

WESTERN PORT BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

STEELERS HANDBOOK

2026 - 2027



The official guide for the 2026 - 2027 Western Port Basketball Association VJBL Steelers season



WELCOME

Welcome to the 2026/2027 Western Port Basketball Junior Representative VJBL Steelers season! Get ready for an exciting journey full of growth, teamwork, and unforgettable moments on and off the court. Your dedication, hard work, and passion for the game have paid off, and we could not be more excited to have them join the Steelers family!

Western Port Basketball Representative Program

The Western Port Steelers have experienced tremendous growth in recent years. Since 2017, we have expanded to 42 Junior Representative teams, competing in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL). Additionally, our Senior Representative program has seen success recently with 3 of our 4 teams competing in the recent BigV Finals Series. Our current teams are represented in Championship Women, Division One Men, Youth League One Women, and Youth League Two Men. We were also proud and excited to be named the BigV Club of the Year at the recent awards held in Melbourne in September 2026.

Grading Phase

The Grading Phase occurs after team choice and helps decide the team's competition level for the season. It runs from November to March, with games against other clubs and teams. The team will be evaluated in competitive games, and their division for the season will be decided based on these results.



FEES 2026 / 2027 U12 – U18 VJBL

Paying in full

Summary

Basketball Victoria Annual Participant Licence - Junior (12 month) \$34.00
Player Membership Fee
Basketball Victoria

Game Development Levy (12 month) \$5.50
Player Membership Fee
Basketball Australia

Association Player Registration Fee \$0.00
Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL)

Club Player Registration Fee (U12 – U18 Full Season Fee's) \$715.00
Western Port Steelers Basketball Club

Subtotal \$754.50

Platform Fee \$15.01
Charged by PlayHQ for using the platform

Total **\$769.51**

Total GST Included \$69.95
All values in AUD

Paying via instalments

Pay Today

Basketball Victoria Annual Participant Licence - Junior **\$34.00**

Game Development Levy **\$5.50**

Association Player Registration Fee **\$0.00**

Club Player Registration Fee (30% Deposit) **\$214.52**

Platform Fee **\$15.01**

Total (GST Included) **\$269.03**

Pay Later (Balance Owing)

You'll be automatically charged the amounts below on the dates listed, using the payment method you provide today.

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | 6 Nov 2026 | \$125.62 |
| | \$125.12 + \$0.50 instalment platform fee | |
| 2 | 6 Dec 2026 | \$125.62 |
| 3 | 6 Jan 2027 | \$125.62 |
| 4 | 6 Feb 2027 | \$125.62 |

Total (GST Included) **\$502.48**

Instalments include tax and the instalment platform fee.

Registration Payment Terms for the 2026/2027 Steelers Season

To lock in your spot in the team, please register ASAP using the link provided to you by administration. If you did not receive your link or are having difficulties, please email: sophie@wpba.com.au

Please note: The fees listed above may not apply to everyone as it depends on whether you have paid for the BV Annual Participant License and Game Development Levy in the last 12 months (this could include Domestic).

Full up front and instalment option payments as above.

Any unpaid or outstanding registration fees by the outlined dates will result in the player being unable to participate in training or matches until all fees have been settled.

For more detailed information about our fees, please contact the office.

UNIFORMS

We are excited to unveil a bold new look for the Western Port Steelers VJBL program, with our teams transitioning to a brand-new black uniform for the upcoming season.

This exciting change represents the next step in the continued growth of our representative program. The new uniform will create a strong and consistent identity across our Junior and Senior Steelers teams, ensuring our players proudly take the court as one united club.

Transition to the New Uniform

Players must continue wearing the current grey Steelers uniform until every player in their team has received the new black uniform. All teams are expected to transition to the new uniform by the commencement of Grading Phase 2.

Returning Steelers players will retain their existing playing number.

Players who are new to the Steelers program will be allocated a playing number during one of the designated Uniform Try-On Days. A uniform order cannot be placed until the player's number has been confirmed.

Black has been approved as the Steelers' primary playing colour. The white side of the reversible singlet should only be worn when the Steelers are the designated home team and there is a colour clash with the opposition. Grading Phase 1.

Teams with players who are new to Western Port may need to arrange a temporary uniform option until the new uniforms arrive. Team managers must coordinate this process to ensure that every player within the team is wearing the same uniform.

Teams may select one of the following temporary options:

- A domestic playing uniform
- The grey Steelers playing uniform
- The grey Steelers training uniform
- A plain reversible singlet purchased from Kmart, Big W or Target

Whichever option is selected must be worn consistently by the entire team. Grey playing and training uniforms must not be mixed within the same team.

New Uniform Package

The complete VJBL uniform package includes:

- Reversible playing singlet
- Playing shorts
- Warmup Top

UNIFORMS - continued

Thanks to the outstanding support of our major program sponsor, Frankston Ford | Mornington Ford | Western Port Ford, part of the Peninsula Dealer Group, together with a contribution from the Association, the complete package will be available to families for the heavily subsidised price of \$65.

The subsidised price is only available for orders placed at one of the four designated Uniform Try-On Days listed below.

Following these dates, the standard price of the package will be \$165. Families who order during the initial rollout will therefore receive a saving of \$100.

Uniform Try-On Days and Ordering

All uniform orders must be placed in person at one of the following four Uniform Try-On Days at the Somerville Recreation Centre:

- Sunday, 18 October – 9:00am to 12:00pm
- Thursday, 22 October – 5:00pm to 8:00pm
- Sunday, 25 October – 9:00am to 12:00pm
- Thursday, 29 October – 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Sizing kits will be available for players to try on each item and confirm the correct sizes before their order is placed. Ordering at one of these sessions is essential to ensure uniforms are received before teams transition to the new black uniform for Grading Phase 2.

The subsidised price of \$65 will only apply to orders placed at one of these four Uniform Try-On Days. Orders placed after the designated sessions will be charged at the standard package price of \$165.



TRAINING SESSIONS OVERVIEW

Training Days and Times:

- 1-Hour Team Session:
Held on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday
- 1- 1.5-Hour Squad Session:
Held on Saturday or Sunday

Locations:

- Bayside Christian College
- Flinders Christian College, Tyabb
- Somerville Recreation Centre
- Somerville Secondary College
- Westernport Secondary College
- Or any other venue that WPBA determines may be used for training

Attendance Expectations:

Players are expected to attend both training sessions and games, even if they are injured. However, if a player is unwell, they are to notify the Team Manager for not attending.

Game Schedule and Overview

- Friday nights (both home and away games).

Game Sheet Fees and information:

- \$130 per game rounds 1-18 plus Teamplay processing fee
- \$155 per game finals plus Teamplay processing fee
- Fees are collected by the Team Manager and paid at the door or Teampay (No Cash).
- There are no fees for spectators.
- The Team Manager will be in touch to set up the payment system for your team.
- All players are required to pay each week, regardless of attendance due to injury, school commitments, or personal reasons.
- A parent/support person will be required to be either scorer or spotter for each game. A roster of all parents will be created to ensure a fair turn throughout the season.

DOMESTIC COMPETITION REQUIREMENT

- WPBA requires all Steelers players to play in the WPBA Domestic Competition.
- All players who are selected to play for Steelers in the 2026/27 season must be registered to a WPBA Domestic Competition team for the Winter 2027 and Summer 2027/28 seasons. Players are also required play in a minimum of 8 games during each season. Exceptions for injury or any extraneous circumstances may also be considered.
- If you need help finding a WPBA Domestic team, please contact basketball@wpba.com.au.
- Steelers players may apply for an exemption from playing in the WPBA Domestic Competition. For further information on this process, please see 6.2 of the WPBA Domestic Competition Rules. Exemptions may also be granted if WPBA Domestic cannot accept a team entry with Steelers players due to the limited capacity of the Competition.



COURT TIME

Court time is determined by the coaching staff based on their assessment of player performance, effort, commitment, attendance and the overall needs of the team. While all players will be given opportunities to contribute, court time is not guaranteed and may vary from game to game. Some players may receive more court time than others depending on the dynamics of the match, training attitude, and team strategy.

All court time decisions are made at the sole discretion of the coaching staff and are fully supported by WPBA management. While feedback is acknowledged, complaints or concerns regarding court time will be given limited consideration, as these decisions are not subject to review or appeal.



TOURNAMENTS

All Steelers teams are entered into the following 2 compulsory tournaments:

Southern Peninsula Tournament

Dates: Friday, (6th Nov-8th Nov 2026)

Includes: Normally a minimum of 4 games, player and spectator entry.

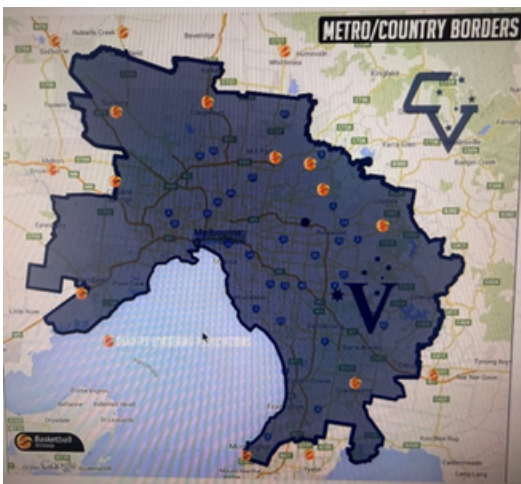
Dandenong Eltham Tournament

Dates: (22nd Jan-26th Jan 2027)

Includes: Normally a minimum of 5 games, player and spectator entry.

JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (JCC)

Steelers are entering teams into the JCC in 2027. This tournament is for selecterd players with registered PlayHQ country postcodes as defined by Country Victioria.



Tryouts will be held on Sunday 22nd November 2026 for eligible players.

JCC TOURNAMENT DATES

U18 -Sat 13th-Sun 14th Feb 2027 (Bendigo)

U16 -Sat 13th-Sun 14th Mar 2027 (Bendigo)

U14 -Sat 3rd-Mon 5th Apr 2027 (Mildura)

U12 – Fri 9th – Sun 11th Apr 2027 (Bendigo)

TOURNAMENTS AND ACCOMMODATION

Coaches may choose to participate in additional tournaments throughout the season, depending on team goals and opportunities. These tournaments are optional but highly encouraged for player development and team cohesion.

Parents will need to arrange their own accommodation for these events. Some tournaments may require accommodation bookings, so it's important to confirm the details with your team manager/coach and book your accommodation as soon as possible to ensure a spot. Early booking is recommended, as availability may be limited depending on the event location and timing.

Team Photos

WPBA will be conducting player and team photos on the 14th of March 2027 for all teams, including players, coaches, and managers. Full uniform is required to be worn.

TEAM MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Communication:** Serve as the main point of contact between coaches, players, and parents. Keep everyone updated on schedules, changes, and team news.
- **Player Welfare:** Monitor player needs and ensure a positive, supportive environment for all team members.
- **Liaise with Association:** Work closely with Westernport Basketball's management team to stay updated on league requirements, training sessions, and tournament participation.
- **Team Milestones:** Email information to Media & Communications Officer for player milestones achievements (minimum of 100+ games in VJBL competition only), minimum 24 hours' notice please. The information must come from a Team Manager or Parent - game numbers checked in PlayHQ. Please email: comms@wpba.com.au
- **End of Season Break-Up:** Organise and coordinate the team's end-of-season event or celebration.
- **Financial Management:** Collect game fees from players, manage the team's kitty spreadsheet, and ensure all game fees are paid promptly.
- **Training Roster:** Organize the training roster for parents to assist with various duties during practices and games.
- **Game Day Equipment:** Bring the game bag to all games, ensuring all necessary equipment (e.g., first aid kit, blood uniform, ball) is available.

SCORING RESPONSIBILITIES

As part of the team, all parents will be rostered throughout the season to assist with scoring during games. Your involvement is crucial to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for both players and coaches.

We understand that some parents may be unfamiliar with scoring tasks, so extra training and support will be provided to help you feel confident in your role. If you have any questions or need clarification about your responsibilities, please don't hesitate to speak with your Team Manager.

Your commitment and support are essential to the success of the team, and we greatly appreciate your contribution!

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

Players are expected to attend both training sessions and games, even if injured, to support their team. However, not if a player is unwell

Punctuality

- Games - Players should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to game time to allow for proper warm-up and preparation.
- Training - Players should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to training to ensure they are fully prepared for the session.
- Fees - paid on Time. Players are expected to pay all fees promptly, as outlined by the club, to ensure smooth operations and continued support for the team.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

At Western Port Basketball, we expect all players to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, respect, and personal responsibility. This helps create a positive, inclusive environment where everyone can thrive.

1. Understand and Play by the Rules

Always play fairly, follow the rules, and promote the integrity of the game.

2. Respect Referees and Other Officials

Treat referees, officials, and all other personnel with respect. Their decisions are final, and they help ensure a fair game.

3. Control Your Temper

Stay calm and composed, both in victory and defeat. Good sportsmanship includes controlling emotions, especially during tough situations.

4. Work Equally Hard for Yourself and Your Team

Strive to do your best, whether in training or during a game. Your effort impacts the whole team, and it's important to contribute positively.

5. Be a Good Sport

Always encourage and support your teammates and respect your opponents.

6. Treat All Players the Way You Would Like to Be Treated

Show kindness, fairness, and respect to all players, whether they are teammates or opponents.

7. Respect the Rights, Dignity, and Worth of Every Person

Treat everyone with respect, regardless of their background, gender, or ability. Inclusivity is a cornerstone of our values.

8. Be Prepared to Lose Sometimes

Accept defeats gracefully, learn from them, and use them as motivation to improve. Every setback is an opportunity for growth.

9. Listen to the Advice of Your Coach and Apply It

Trust your coach's guidance and apply their advice both during training and in games. They are there to help you improve and succeed.

10. Respect Facilities and Equipment

Take care of all facilities, courts, and equipment. Show responsibility and pride in your environment.

11. Be Responsible on Social Media

Never disrespect your Association, other Associations and/or Clubs, teammates, opposition players and officials, or referees on social media. Always represent yourself and the team in a positive manner online.

For more detailed information about the Association, Basketball Victoria Code of Conduct, Behavior Policy, and Social Media policy, please refer to our website and Basketball Victoria:

<https://wpba.com.au/policies/>

<https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/resources/association-resources/policies>

Parent Expectations

Scoring Responsibilities

As part of the team, all parents will be rostered throughout the season to assist with scoring during games. Your involvement is crucial to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for both players and coaches.

We understand that some parents may be unfamiliar with scoring tasks, so extra training and support will be provided to help you feel confident in your role. If you have any questions or need clarification about your responsibilities, please don't hesitate to speak with your Team Manager.

Your commitment and support are essential to the success of the team, and we greatly appreciate your contribution!

Parent Code of Conduct

As a parent or guardian, your role in supporting your child's basketball journey is vital. We ask that you adhere to the following principles to ensure a positive and respectful environment for all players, coaches, and families.

- Encourage Children to Participate for Their Own Interest and Enjoyment. Focus on your child's enjoyment and love of the game, rather than placing pressure on them to achieve personal or external goals. Sports should be fun and rewarding for the individual.
- Encourage Children to Always Play by the Rules. Teach your child the importance of following the rules, showing respect for officials, and understanding that fair play is integral to the spirit of the game.
- Teach Children that an Honest Effort is Always as Important as Victory. Emphasize effort, growth, and learning over the outcome. A win is great, but the effort and attitude your child brings to the game is what truly matters.
- Focus on Developing Skills and Enjoying the Game. Encourage your child to focus on skill development and enjoying the process of learning, rather than only focusing on winning. The skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship they develop will serve them well beyond the game.
- A Child Learns Best by Example. Be a role model for your child by demonstrating respect, good sportsmanship, and integrity. Children are more likely to emulate positive behaviors they see from their parents and role models.
- Be Supportive of All Players and Coaches. Show respect and encouragement not only for your child but for all players, coaches, and officials. Positive reinforcement helps foster a team spirit and an inclusive environment for everyone.
- Respect the Role of Coaches and Officials. Coaches and referees are there to guide and support all players. Never criticize or undermine their decisions, whether during games or practices. If you have concerns, address them respectfully and privately.

Parent Expectations

Parent Code of Conduct continued:

- **Avoid Sideline Coaching.** While your intentions are to help, sideline coaching can confuse players and interfere with the coach's strategies. Allow the coaches to lead the game and focus on supporting your child and the team.
- **Promote Team Spirit and Inclusion.** Encourage your child to value teamwork, inclusivity, and mutual respect, both on and off the court. Basketball is about collaboration, and every player's contribution is important, regardless of their role.
- **Understand and Support the Association's Child Safety Policies.** Adhere to the Western Port Basketball Association's Child Safety policies and respect the rights, dignity, and well-being of all children in the club. Ensure your child understands the importance of these values too.
- **Communication via the Club or Team Manager.** Parents and players are asked to direct all inquiries and concerns through the team manager, coaches, or the club's administrative contacts. This ensures that issues are handled efficiently and appropriately by the people responsible for managing the teams.
- **NO Direct Contact with Basketball Victoria (BV).** Please refrain from contacting Basketball Victoria directly regarding issues that are under the management of your local association or team – this is a direct request from BV. The Association is the appropriate point of contact for most inquiries, ensuring that BV is not overwhelmed with individual matters that can be handled at the local level.

For more detailed information about the Association, Basketball Victoria Code of Conduct, Behavior Policy, and Social Media policy, please refer to our website and Basketball Victoria:

<https://wpba.com.au/policies/>

<https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/resources/association-resources/policies>

WESTERN PORT BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The Western Port Basketball Association (WPBA) is committed to ensuring child safety in all aspects of our operations.

We are dedicated to creating an environment where children are safe, happy, and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff, coaches, and volunteers.

1. Zero Tolerance for Child Abuse

WPBA has a zero-tolerance policy towards child abuse. All allegations and concerns about child safety will be treated with the utmost seriousness and handled by our policies and procedures. We have both legal and moral obligations to report any concerns regarding a child's safety to the appropriate authorities, and we will follow these obligations rigorously.

2. Commitment to Prevention

WPBA is proactive in preventing child abuse. We are dedicated to identifying risks early and taking steps to reduce those risks through training, monitoring, and clear reporting procedures.

For any child safety concerns, please contact us at: childsafety@wpba.com.au

For more detailed information about our Child protection Policy, please refer to the full policy available on our website. You can access the Code of Conduct for the most up-to-date guidelines and expectations.

<https://wpba.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Child-Protection-Policy.pdf>

Concussion Policy (to be updated)

The health and safety of our players is a top priority. WPBA follows a strict concussion policy in line with Basketball Victoria guidelines. Any player suspected of having a concussion will be removed from play and must follow the appropriate return-to-play protocol, including medical clearance.

For full details on the Western Port Basketball Association's Concussion Policy, please visit:

<http://www.wpba.com.au/concussion-policy/>

<https://api.basketballvictoria.com.au/api/assets/bfjdhm7lzb40scok>

COMMUNICATION

Team App Goes Live: Official Comms for Junior Steelers, 2027 Season

Western Port Junior Steelers are streamlining communication for the 2027 season — Team App is now the exclusive platform for all competition messaging across every Junior Representative team, U12–U20.

From season start, all game-day updates, training changes, team announcements and VJBL competition related news will run through Team App only. Coaches and Team Managers will no longer use group texts, personal email chains, or social media for official VJBL / team communication.

Why the change?

One reliable channel — no more missed messages across group texts, emails, and socials

Instant push notifications for schedule changes and urgent updates

Centralised team calendars, rosters and documents in one place

Consistent, professional communication across all age groups & with Parental transparency on messaging

What you need to do:

Download the Team App (iOS/Android) if you haven't already

Join your child's/team's group using the code provided by your Team Manager

Turn on notifications so you don't miss updates

Team Managers will be in touch shortly with individual team codes. Questions in the meantime should go to your Age Group Head Coach.

Thanks for helping us make this transition smooth — see you on Team App!



stack team app

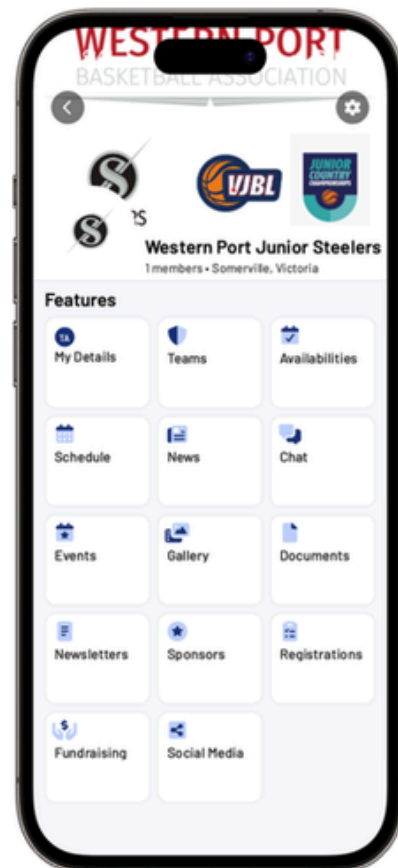


Western Port Junior Steelers

Join our app to stay up to date with our latest information - it's free!

Follow these steps to join our app:

1. Scan the QR code below & download Stack Team App or visit www.teamapp.com.
2. Sign up to Stack Team App and log in to your account.
3. Search for 'Western Port Junior Steelers' and request to join.



SCAN ME



Contact:

WPBA Office
03 5977 7533
office@wpba.com.au

Major Association Sponsor

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