



Magic

**2024 JUNIOR
REPRESENTATIVE
HANDBOOK**

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Mandurah Basketball Association - Junior Representative Program.

Our association is represented in the Western Australian Basketball League (WABL) under the Mandurah Magic title. With male and female teams competing in numerous divisions from under 12's to under 20's.

This handbook has been designed as a reference guide to provide valuable information surrounding the program's aims and operational parameters, please take the time to read it.

Involvement in the Junior Representative Program (whether as an athlete, parent/guardian, coach or team manager) is an extremely rewarding experience. It also carries with it responsibilities as you are advertising our club to the greater community.

Acceptance of a position within the program acknowledges your agreement to uphold expectations outlined in this handbook and Basketball WA's, WABL related policies.

FORWARD

Welcome all athletes, parents, coaches and team managers to our 2024 Junior Representative Program.

Competitive sport provides opportunity for athletes to develop lifelong skills surrounding work ethic, self-awareness, teamwork, and leadership. We aim to provide you, our Junior Representative members, with a safe, enjoyable and engaging environment so you can learn, progress and develop lasting connections to your community.

Some of your fondest memories as you progress through your basketball career and life in general will be your junior years. You will meet new people, learn new skills, face new and challenging situations and forge friendships that will last a lifetime.

You have the privilege and responsibility of representing Mandurah Basketball Association. Regardless of your role within the program we expect you always demonstrate our values:

MINDFUL AUTHENTIC GENEROUS INTEGRITY CELEBRATION

The success of our program is measured not only by our performance, but our standards:
Be Fair; Be Respectful; Be Gracious; Be Supportive;

Be **MAGIC!!!**

WABL OVERVIEW

The Western Australian Basketball League (WABL) is the premier junior competition in the state. It is a key step in Basketball WA and Basketball Australia's high performance pathways.

The League caters for age groups from under 12 to Open Age Championship (D-League). Games are played on Sunday throughout the season which commences in April and concludes in September.

13 Basketball Associations currently compete in the WABL, from both metropolitan Perth and country regions. Current teams competing in WABL are:

COCKBURN Cougars

EASTERN Suns

EAST PERTH Eagles

HILLS Raiders

LAKESIDE Lightning

MANDURAH Magic

PERRY LAKES Hawks

PERTH Redbacks

ROCKINGHAM Flames

SOUTHWEST Slammers

WARWICK Senators

JOONDALUP Wolves

WILLETON Tigers

Home Games will be predominantly played at Mandurah Aquatic Recreation Centre (MARC).

Away Games will often require travel to home stadiums of the above-mentioned teams and can be situated anywhere between Bunbury in the South and Joondalup in the North.



JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE CONTACTS

Mandurah Basketball Association is situated at:
Mandurah Aquatic & Recreation Centre (MARC)
303 Pinjarra Rd, Mandurah
Phone: (08) 9550 3849
Office Hours are: 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Our dedicated team are here to assist with any enquiries participants or their families have regarding the Junior Representative Program:



Shannon Wright
Junior Representative Director:
junior.representative.director@mandurahbasketball.com.au



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Junior Representative Officer
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WABL TRIAL REGISTRATION

Trials for 2024 Junior Representative Program positions (WABL) are 29th October, 2023 and 5th November, 2023. Times for age groups will be announced via MBA's website, Social Media pages and e-mail to registration databases.

Athletes must register for trials through the PlayHQ link which will open on 26th September, 2023 and close 26th October, 2023. This link will be attached to all trial announcements. All details prompted within the registration link must be completed and the applicable fee paid.

Athletes **MUST** attend both sessions to be eligible for selection. Anyone unable to attend a trial must apply to the MBA office for an exemption prior to trial registration closure.

Exemptions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances such as bereavement, pre-booked holidays or attendance at higher level BWA programs.

Athletes must trial and will only be considered for selection within their specified age group.

WABL TRIAL PROCESS

Selections panels are convened with a minimum of three selectors and decisions being made by consensus. In selecting panel members, MBA will ensure considerations around skillsets, gender diversity, independence and selection experience are made.

This aims to maximise impartial decision making and minimise any bias (perceived or actual) regarding selection. Selection decisions made by the panel are final.

Trials will be facilitated by the Development Officer, assisted by coaches who have expressed interest in coaching for the upcoming WABL season.

The Selection Panel will independently oversee and assess each trial. They will not be involved in coaching the session but may liaise with the Development Officer throughout.

At the conclusion of each trial, the Development Officer will discuss the session with assisting coaches. The Development Officer will present these points to the selection panel.



WABL SELECTION PROCESS

Upon trials being completed, the selection panel will discuss their observations and cross check notes. They will then make selection decisions.

When selecting athletes to teams, the panel will consider:

- ★ Technical skill, athletic ability and desire/dedication to compete at the highest level.
- ★ Work ethic, fitness, consistency and enthusiasm.
- ★ Coachability and capacity to understand instructions and concepts.
- ★ Demonstrated sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership skills.
- ★ High level commitment to development, training and self-discipline.

Another important aspect of selection is team balance. Positional requirements, physical attributes and skill balance within teams is important to ensure competitiveness.

There is little development opportunity placing ten guards or ten centres in the one team. Balance will be an important consideration for the selection panel when making decisions.

The Selection Panel may use other information to aid their decision making if required.

WABL team selections will be announced later in the year, following trials. Athletes will be notified whether successful or not via their registered PlayHQ e-mail, teams will not be publicly announced.

The selection panel will (where possible) record brief points regarding unsuccessful athletes to assist in providing developmental feedback. To access this feedback please contact the Junior Representative Officer - junior.rep@mandurahbasketball.com.au

Queries regarding non-selection should only be feedback oriented to aid development of athletes moving forward. There will be no reconsideration of selection decisions based on feedback requests.



WABL COACH SELECTION

Coaches undertake a pivotal role within the Junior Representative Program. As volunteers they donate their time and expertise to develop athletes, helping them reach their potential.

To ensure attraction of new and retention of existing coaches, Mandurah Basketball Association will advertise for coaching expressions of interest prior to each WABL season.

A coaching selection panel diverse in professional skillsets, basketball knowledge and child development needs will then be convened to assess these submissions.

This panel will adopt a holistic approach to coach selections, taking into account:

- ★ Coaching qualifications and relevant experience
- ★ Professional experience and approach to individual and team development
- ★ Communication skills and ability to moderate and adapt styles to audiences
- ★ Ability to remain calm under pressure and de-escalate situations to resolve conflict

All Coaches who express interest in coaching at WABL level are required to possess, at a minimum a Community Coach (Level 0) coaching accreditation at time of application.

The Association will endeavour to facilitate a Club Coaching (Level 1) accreditation course locally each year to aid in coach development.

WABL TEAM MANAGERS

Team Managers perform a vital role in assisting coaches at training and on game day, organising each WABL team. Team Managers are responsible for:

- ★ Collecting player tokens at WABL games and giving them to the scorebench.
- ★ Issuing team jerseys each game and ensuring return at games end.
- ★ Laundering jerseys after each game.
- ★ Completing scoring and community service rosters.

WABL TRAINING

Upon coach appointment and team selection, training times will be arranged and all teams allocated a minimum of one 1.5 hour training session per week at the MARC. Coaches may arrange additional sessions to offer further development.

Consistent training is a key component of personal and team development. Coaches spend significant time planning sessions and athlete absence can cause interruption, leading to underdevelopment and underperformance.

⚡ Athletes must attend and engage in every training session unless a valid reason exists ie. bereavement, illness or higher level BWA training/programs.

⚡ Injured athletes are still required to attend and remain present for training unless their injury prevents them from doing so (communicable illness does not apply)

⚡ If any absence is required from training sessions, athletes, parents or guardians must notify their team manager and coach in advance.

Any consistent or unexplained absence from training will be recorded by the team manager who is to notify the Junior Representative Officer. If required a discussion will then be held with the athlete and parent/guardian.

Prior to the season commencing, team managers will ask athletes and/or parents/guardians to complete the player Medical Information Form. A copy of this information will be retained by the team manager for the duration of the WABL season.

WABL GAMEDAY

WABL Games are fully timed, lasting for approximately 90 minutes.

Athletes are required to arrive at the stadium 45 minutes prior to their scheduled game start time (unless otherwise advised by their Coach or Team Manager).

Upon arrival players must purchase their token from reception and provide this to their Team Manager prior to being issued their uniform.

The team bench must only consist of 1xcoach, 1xassistant coach and 1xTeam Manager. Injured players must attend and also sit on the bench unless their injury prevents them.

SEASON STRUCTURE

The 2024 WABL season structure will differ slightly from previous seasons as we look to re-structure our Junior Representative Program timeline.

Upon WABL team selection being completed and teams commencing training, teams will enter one of two calendar streams based on their team.

Mandurah Magic Red Teams:

★ Championship Division - BWA Country Championships (January/February 2024)

★ WABL Grading Tournament (February/March 2024)

★ WABL Season (April to September 2024)

★ BWA Winter Classic Tournament (July 2024)

Mandurah Magic Gold, Black & White Teams:

★ WABL Grading Tournament (February/March 2024)

★ WABL Season (April to September 2024)

★ BWA Winter Classic Tournament (July 2024)

Divisions 2/3 at BWA Country Championships will be attended by participants from the 'Next-Step' development program. This affords development opportunity to trialists not selected to WABL teams, so they remain engaged in development for future selection.

BWA State Championship are traditionally run in November/December each year. For the 2024 WABL season, 2024 WABL teams **will not** attend state BWA State Championships.

Trials for 2025 WABL teams will be held in October/November 2024 and teams selected from these trials will attend 2024 BWA State Championships.

This is due to a calendar restructure for 2024 alone which, moving forward will see BWA State Championships become the first component within the WABL Season calendar.



COURT TIME

Athlete minutes, or court time can often be a contentious point within any program. What is fair?, Why is there an imbalance?, We all pay the same fees so why isn't it even? It can be a difficult topic to address, particularly with younger athletes.

WABL is the premier junior league in the state and does not operate within the same guidelines as domestic competition when it comes to athlete court time.

Our philosophy is 'Court time is earned and not guaranteed for any athlete'

Coaches are consistently aware of playing time and never set out with the intention of not playing particular athletes. To assist coaches and inform participants and parents/carers, court time allocation will operate within two key parameters:

Game factors:

- ★ The division being played and level of the competition.
- ★ The role of individual athlete in a game (team balance).
- ★ The game score, margin or likelihood of winning or losing.

Athlete Factors:

- ★ The athlete's skill level, knowledge and ability.
- ★ The athlete's attendance at all training sessions, their effort and engagement level.
- ★ The athlete's coachability and capacity to follow instructions and implement plans.
- ★ The athlete's ability to lead and encourage others and display sportsmanship.
- ★ The athletes desire to continually develop and motivation levels.

Whilst game factors are most likely beyond an athletes' control, athlete factors are not. This is where athletes can work hard to earn their court time.

Athletes who are concerned with individual court time should, in the first instance discuss this with their parents/carers and self-reflect on these factors. Self-reflection is an important aspect of sport and a valuable skill for athletes to develop.

Parents/carers who are concerned with court time should, in the first instance discuss the matter with the athlete and aid in their reflection.

If concerns still exist regarding court time, then the matter is to be broached with the Team Manager or Coach at a mutually agreeable, pre-planned time as outlined under the Communication and Issue Resolution section.

UNIFORMS & ATHLETE DRESS CODE

It is important for athletes to remember they are representing the Mandurah Basketball Association at every game or stadium they attend. To ensure we promote our professional image, upon arrival at each game athletes must wear:

- ★ Mandurah Magic Warm-up shirt, and/or;
- ★ Mandurah Magic Hoodie and/or;
- ★ Mandurah Magic trackpants or playing shorts and/or;
- ★ Closed toe shoes/slides.

Each Team Manager is supplied with a set of jerseys for athlete use throughout the season. Athletes are to collect their Jersey from the Team Manager upon providing their token prior to each game.

Jerseys are to be returned to the Team Manager for laundering at the conclusion of each game prior to any athlete leaving the stadium.

During games athletes must ensure:

- ★ Jerseys are tucked in prior to a game commencing;
- ★ Shorts are not rolled up at the waist at any time;
- ★ Fingernails are kept smooth and short to prevent injury;
- ★ Jewellery is to be removed or taped to prevent injury;
- ★ Mouthguards are fitted, these are compulsory. No Mouthguard - No Play.

During every training session each athlete is required wear their compulsory red/white reversible MBA singlet. This ensures athletes can be swiftly assigned to team for coaches to run drills.

Athletes must also wear MBA training/domestic basketball shorts to every training session.



COACH & TEAM MANAGER DRESS CODE

As with athletes, it is important our coaches and team managers promote a professional image of Mandurah Basketball Association.

To ensure this coaches and team managers are required to wear:

- Official Mandurah Magic WABL jacket and/or;
- Mandurah Magic hoodie and/or;
- Official Mandurah Magic WABL polo shirt and;
- Black pants (dress pants preferable)
- Enclosed shoes

Hats or ripped denim are not to be worn by coaches or team manager at any WABL games.

SCORING DUTIES

In each WABL game the home and away team are required to provide one scorer each.

Scoring in WABL games is computerised through the use of the PlayHQ system on the stadium supplied iPad.

Electronic game clocks and scoreboards are used for all games (with shot clocks being utilised in Championship Division, Under 14 and over).

At a Mandurah Magic fixtured home game – the Magic scorer is required to control the game clock/scoreboard and the possession arrow. At fixtured away games – the Magic scorer is required to record the game results on PlayHQ using the iPad provided.

Team Managers will provide a scoring roster for the season and all athletes must provide an adult scorer on their rostered game. It is the responsibility of the rostered scorer to find a suitable replacement if required and advise the Team Manager as soon as possible.



COMMUNICATION & ISSUE RESOLUTION

It is understandable that, from time-to-time issues may arise within the Junior Representative Program. It is imperative that all matters are communicated respectfully so they can be dealt with swiftly.

Athletes and their parents/carers are encouraged to discuss any issues that arise with their coach or team manager in the first instance.

This discussion should always be arranged for a future agreed time, but should not occur during training, during a game or within 24 hours of a game. It is important that discussions are approached respectfully and people are prepared. Impromptu approaches can be confronting and driven by emotion.

Where these steps have been taken and an issue remains unresolved, the Junior Representative Officer is to be contacted for assistance.

COURTSIDE EXPECTATIONS

Positive interaction between coaches, athletes, officials and parents/carers at any particular game or training session is extremely important.

The way in which parents/carers interact with, encourage and instruct their child and other children can have an impact on performance, development and enjoyment.

Coaches are trained and prepared to execute plans, compete during games and develop participants and the team. Any courtside interaction from parents/carers that progresses past encouragement, can hinder a coach implementing their plans.

Parents/carers are expected to limit their interactions during games and training sessions to positive encouragement of all participants at a reasonable auditory level.

At no time should a parent/carer issue instructions that may be construed as coaching or influence gameplay in any way.

Contradictory information between parents/carers and coaches can be confusing and lead to adverse impacts and experiences for the player and team.



JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM FEES

Mandurah Basketball Association appreciate that representative programs carry with them substantial fees. This is due to the significant cost associated with delivering a higher level program.

Fees for the 2024 WABL season are inclusive of:

- BWA team registration costs.
- Coaching and development costs.
- Court hire for training sessions and WABL games.
- Referee costs.
- A Team Photo.
- Mandurah Magic water bottle.
- Use of playing jersey for the season.
- 2024 Mandurah Magic NBL1 Season pass.
- 2024 WABL end of season wind-up function.

WABL SEASON FEES
\$577

A non-refundable deposit of \$200 is payable by 11 December, 2023 for athletes to secure their position within the program. The balance is payable by 9th February, 2024. Any athlete who has not paid fees in full by this date will relinquish their position within the program.

Additional fees will be payable for BWA Country Championships and the BWA Winter Classic Tournament. Once BWA has set these fees, amounts will be communicated to athletes.

Mandurah Basketball Association offer Afterpay services to assist with fee payments. Please contact the office prior to registration to utilise this service.

POLICY & CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLIANCE

Mandurah Basketball Association, Basketball WA and Basketball Australia have policies in place to protect children, offer guidance and ensure environments remain safe for everyone.

It is incumbent upon all athletes, parents/carers, coaches, team managers, referees and administrators to read and understand these policies.

Particular attention should be given to the Code of Conduct for the appropriate level of participation. These will be strictly upheld by Mandurah Basketball Association; they are important and should guide the respectful way everyone interacts.

All policies & the Code of Conduct is viewable at our website www.mandurahmagic.com.au

WABL TECHNICAL FOUL POLICY

Our actions and the way we present ourselves to other associations, referees and the greater basketball public is extremely important. Our values of being *Mindful* and *Generous* must guide our on-court behaviour and interaction.

All technical fouls, unsportsmanlike fouls or ejections must be reported by the WABL coach/team manager within 24 hours to the Junior Representative Officer by e-mail.

In instances where any conduct related technical foul, unsportsmanlike foul or ejection occurs, Mandurah Basketball Association will:

✦ In the first instance, issue a warning to the involved party.

✦ In the second instance, issue a formal written warning to the involved party.

✦ In the third instance, issue a 1 game suspension to the involved party.

In any instance an athlete, coach or team manager receives a suspension for any reason, they will be deemed ineligible to receive any WABL end of season award.

