



YARRA MUL LAKERS 25/26

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

Representative Basketball provides an opportunity for junior players from our domestic competition to develop and improve their basketball skills, as well as compete at a higher standard of competition. Rep players compete in tournaments throughout the season against regional and metropolitan associations, culminating in participation in the Victorian State Championships.

Selection into the rep program takes place around July, at the start of each season, and is based on a range of factors that include:

- Previous rep participation and performance.
- Tryout performance (ability, attitude, work ethic)
- Availability to participate in training and tournaments.
- Player numbers.

Players identified as having development potential may be selected to participate in the Rep Program as Development Players, participating in Rep training and potentially participating in some tournaments.

To be eligible to play representative basketball, players must first play in the YMBA domestic competition with a minimum participation of 8 games in the same year of the first rep tournament. Participation in nearby associations domestic competitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis in discussion with the relevant association.

Season Length

Representative training begins in August, after tryouts and squad selections, in preparation for the first tournament in September. The season will finish with State Championships in the first half of 2024 (dates vary for each age group).

All athletes (and parents) are expected to commit to weekly training (1-2 sessions per week) and 7-8 tournament weekends throughout the season, inclusive of State Championships.

Costs

Registration

This fee covers costs such as court hire for training, training equipment and reversible training singlet and is paid via PlayHQ. The fee for 2025-26 is \$250.

Tournaments

Tournament organisers charge an entry fee for each team, estimated at \$70 per player per tournament. State Championship fees are paid by YMBA and so are not payable by families. Travel and accommodation costs to tournaments are NOT included in the fees and will need to be paid by individual families.



Uniform

All athletes are required to have tournament shorts, singlet and warm up top throughout the entire season. The current cost for the mandatory uniform is approximately \$200. Additional club merchandise including supporter polo's, hoodies, long sleeve shirts, backpacks and hats are also available but are not compulsory.

Athlete's surnames will be added to the back of all new Playing singlets. Athletes with Playing singlets in good condition from previous seasons can continue to use these. In order to maintain a professional, cohesive appearance across YMBA teams, the addition of names to current playing singlets is not permitted.

Development players may like to check with their coach about tournament participation prior to purchasing a playing singlet.

Tournaments

All athletes are expected to be available for scheduled tournaments, as well as State Championships.

Accommodation should be secured as soon as possible upon successful selection into the rep program as venues book out well in advance of tournament dates. It is highly recommended to include a **free cancellation** option when booking as tournament dates can change, players could be injured/unwell and unable to play, or teams may not be selected with much notice.

The dates below are the current advertised dates for local tournaments. These are subject to change.

- Echuca – Sept 26-28th
- Swan Hill – Oct 25 – 26th
- Shepparton (Div 3 & 4) - Nov 8-9th (u10s as well)
- Wangaratta (U16 & U18) – 14-16th
- Shepparton (Div 1 & 2) - Dec 6-7th
- Bendigo – Jan 24-26 (A Teams only)
- Wodonga (u16/u18) – Feb 6-8th
- Benalla – Feb 20-22nd
- Wangaratta (u10, U12 & 14) – March 7-8th
- Wodonga (U12 & U14) – March 14-15th March

State Championships

- U16 & U18 Division 1/2 State Championships – Bendigo: February 14-15th
- U16 & U18 Division 3/4/5 State Championships – Shepparton: March 14-15th



- U14 State Championships – Ballarat: April 11-13th
- U12 Stars Championships – Bendigo: April 17-19th

Tournament Divisions & Squads

Typically, YM Lakers participate in tournaments in division 2 or 3, determined by coaches in consultation with the Director of Coaching prior to each tournament.

For each tournament, coaches select 8 players (up to 10 for State Champs) from the squad to make up the Representative Team. Several factors will be considered in the selection process including player experience, recent training performance, availability, and the goals of the tournament. It is expected that the composition of the teams may vary from tournament to tournament.

If squad numbers allow, a Development (B) Team may also be entered into a tournament where a suitable division is offered. All squad members, regardless of their selection to representative or development teams are expected to attend, and participate fully, in all training sessions throughout the season.

Representative teams will participate in all listed tournaments whereas development teams may only compete in local tournaments. Development team coaches can provide more information on tournament attendance.

U14s girls & boys may need to play in a qualifying tournament for eligibility to attend the State Championships. This is to be confirmed and is usually held at the end of November (venue to be confirmed).

Codes of Conduct

YM Lakers enforce Basketball Victoria's [Codes of Conduct](#). During registration all participants (coaches, team managers, athletes and parents) must agree to abide by the relevant codes and YM Lakers policies and guidelines.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Without volunteers we would be unable to run our representative program. To help protect our volunteers, YM Lakers has zero tolerance of inappropriate behavior / language from rep players or parents. Where a breach of this policy is substantiated, the YM Rep Committee will determine an appropriate outcome, including possible expulsion from the Representative Program.

Uniforms

New athletes, or athletes who have outgrown their uniform, will need to purchase a mandatory playing uniform (via PlayHQ) consisting of a reversible playing singlet, shorts and warmup top. These will remain the property of the athlete. A training singlet is provided by YMBA for new players ONLY.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your uniform is kept in a clean and tidy manner. Any uniform deemed not in a respectful manner will need to be replaced at your expense and may result in the athlete not taking the court.

Please Note. Playing singlets are NOT to be worn for training or worn at home when practicing – they are strictly



for use at tournaments only. Numbers are allocated with no negotiation regarding a number preference.

We also have other merchandise available for purchase such as supporter polo shirts, hoodies, t-shirts, caps, bags, and socks. These can be purchased through PlayHQ or by contacting the Merchandise Officer.

Athletes

Athletes must make themselves available to play at tournaments attended by YM Lakers throughout the season (September – April) up to and including State Championships at the end of the season. Extenuating circumstances will be considered.

Athletes must attend at least 85% of their training sessions. Some concessions may be made for academic or work-related commitments; however, involvement in other sports may not be a satisfactory reason for failing to train or play.

Athletes are required to bring their own drink bottle, ball and reversible training singlet to all training sessions.

Any strapping required should be done prior to arrival. All players are expected to arrive 10 minutes prior to their training time to warm up. Coaches have limited time due to court availability, so players need to be responsible for getting themselves prepared.

As per the Code of Conduct please show respect for the training venue and equipment. Please contact your coach / team manager if you are unable to attend training or running late. Any changes in training will be notified via the messenger group.

Coaches encourage all athletes to complete some form of fitness and skill development work on top of regular training sessions.

Parents Commitment

Parents must be committed to ensuring that their child is available for training sessions and tournaments.

A team manager is required for each team. If you would like to volunteer for this position, please let your coach know.

Parents are required to score on a roster system coordinated by the team manager. Training and support will be given to parents who have little or no experience of scoring. These parents are encouraged to practice at our domestic competition.

It is an expectation that parents will support the program, the Coach and Team Manager in their efforts.

Court Time

In line with Basketball Victoria guidelines, YM supports the allocation of “reasonable court time” to players, with consideration for the following:



- The team is a priority. It is expected that players will take pride in representing YM Lakers and work hard to help their team achieve the best results possible.
- Playing representative basketball is a large step up from domestic basketball.
- Court time is not shared equally.

We believe in providing all players with reasonable court time according to ability, current form, training performance and the needs of the team and the competition.

Coaches are committed to providing opportunities and developing all players, while serving the needs of the team and the club. It is a tough job and there will be times when parents may question their decisions. Be assured that our coaches are always doing their best.

Please do not approach coaches regarding court-time issues during the game. If you have questions about court time, please discuss this with the coach calmly and at a more appropriate time. Complaints are to be made in writing to our Dispute Resolution Officer and in line with our Dispute Resolution Procedure. Parents are not to directly approach coaches with complaints.

Our coaches, managers and committee members are volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to provide a positive experience for all children. We will endeavor to do the best job we can. Please assist us by showing your support and encouraging a positive and cooperative environment.

Under no circumstances are parents or spectators to coach our players whilst they are on the court, bench or during game breaks. Please feel free to support and encourage; however, please refrain from giving any direct instructions. Any parents seen or reported to be seen coaching from the sidelines will be reported to the committee for further action.

Individual Player Sponsorship

Athletes are encouraged to seek individual player sponsors to cover the initial \$250 registration fee. The player sponsor will be advertised on the players warm up top. Please see the attached document for details on player sponsorship.

Business Sponsorship

Assistance from local businesses enables the continuation and development of the YM rep program. Sponsorship plays a large part in keeping the costs of playing representative basketball as low as we can. Parents are encouraged to support our business sponsors throughout the season. If any parents have any ideas for sponsorship, please contact the Sponsorship Liaison.

Fundraising

It is a requirement that ALL parents participate in fundraising for the representative program by supporting



events throughout the season.

Team Coaches

Team	Coach	Assistant Coach
Coaching Coordinators	Neil Walker (Girls) Cam Arthur (Boys)	
Under 12 Girls	Tania Harvey	
Under 14 Girls	Ash Perks	Kim McMillan
Under 16 Girls	Jacob Palmer	Patrick Martin
Under 18 Girls	Rowan Thwaites	Josh Hughes
Under 12 Boys	Kayla Oughton & Clancy Bigger	Drew Haebich & Dave Porter
Under 14 Boys	Dean Bigger & Johnny Leary	Damien Cook & Tom Purtle
Under 16 Boys	Cam Arthur	Simon Rudd
Under 18 Boys	Deb Webster	

Photos & Media

During the season photos may be taken of players, which are used in newspaper reports, YM social media or in Basketball Victoria Country media. Any objections to photos being used should be raised with your child's team manager.

Tournament team photos taken through the season can be added to the teams Messenger group. This enables us to help report team achievements in the newspapers and other media outlets.

Presentation Night

In April or May, at season's end, Lakers presentation night is held to celebrate the season and recognise the contribution of volunteers and present player awards.

Key Contacts

Rep Coordinator	Clancy Bigger	0417 447 597
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YMBA President	Clancy Bigger	0417 447 597
Merchandise Officer	Janelle Burnett	0413 297 271
Facilities Coordinator	Jess Cook	0412 184 239

On behalf of the YM Representative Committee, we hope you and your children enjoy your time in the program.