



2023/24 VJBL PARENT & ATHLETE HANDBOOK

 www.broncosbasketball.com.au



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Broadmeadows Basketball Association's programs and competitions are located in Melbourne's west, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We are honoured to recognise our connection to Wurundjeri Country, history, culture, and spirituality through these locations and strive to ensure that we operate in a manner that respects and honours the Elders and Ancestors of these lands.

We respectfully acknowledge Broadmeadows Basketball's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives and visitors.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of lands across Australia, their Elders, Ancestors, cultures, and heritage, and recognise the continuing sovereignties of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations.



The Broadmeadows Basketball Association welcomes you to the Broadmeadows Broncos Program for Season 2023/2024.

Welcome to the Broadmeadows Broncos – representative program of the Broadmeadows Basketball Association. As a valued member of the Broncos family, you form part of a long line of people that have represented Broadmeadows Basketball Association.

We boast a proud history but are firmly focused on the present and the future and how as a program we can best serve our community in their basketball pursuits. In accepting a position with the Broadmeadows Broncos program, you acknowledge and welcome the expectation and commitment to excellence that comes with representing Broadmeadows Basketball.

As a representative program, the Broadmeadows Broncos contest the Victorian Junior Basketball League (Under 12s to Under 20s) and Big V – State Championship and Youth League – offering opportunities to compete in state level leagues and selected tournaments across the year.

Representative basketball does require a large commitment by yourself and your family, but it also offers an opportunity to share in many rewards. Lifelong friendships and connections can be formed during your time with the Broadmeadows Broncos – we encourage you to become involved within your team and the wider Broadmeadows community.

This Handbook has been prepared to aid your understanding of what it means to represent Broadmeadows Broncos. The information is set out in a general form, applicable to boys and girls in all age groups across the Program. Occasionally, when circumstances change, the general picture presented here may be varied by notification to a particular team or age group.

Please take the time to read the Handbook and refer to it during the season. Broadmeadows Broncos exists to enable our young athletes to reach high and, in some cases, elite levels of performance in basketball.



WHAT IS REPRESENTATIVE BASKETBALL?

Junior representative basketball is an elite competition, where athletes will have the opportunity to represent Broadmeadows Broncos against other Associations under the umbrella of Basketball Victoria. The representative program is for athletes who are committed to developing their basketball skills and knowledge of the game. Broadmeadows Broncos goes through an extensive try-out period, whereby if athletes are successful, they will be selected in a team for the following VJBL season.

All athletes in a team at representative level have an important role to play, and due to the nature of the competition athletes **are not guaranteed equal court time**. Some determining factors for court time, are an athlete's attitude towards their teammates and their coach, their skill level, their willingness to listen, their commitment and the continual improvement required across the season.

In the VJBL competition there are two tiers of competition:

- **Victorian Junior Championship** – known as 'VC', is the highest level at which junior teams can play. Only 20 teams across the state make this division.
- **Victorian Junior League** – VJL1, VJL2, VJL3, VJL4, etc. There are usually 10 teams per VJL division.

The season is broken down into distinct phases of competition:

- i. Grading Phase (1 & 2) - November to March
- ii. Championship Phase - March to September

ATHLETE & PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMITMENT

The purpose of the Broadmeadows Broncos program is to provide an environment for our athletes and coaches to succeed long-term. Long-term development is not only for basketball, but also for life and sport in general.

Once you have been selected to play representative basketball for Broadmeadows Broncos, a high level of engagement and devotion is required from each athlete and their parent/guardian. We appreciate that active children may play multiple sports, if this is the case, mutual agreement must be made between all sports.

Athlete & Parent/Guardian Expectations

Some of Broadmeadows Broncos' expectations, but not limited to, are:

- Represent Broadmeadows Broncos with pride and good sportsmanship;
- Commit to making Broadmeadows Broncos Basketball their priority sport during the season;
- Be available to play in **all** Friday night games and compulsory tournaments;
- Be committed to prioritising attendance at both Sunday and mid-week training sessions;
- Report all injuries to your Coach/Team Manager before playing or training;
- Observe Club rules relating to the wearing of playing, warm-up & training uniform;
- Acknowledge that playing time may vary for each athlete and is at the discretion of the coach;
- Respect and support your coach and fellow teammates;
- Not comment publicly, including the use of social media, to criticise athletes, coaches or



- opposition etc.;
- Abide by Basketball Victoria's Parents' & Athletes' Code of Conduct – *attached to this Handbook*
- Athlete's annual registration fees must be paid by the required date (unless alternative arrangements are made with the Broadmeadows Basketball Association).

TRAINING COMMITMENT

Attendance and participation at training sessions is important, both in developing the athlete's ability to their fullest, and in fulfilling the inherent responsibility and obligation each athlete has to their coach and team.

Training is **compulsory** for all athletes, with all teams training twice per week - a Sunday session and a midweek evening training session. If an athlete is unable to attend a training session for any reason, advanced notification is to be given to the Team Manager or Coach. Coaches are within their rights to bench an athlete or make changes to the athletes playing time if they have been absent from training without a valid reason.

Broadmeadows Broncos expects athletes and families to have a strong commitment and prioritise attendance to all training sessions throughout the season.

2023/24 REGISTRATION FEES

Broadmeadows Broncos Fees:

- **U12 – U20 Athletes:** a registration fee of **\$500** (GST inclusive)

Fees include, but not limited to:

- Court hire for VJBL competition nights & training sessions
- Basketball Victoria's VJBL Registration Fees
- Coach Honorarium & uniform
- Administration costs

Fees Do Not Include

- Weekly Scoresheet Fees - teams must pay a *Team Sheet Fee*, usually between \$125 and \$160 (this also covers door entry for **all** patrons). To cover the fee, Team Managers will collect funds via TeamPay each week.
- Tournament Entries - all tournament fees are in addition to athlete registration fees

Refunds

An athlete withdrawing from a team, after team selection and acceptance by the athlete, may request a refund of up to 50% by submitting an email to the Broadmeadows Basketball Association General Manager, outlining the reasons for the request prior to the completion of Grading Phase 1. Broadmeadows Basketball Association reserves the right to request further information from individuals surrounding the reasons for requesting a refund. For instance, a request for medical certificates, change of residential address, etc.

Note: *change of mind* is not considered an exceptional circumstance.



REPRESENTATIVE UNIFORMS

The Broadmeadows Broncos representative uniform is **compulsory** and is an important part of our program presenting a professional image and identity on and off the court. All **new** athletes will be required to purchase the compulsory kit. Total cost of compulsory uniform - **\$205.00**

Compulsory Items

All Broadmeadows Broncos athletes are required to have all **compulsory** items of apparel. Including – *playing singlet, playing shorts, warm-up top, training singlet*. In addition to the compulsory items, there are other optional items available including hoodies, backpacks etc.

Training

All athletes are required to wear the official Broadmeadows Broncos training uniform. This consists of a reversible singlet, shorts and Broadmeadows Broncos over garments.

Game Night

Athletes **must** attend games only in Broadmeadows Broncos Apparel – warm up top/hoodie plus playing uniform.

Any combination of hoodie, warm-up shirt and shorts may be worn to and from venues, depending on the weather. In the warm-up period prior to the game, shorts, playing singlet and warm-up top may be worn. At training, the reversible training top must be worn.

BROADMEADOWS BRONCOS COACHES ROLES AND STRUCTURE

The Bronco Coaching program is driven by our Director of High Performance in association with the Broncos Junior *Boys & Girls* Coaching Coordinators who evaluate, select and manage coaching staff for each age group.

The Age Group Head Coaches and Team Coaches are appointed based on their ability and willingness to impart their experience and expertise in the game of basketball. All our coaching staff are committed to provide the best environment for athletes to improve and develop on the court and as people within the Broadmeadows Broncos community.

Broadmeadows Broncos Director of High Performance

- i. Provide leadership and education to all stakeholders of Broadmeadows Basketball
- ii. Provide guidance and support to the Broadmeadows Broncos Program
- iii. Provide guidance and support to Broadmeadows Basketball Association Coach Education and Development Programs - introductory and pathways

Junior Broncos Coaching Coordinator

- i. Along with the Director of High Performance, oversee coach development
- ii. Responsible for the technical aspects of coaching and playing basketball
- iii. Along with Director of High Performance, oversee recruitment and appoints of Broncos Head Coaches
- iv. Assist with handling contentious issues



Age Group Head Coaches

- i. The Head Coach of each age group is responsible for their own coaching team - overseeing the athlete education and development within that Age Group
- ii. Have recent experience in Junior Representative development, programs and competitions

Team Head Coaches

- i. Coaches are responsible for the athlete development within their own team. They provide a professional and positive learning environment for all athletes.

Assistant Coaches

- i. Assistant Coaches are nominated by the Team Head Coach in consultation with the Age Group Head Coach and ratified by the Director of High Performance. Their role is to support the Team Head Coach in athlete development.

TEAM MANAGERS

Team Managers are appointed by the Team Head Coach once the composition of the team has been determined. All Team Managers are required to have a current *Working with Children Check (Volunteer)*, or the ability to obtain one.

The role of Team Manager is integral to the success of the team. They are responsible for ensuring that all communication from the Club, Team Head Coach or other sources is sent on to each athlete and that all families are kept abreast of all information. They are also manage team funds, scoring rosters, uniforms etc.

Communication

The first point of contact for any information to do with your team or the Club is your Team Manager.

The Team Manager is there to assist in any way possible to free the Team Head Coach up to do what they do best – **COACH**

If you wish to discuss an issue with your team Head Coach, you should make a time to speak with him/her at a non-stressful time, **NOT DIRECTLY BEFORE OR AFTER A GAME**.

DEALING WITH CONTENTIOUS ISSUES

From time to time, contentious issues arise that may cause concern. It is important that these issues are raised and dealt with at the earliest possible stage. Different issues will involve discussions with different people within the Association.

Policies and Documentations - <https://www.broncosbasketball.com.au/policies-documentation/>

The following is a guide:

- **On Selection Issues:** email your queries/concerns to the Director of High Performance, including the relevant Junior Broncos Coaching Coordinator (Boys or Girls). A response/acknowledgement of your email will be made within 48 hours.



- **On Athlete or Coach Related Issues:** email your queries/concerns to the Director of High Performance, including the relevant Junior Broncos Coaching Coordinator (Boys or Girls). A response/acknowledgement of your email will be made within 48 hours. It's not appropriate to raise a contentious issue with a Team Head Coach before or after a game. Sensible discussions rarely occur if a person is angry or upset.
- **On Team Related Issues:** contact the Team Manager in the first instance. Allow the Team Manager to take on board your concerns. If you are uncomfortable or dissatisfied talking to the Team Manager, then email your queries/concerns to the Director of High Performance, including the relevant Junior Broncos Coaching Coordinator (Boys or Girls). A response/acknowledgement of your email will be made within 48 hours.
- **On Financial or Other Sensitive Issues:** contact Broadmeadows Basketball Association Finance Officer or General Manager

**All relevant staff contact details are available on page 10*

SOCIAL MEDIA

Broadmeadows Basketball Association encourages the use of social media and recognises and appreciates its value as a tool for the Bronco community to engage, communicate, learn, share and drive interest and innovation in the sport. However, as social media involves the communication of matter in the public realm, it is important that all Broadmeadows Basketball Associations stakeholders, including members of Broadmeadows Broncos, abide by particular standards of behaviour whilst using these tools.

Broadmeadows Basketball Association's [Social Media Policy](#) is to protect and educate those involved with Broadmeadows Basketball and the appropriate use of social media and behaviours expected when using social media.

CONTACTING VJBL

Under no circumstances are Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, parents or athletes to contact the VJBL office. All communications with the VJBL **MUST** go through the Club Delegate.

This is a mandated rule put in place by VJBL. For every instance that someone other than the Club Delegate contacts VJBL, the Club receives a fine.

HOME COURTS

Our home courts is:

- **Broadmeadows Basketball Stadium** – 1 Tanderrum Way, Broadmeadows VIC 3047 ([Google Maps](#))

For a list of all VJBL venues - <https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/resources/competition-resources/vjbl>



COURT TIME MANAGEMENT

Being selected into a Broadmeadows Broncos team does not guarantee playing time for any athlete across any age group. The amount of court time is at the discretion of the Head Coach according to:

- The level of competition
- Team requirements – set by the Head Coach & Assistant Coach of the team
- The role of the athlete
- The importance of the game
- Commitment to training and development

Parents concerned with their athlete's role on the team can arrange a suitable time to discuss their concerns with the team's Head Coach, Age Group Head Coach and, if required, the Director of High Performance/Junior Broncos Coaching Coordinator. **NOTE – No parent is to approach a Head Coach or Assistant Coach regarding court time matters before or after a game.**

INJURIES

Athletes must advise the Team Manager or Team Head Coach of any injury prior to training and games as soon as they are aware that they are unable to participate. All athletes are encouraged to wear a mouthguard at training and games.

Basketball Victoria provides a level of insurance to all registered members of Affiliated Associations. Registered athletes are covered for expenses associated with injuries incurred at training, games and tournaments.

Basketball Victoria's insurance provider is V-Insurance Group and details regarding the level of coverage can be found via their website - <http://www.vinsurancegroup.com/basketball>

FINALS QUALIFICATION

Team Managers need to ensure that athletes are listed on the team sheet for the game to be counted towards Finals Qualification. **If a venue is using a paper scoresheet, athletes MUST sign the back of the scoresheet BEFORE THE GAME to ensure the game is recognised for Finals qualification.**

To be eligible to represent a team in finals, a player must play a minimum of **40%** of games with that team. In the case that 40% would not be a round number then the total will be rounded up. (i.e. 9.2 games would become 10 games). Grading Phase Two games will be included in the total.

Medical certificates may be accepted as evidence of injury/illness and can be used for exemption to game qualification criteria.

During Championship Phase, athletes injured **prior to July 1st** must have their medical certificates emailed into the VJBL Administration by the **July 1st via the Club Delegate**. Any athlete with an injury **after July 1st** (except last 2 rounds) will have fourteen (14) days from diagnosis to produce a doctors certificate to the VJBL Administration.



TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

Broadmeadows Broncos teams will have the opportunity to compete in tournaments as part of their development. Junior Broncos teams will play in at least one tournament throughout the year.

Tournament Fees

Each team is responsible for covering entry fees and related tournament expenses.

Compulsory Tournaments

- **Eltham/Dandenong Tournament** – January (Australia Day long weekend) or
- **Bendigo Junior Classic Tournament** – January (Australia Day long weekend)

- **National Junior Classic** – June (King's Birthday long weekend)

This is a prestigious Australian invitational club tournament in which the Top 8 club teams in U12 to U18 VC competition are invited to compete against the top clubs from interstate. This tournament is played in 2 or 3 venues around Melbourne over the weekend.

If your son/daughter is selected into a VC team, and the team is successful in selection, the National Junior Classic tournament is a compulsory team event.

Note: this is played on the King's Birthday long weekend. Holidays and/or any other representative sporting commitments will **NOT** be accepted as a valid reason for non-attendance at the tournament.

Compulsory Invitation Tournaments

- **Australian U14 Boys' / Girls' Club Championships** - September School Holidays

This is an invitation only tournament for the Top 4 U14 teams in Victoria to play against the top teams from around Australia. This is the most prestigious club U14 basketball competition in Australia. The girls' and boys' tournaments are held in different regional or state capitals each year in the September school holidays.

Broadmeadows Broncos U14 Teams who win the right to play in this tournament will be required to participate in fundraising events to help alleviate the costs associated and incurred by all team members.

Optional Tournaments

Other optional tournaments that Junior Bronco teams may wish to participate in include:

- **Adelaide Easter Classic Basketball Tournament** (Easter long weekend)
- **Nunawading Spectres Tournament** (King's Birthday long weekend)
- **Ballarat Junior Basketball Tournament** (King's Birthday long weekend)



BRONCOS SENIOR HOME GAMES ROSTER

Broadmeadows Broncos is proud to have four teams competing in the Big V competition. This is a strong brand of basketball on show each week during the Big V season between March and August. Junior Broncos teams will be allocated a Big V game to come down and get involved. There are plenty of tasks to share around on Game Day, and it's a fun way to be part of the action. Your Coach and Team Manager will be contacted with the details of when your team is scheduled to be on duty.

This provides Junior Broncos athletes a unique experience to access the club's senior athletes and provide an insight into what their basketball future could involve, whilst creating a link between Senior and Junior Broncos programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

w - <https://www.broncosbasketball.com.au/junior-rep/>

p - 03 9309 5655

Broadmeadows Basketball Association Head Office is located at:

1 Tanderrum Way, Broadmeadows 3047 ([Google Maps](#))

Luke Lehmann

General Manager

e: manager@broncosbasketball.com.au

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Clarissa Tomlinson

Junior Broncos Girls Coaching Coordinator

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Director of High Performance

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Junior Broncos Boys Coaching Coordinator

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BASKETBALL VICTORIA'S
CODES OF
CONDUCT



Broadmeadows Broncos prides itself on its culture of fostering positive support and behaviour from our athletes and families. The demonstration of these values is part of each athletes' and families' commitment to our program. We follow and are guided by *Basketball Victoria's Codes of Conduct* which describe in detail the behavioural expectations.

Basketball Victoria's Codes of Conduct are located on the Broadmeadows Basketball Association Website.

Basketball is intended to be a recreational activity for enjoyment and health. These codes 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. Enjoy!!

Parents' Code of Conduct

Source: Basketball Victoria

1. Encourage children to participate for their own interest and enjoyment, not yours

Support your children in their participation in basketball but do not force them to play if they don't want to. Sport is played by children for enjoyment and fitness. It is good for their bodies but should also be good for their minds. If they feel too much pressure from you it may make them rebellious or even depressed. It is very tempting for parents who are involved in a sport, or who have children with abilities they wish they had themselves to try and force the children to participate or to participate at a level to which they do not aspire. Resist the temptation.

2. Encourage children to always play by the rules

Just as responsible parents teach their children to obey the law of the land, so should those same parents encourage their children to play sport by the rules. If your children show no respect for the rules of the game of basketball, they can also come to believe that breaking the law is acceptable too. If you see your children constantly breaching rules you should be prepared to speak to them at an appropriate time.

3. Teach children that an honest effort is always as important as a victory

Your children will suffer many disappointments in their lives. You should teach them from an early age that whilst a win in basketball will bring them much pleasure, it is not the most important thing. Participating to the best of their abilities is far more important than winning. You can help them learn this, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.

4. Focus on developing skills and playing the game. Reduce emphasis on winning

If children see that effort is rewarded by an increase in skills, they will derive considerable pleasure and see the importance of striving to improve over the necessity to win every game. Primary responsibility for skills training rests with the children and their coaches but you can assist with their enthusiasm by attending games, encouraging them to practise away from formal training and games and even joining in with this practice.

5. A child learns best by example. Applaud good play by all teams

Acknowledge all good plays whether they be by your children's team or the other team. Good manners and respect can be infectious. If you acknowledge the achievements of your children's



opponents it is likely your children will follow suit. This can assist to create a positive and supportive climate for all children involved in the game.

6. Do not criticise your or others' children in front of others

Reserve constructive criticism of your own children for more private moments. Children can be very sensitive and feel strong humiliation if they are criticised in front of their peers. When you do feel the necessity to speak to your child about something that displeases you, make the effort to explain what the problem is and why you are concerned about it. If you can see some



Athletes' Code of Conduct

Source: Basketball Victoria

1. Understand and play by the rules

Understanding and playing by the rules is your responsibility. The rules exist for the safety, proper order and enjoyment of all people involved in basketball. The lessons to be learned in this respect in basketball are lessons that can and should be carried over into all aspects of your lives. Do not ignore or deliberately break any rules. Even if you think that a deliberate foul may give your team an advantage, you should not commit the deliberate foul in the interests of fair play. If you do consistently commit deliberate fouls or break the rules you must accept that there will be consequences for you and your team. Do not let yourself or your team down.

2. Respect referees and other officials

Referees and officials have a difficult task to perform and you could not play the game without them. They are there to enforce the rules of play but they cannot always be right. Accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees is unacceptable behaviour. Athletes who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions are bad sports. If you disagree with a decision, have your coach, captain or manager approach the referee during a break or after the game, in an appropriate manner.

3. Control your temper

Verbal abuse of officials is a serious offence against the rules of basketball. Verbally abusing other athletes or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are also not acceptable or permitted in basketball. Loss of temper is not only unpleasant for other participants in the game, it can also distract you and have an adverse effect on your concentration and effectiveness on the court.

4. Work equally hard for yourself and for your team

You owe it to yourself and others involved in your team to train and play to the best of your abilities. Your team's performance will benefit - so will you. If you are half-hearted about your involvement in the sport you will become dissatisfied and lose out on the much of the enjoyment and satisfaction you can derive from giving it your best.

5. Be a good sport

Acknowledge all good plays whether they be by your team or the other team. Good manners and respect can be infectious. Everyone likes to be praised when they do something well. If you acknowledge the achievements of your opponents it is likely they will follow suit. Part of participation in sport is respect for all participants in the game. Your opponents are entitled to proper courtesy. Always introduce yourself to your opponents on court, congratulate them whether you win or lose and accept a loss gracefully. Remember that the opposition coach is there trying to do the best for their team and is also entitled to respect.

6. Treat all athletes as you would like to be treated

Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another athlete. Just because one of your team cannot perform as well as you do does not mean that they are not trying. Everyone makes mistakes. Do not abuse or ridicule another athlete when a mistake is made. Constructive guidance and encouragement when an athlete does well will assist an athlete to improve their game.



7. Play for the “enjoyment of it” and not just to please parents and coaches

Playing sport, including basketball, should be fun. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't take it seriously, just that at the same time you should enjoy it. If you enjoy an activity you will perform much better and derive far more benefit from it than if it is an unpleasant experience. You may experience pressure from your coach and parents and others to perform outside of your capability or desires. Whilst this can be a positive and their way of showing you support in your activities, you should resist it where it no longer is enjoyable.

8. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person

Regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, religion or other factor irrelevant to the game, all persons connected with basketball are entitled to equal treatment and respect. Avoid any remarks that could be construed as offensive or discriminatory. Sometimes even a joke may give offence. Even if a person refers to themselves with a particular label, it should not be taken as an invitation for you to do so. Using discretion is imperative and it is better to err on the side of caution.

9. Be prepared to lose sometimes

Everyone wins and loses at some time. Be a fair winner and a good loser. Disappointment at losing is natural, but it should not be obvious to the point of being unpleasant for others. Just as unpleasant can be the boastful winner. Recognise that even in defeat, the loser has achieved something, just by playing. Not everything in life can be a winning situation. Losing can be an important learning experience for your wider life goals.

10. Listen to the advice of your coach and try to apply it at practice and in games

Your coach has been appointed to coach your team because they have certain abilities and experience. They have also undergone training to ensure that you get the best coach that you can commensurate with your skill levels. Apart from skills training, your coach can provide you with helpful advice on all aspects of playing basketball. Make the most of the opportunity provided to you to work with your coach to have a happy and successful experience in basketball.

11. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided

Facilities and equipment cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use. Do not engage in dangerous practices such as hanging off hoops or “slam dunking”. Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues. Not only can equipment be damaged but serious injury can occur.



Spectators' Code of Conduct

Source: Basketball Victoria.

1. Remember that most people play sport for enjoyment

People are not playing basketball for the entertainment of spectators nor are many of them professionals. You should be watching basketball for your own enjoyment and to show support for those playing. Help the athletes to enjoy their game. Applaud good performances from each team. Congratulate all athletes regardless of the outcome.

2. Accept decisions of all referees as being fair and called to the best of their ability

Referees and officials have a difficult task to perform. You would not have a game to enjoy without them. They are there to enforce the rules of play but they cannot always be right. Accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees is unacceptable behaviour. Spectators who consistently dispute decisions or do not accept bad decisions are bad sports. If you disagree with a decision, accept it graciously – you cannot change it.

3. Always be positive in your support for athletes

Never ridicule or shout at a athlete, particularly a young athlete for making a mistake during competition. Positive support for athletes will offer encouragement to them and most likely spur them to better things on the court.

4. Condemn the use of violence in any form

Never encourage athletes to engage in violence or engage in it yourself. Violence has no place in basketball and strong action should be taken to discourage it.

5. Respect your team's opponents, officials and spectators

Without your team's opponents, there would be no game. Their supporters are there to enjoy the game as much as you are. Light-hearted banter with an opposing spectator can add a further element of fun to a game. Conversely, nasty or inappropriate behaviour or remarks will seriously detract from it.

6. Encourage athletes to obey the rules and to accept decisions of officials

Often athletes can get carried away when spectators become enthusiastic or heated over an issue. This can be a positive, but it can also be negative when it involves such behaviour as disputing decisions. Always encourage athletes to obey the rules and do not dispute referees' decisions.

7. Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language or harassing athletes, coaches or officials

Anti-social behaviour such as foul or abusive language has no place in basketball. If others engage in it, just ignore them – they will soon tire of it if they get no reaction. Alternatively, ask them politely to desist. If it continues and it is serious, bring it to the attention of an official.

8. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person

Regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, religion or other factor irrelevant to the game, all persons connected with basketball are entitled to equal treatment and respect. Avoid any remarks that could be construed as offensive or discriminatory. Sometimes even a joke may give offence. Even if a person refers to themselves with a particular label, it should not be taken

as an invitation for you to do so. Using discretion is imperative and it is better to err on the side of caution.

9. Keep children in your care under control

Basketball encourages you to bring your children to games. However, there can be dangers to them in a basketball stadium. They can also constitute a danger to athletes. You should ensure that children with you at a basketball game are well behaved and do not wander onto or too near to courts. They can easily be knocked down by a athlete or a athlete can trip over a child when concentrating on the play and not expecting a small child to be in the way.

10. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided

Facilities and equipment cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use. Do not encourage athletes to engage in dangerous practices such as hanging off hoops or “slam dunking”. Quite properly, these practices are banned in most venues. Not only can equipment be damaged but also serious injury can occur.

