we have provided the Codes of Conduct for Parents and Players. Coaches also have Codes of Conduct they adhere to.

The VJBL Rules of Operations can be found on the Basketball Victoria website, along with competition dates and important information including:

- No Zone Information and Process for teams in U12 and U14 age groups
- Travel and Neutral Game Rule
- Hair and Hair Accessory Rule
- Protective Equipment Rule
- Concussion Policy and Protocols

Behavioural Technical Foul Policy

The VJBL has strict rules and regulations relating to referees and has implemented a Behavioural Tech Foul Policy. It is important to understand that gestures including facial expressions and body language if deemed as dissent by the game officials can penalised with a Technical Foul at the discretion of the referees.

Penalties because of Technical Fouls cannot be reversed or removed due to perceived harshness.

The following VJBL penalties are in place for repeated Technical Fouls:

First Technical Foul – no suspension

Second Technical Foul – 1 Game Suspension

Third Technical Foul – 2 Game Suspension*

Fourth Technical Foul – 4 Game Suspension*

Fifth & subsequent Technical Foul – 6 Game Suspension*

Please Note: The Technical Foul count does not reset until the next season.

WPBA supports the stance of the VJBL. In addition to the penalties above, the following will occur at the Association level:

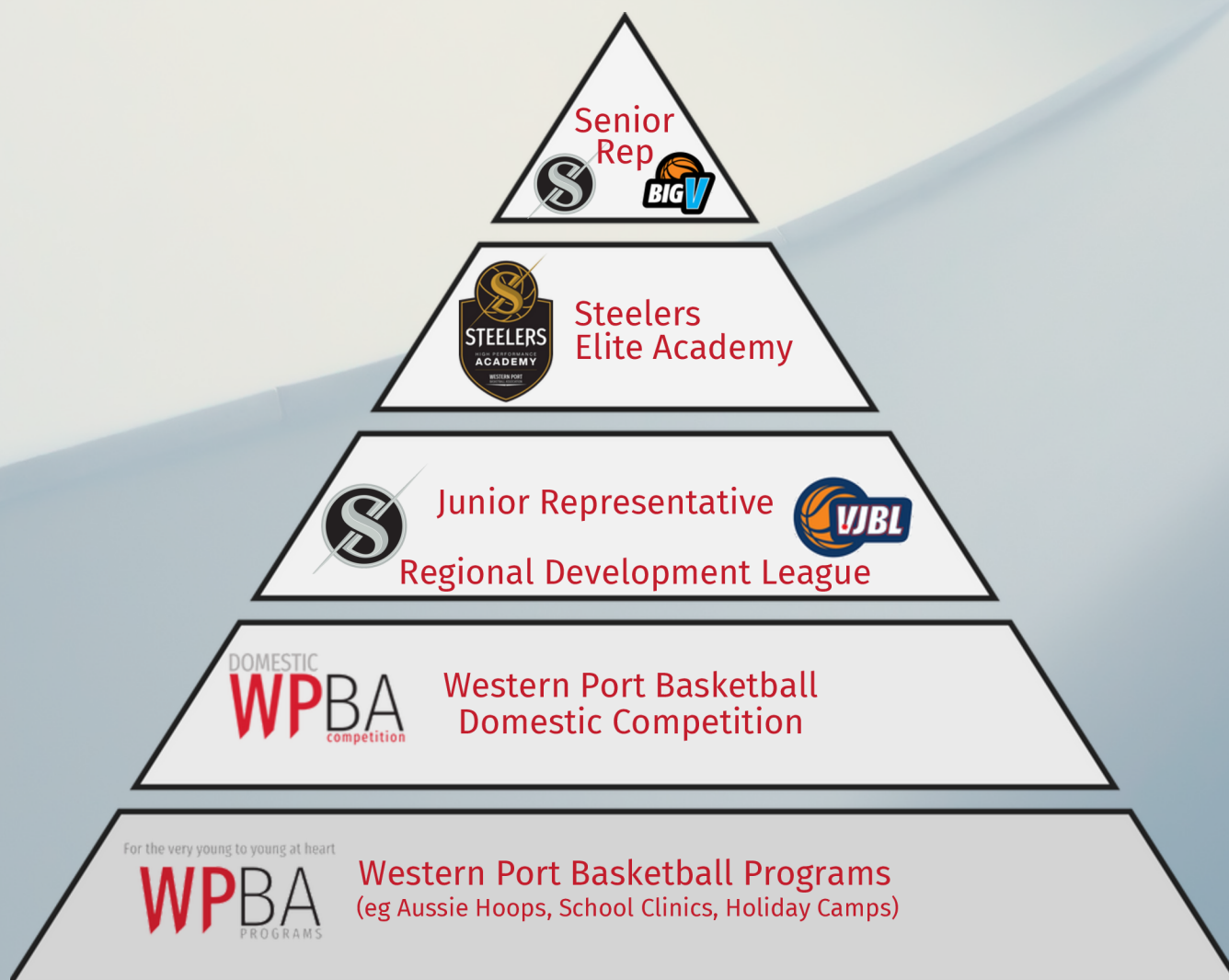
- * After the third Technical Foul, the player/coach will be required to attend an internal hearing to discuss the situation and establish the player/coach's position within the Steelers Program
- Appeals – although the VJBL has an appeals mechanism, WPBA will not appeal Technical Fouls that have been issued or penalties that have come from a Technical Foul unless an error has been made (ie. called on the wrong player) and there is video evidence to prove an error occurred. Each Technical Foul appealed has a non-refundable \$75 fee that will be charged to the player or coach. This fee includes the VJBL fee that is charged to the Association and must be paid before the appeal is lodged to the VJBL.

The Big V Competition – Senior Steelers

The Senior Steelers teams compete in the Big V Competition. Western Port fields senior teams in the Open Men, Open Women, Youth League Men and Youth Women Competitions. This season runs from April to September with home games being held each Saturday night or Sunday afternoon during the season.

Western Port Player Pathway

Junior Representative Basketball begins with Under 12s and continues up to Big V and beyond. Our current player pathway is denoted below:



Playing Representative Level Basketball

When representing WPBA as a Steeler, it is important that each player and parent understand that the playing standard is much higher and stronger than local domestic competitions. The “VJBL” is the highest league for junior basketball.

Our representative teams will compete against some of the best individuals and teams from throughout Victoria e.g. Dandenong Rangers, Knox Raiders, Nunawading Spectres, Melbourne Tigers to name a few of the familiar clubs.

All Associations go through a grading period to ensure teams are placed in their correct level of competition. The “Grading Phase” include:

- Spring Phase – Commences end October, practice games for Associations.
- Pre-Grading – Games to determine team’s entry level if the league is unsure.
- 1st Grading Phase – Commences November: Consists of three rounds of games as well as crossover games and any challenge game that may be required.
- 2nd Grading Phase – Commences end January. Consists of three rounds of games as well as crossover games and any challenge game that may be required.

Each phase is a process that teams must play to determine their correct level of entry. After the completion of the 2nd Grading Phase, all teams will commence their season. Teams may also compete in different tournaments held throughout the year. These tournaments are not compulsory and are up to the individual team and their coaching staff to determine if they participate.

Some of the tournaments include the Eltham-Dandenong Tournament (Australia Day), Ballarat Tournament (Kings Birthday), Nunawading Tournament (Kings Birthday).

Parent/Carer Commitment

Please support the whole team during games and trainings, not just your son or daughter. The coach is to be the only source of technical feedback to the players. Coaching from the sidelines is never appropriate regardless of your knowledge of Basketball. This practice confuses players.

Parents/Carers also need to be careful about discussing team issues in front of their children. If you speak negatively about a coach, player or referee, your child may adopt the same negative attitude. We are looking for positive players and positive support from parents.

We do encourage you to be vocal in your support of our teams. However, do not make negative comments about the opposition, the referees or other team members.

Parents/Carers must also understand that coaches are given the task of making objective decisions in regard to your son or daughter with respect to what is best for the team and club. We do understand that there will be some contentious decisions.

Effective communication between the coach and you is the key to addressing any issues you may have with the coach's decision. If you have positive feedback this can be brought up at any time. However, if you have issues that need resolving then please follow the appropriate process by contacting the Head of Coaching Committee (HOCC) by email – hocc@wpba.com.au

Please Note: WPBA operate with a “Cool Off” period for 24 hours after a game. This means parents/carers cannot contact the coach of their sons or daughters’ team for at least 24 hours after a game. For example: if there is a game played on a Friday evening the coach should not be contacted until the team training on the following Sunday morning.

Costs and Fees

Representative Fees do not cover all costs associated with the representative program. WPBA subsidises the program to ensure fees are kept as affordable as possible.

The fee in 2025 will be \$675. This fee covers all Basketball Victoria entry and administration fees, 2 training sessions per week (previously one), all administration and coaching and the presentation and end of season awards.

The fee doesn't cover additional training sessions, uniforms or additional tournaments and related expenses that the team chooses to compete in.

The fee payment schedule and key dates are as follows:

Non-Payment of Fee's – The assumption is that all fee's will be paid by the allotted due date. A "No Pay, No Play" policy will apply. Should payment not be received by the specified due date, WPBA will remind individuals by emailing a statement to the nominated email address of the individual.

If payment is still not received within 14 days, the player will be deemed 'unfinancial' and maybe suspended from all domestic and representative fixtures.

Sibling Discount – A sibling discount is available to families with more than one representative player. A reduction of \$25 is available for the second player and a \$50 discount for the third and subsequent siblings.

The fee schedule for RDL athletes will differ and can be obtained by contacting the office.

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Fee Payment Schedule

Selected players will receive an email inviting them a place within the Steelers Program. To accept the invitation, players will need to register using this link. At this time, a deposit of \$50 will need to be paid.

Link to registration page: <https://www.playhq.com/basketball-victoria/register/59b98b>

Once accepted, WPBA will invoice each family for their fees.

There are different options for payment (all payments are made via the invoice provided):

1. Payment of all fees up front;
2. Payment of fees in instalments. This process is handled through our partner EziDebit. EziDebit enables families to arrange a direct debit arrangement that is more flexible. Please Note: there are additional transaction fees for this service.

Payments can be made in a number of different ways:

- Eftpos in the office or over the phone via a Credit or Debit Card
- Online using PayPal, or a Credit or Debit Card
- Direct Bank Deposit into our account (using your invoice number as the reference)

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept payments by cash.

Financial Hardship – Requests for fee relief due to genuine financial hardship should be sent to the General Manager by the participant (if under 18 years of age, the parent of the participant). Any requests for fee relief will be dealt with in confidence and on a case-by-case basis.

Players Withdrawing – A commitment for a player is for the ENTIRE season irrespective of later motivation. While fee reduction may be considered on a case-by-case basis in the event of serious injury or relocation, fee reductions are assessed upon application.

Local Competition Fine – All junior representative players are required to play in the WPBA Winter Domestic Competition. Players will be deemed to have taken part in the Domestic Competition by participating in at least 50% of games.

If there is a legitimate reason a player cannot fulfill this commitment, they will need to apply in writing to the General Manager for an exemption. Penalties for non-compliance may include a fine of \$250 or player suspension.

Registration and Uniform Session

When players are selected, they will receive an email. Please ensure you check your SPAM or Junk folders. If you do not receive an email, please contact us via email to office@wpba.com.au (do not call) and we will investigate.

The email will contain a link to register and confirm your acceptance into the program. A deposit (instalment 1) of \$50 will need to be paid and families will be given the opportunity to purchase a Player Pack containing a Backpack, Socks and Drink Bottle.

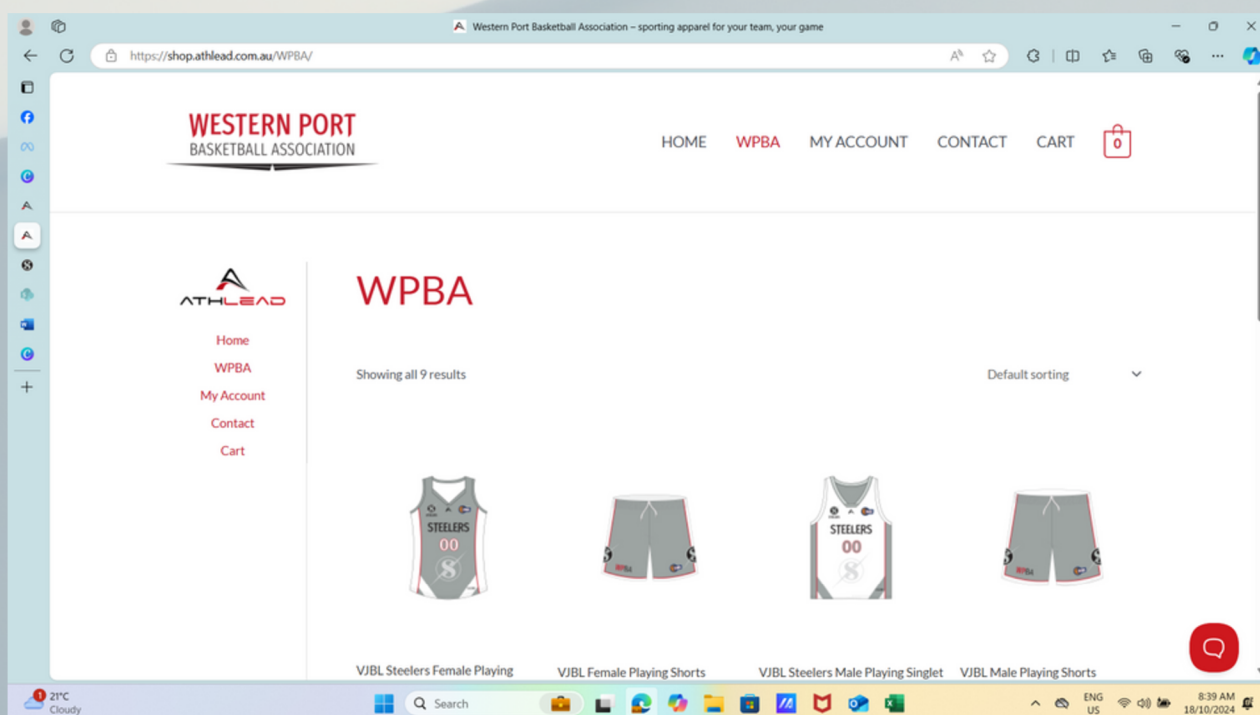
This is compulsory for new players to the Steelers program.

Players must confirm their spot in the program otherwise it may be offered to another player. Ordering for uniforms needs to be done online.

In 2025, we have a new supplier – Athlead. This will mean a change to how orders are placed (online only) and delivered to either our office or to your door.

The online store will be the place to purchase all Steelers merchandise with new products being added on a regular basis.

To order uniforms please visit: <https://shop.athlead.com.au/WPBA/>



Singlet Numbers

When participating in the uniform fitting, available singlet numbers will be available to choose from. Please speak to our staff members or volunteers on duty to reserve a number. Once confirmed, the number will be allocated to you.

When ordering your uniform, please enter the singlet number that was allocated to you. This is then cross referenced by Athlead and approved by the WPBA prior to production of uniforms.

VJBL Steelers Female Playing Singlet – Western Port Basketball Association

/wpba/product/vjbl-steelers-female-playing-singlet/

VJBL Steelers Female Playing Singlet

- 100% Polyester
- 135gsm

Size

Choose an option

First Name *

Last Name *

Player Number *

This is the player number you have provided or been provided by the association

1 Add to cart

SKU: WPBA-0102 Category: On-Court

Uniform fittings can be undertaken at the Uniform Fitting Day Sunday, 27th of October, or via appointment at the WPBA Office.

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 that this process is followed to resolve the situation:

- Encourage the player to seek out his/her coach in a private meeting.
- Arrange a meeting with the coach.
- Arrange a meeting with the Steelers Head of Coaching Committee (HOCC)
- Arrange a meeting with the Junior Representative Committee (JRC).

The content of these discussions will be kept confidential.

Parents are not to contact the VJBL directly.

Team/Player Photos

WPBA will conduct a player and team photo session all players, coaches and managers will be required to attend. These photos are taken by professional photographers.

Team photos have been booked for 2nd of March 2025.

How to get involved

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

- Team Manager;
- Assistant Coach;
- Big V set up and pack up – each team will be on a roster, but many parents assist at all home games;
- Become a Referee – players can learn more about the game and earn some money;
- Become a Sponsor – Perhaps your company can help by supporting a team;
- Sub-Committees – Parents can help by joining one of the sub-committees that help with the running of the Association.

Codes of Conducts

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 Association, teammates or opposition on social media.

Parents Code of Conduct

- Encourage children to participate for their own interest and enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to always play by the rules.
- Teach children that an honest effort is always as important as victory.
- Focus on developing skills and playing the game and less on winning.
- A child learns best by example.

DATE	VC (U12-18)	VC (U18 CHAMP)	VJL (U12-U18)
Friday, 15 NOV 2024	Grading Phase 1 - Round 1		
Friday, 22 NOV 2024	Grading Phase 1 - Round 2		
Friday, 29 NOV 2024	Grading Phase 1 - Round 3		
Friday, 6 DEC 2024	X-Over Round One		
Friday, 13 DEC 2024	Make Up Game If Required		
Friday, 20 DEC 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS		
Friday, 27 DEC 2024			
Friday, 3 JAN 2025			
Friday, 10 JAN 2025			
Friday, 17 JAN 2025			
Friday, 24 JAN 2025			
Friday, 31 JAN 2025	Grading Phase 2 - Round One		
Friday, 7 FEB 2025	Grading Phase 2 - Round Two		
Friday, 14 FEB 2025	Grading Phase 2 - Round Three		
Friday, 21 FEB 2025	X-Over Round One		
Friday, 28 FEB 2025	BYE (ALL VC)		X-Over 2
Friday, 7 MAR 2025	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1
Friday, 14 MAR 2025	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2
Friday, 21 MAR 2025	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3
Friday, 28 MAR 2025	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4
Friday, 4 APR 2025	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5
Friday, 11 APR 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS		
Friday, 18 APR 2025			
Friday, 25 APR 2025	NAME GAMES - ANZAC DAY		
Friday, 2 MAY 2025	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6
Friday, 9 MAY 2025	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7
Friday, 16 MAY 2025	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8
Friday, 23 MAY 2025	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9
Friday, 30 MAY 2025	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10
Friday, 6 JUN 2025	NO GAMES - KINGS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND and NJC WEEKEND		
Friday, 13 JUN 2025	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11
Friday, 20 JUN 2025	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12
Friday, 27 JUN 2025	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13
Friday, 4 JUL 2025	BYE	Round 14	Round 14
Friday, 11 JUL 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS		
Friday, 18 JUL 2025			
Friday, 25 JUL 2025	Round 14	Round 15	Round 15
Friday, 1 AUG 2025	Round 15	Round 16	Round 16
Friday, 8 AUG 2025	Round 16	Round 17	Round 17
Friday, 15 AUG 2025	Round 17	Round 18	Round 18
Friday, 22 AUG 2025	Round 18	FINALS	FINALS
Friday, 29 AUG 2025	FINALS	FINALS	FINALS
Friday, 5 SEP 2025	FINALS	FINALS	FINALS
Friday, 12 SEP 2025	FINALS		GRAND FINAL
Saturday, 13 SEP 2025		GRAND FINAL	
Friday, 19 SEP 2025	GRAND FINAL		
Friday, 26 SEP 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS		
Friday, 3 OCT 2025			

DATE	
Friday, 31 JAN 2025	Grading - Round 1
Friday, 7 FEB 2025	Grading - Round 2
Friday, 14 FEB 2025	Grading - Round 3
Friday, 21 FEB 2025	Grading - Round 4
Friday, 28 FEB 2025	Grading - Round 5
Friday, 7 MAR 2025	Round 1
Friday, 14 MAR 2025	Round 2
Friday, 21 MAR 2025	Round 3
Friday, 28 MAR 2025	Round 4
Friday, 4 APR 2025	Round 5
Friday, 11 APR 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Friday, 18 APR 2025	
Friday, 25 APR 2025	NO GAMES - ANZAC DAY
Friday, 2 MAY 2025	Round 6
Friday, 9 MAY 2025	Round 7
Friday, 16 MAY 2025	Round 8
Friday, 23 MAY 2025	Round 9
Friday, 30 MAY 2025	Round 10
Friday, 6 JUN 2025	NO GAMES - KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND
Friday, 13 JUN 2025	Round 11
Friday, 20 JUN 2025	Round 12
Friday, 27 JUN 2025	Round 13
Friday, 4 JUL 2025	Round 14
Friday, 11 JUL 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Friday, 18 July 2025	
Friday, 25 JUL 2025	FINALS
Friday, 1 AUG 2025	FINALS
Friday, 8 AUG 2025	GRAND FINALS