



Westgate Basketball Association – Big V Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the structure, expectations, and responsibilities of all participants in the **Westgate Basketball Association (WBA) Big V Program**.

This policy ensures:

- A consistent approach to player selection, development, and eligibility
- Clear expectations for coaches, players, and team managers
- Alignment with Basketball Victoria and Big V rules and regulations
- Support for the ongoing growth of Westgate's junior-to-senior pathway.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All **Big V teams** fielded by WBA (Youth League Men, Youth League Women, and future Senior Men and Senior Women)
- All **players, coaches, team managers, officials**, and staff involved in the Big V Program
- Development players and junior representative players who train or participate in the Big V environment.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Basketball Victoria's **Codes of Conduct**
- Big V **Rules of Operation**
- WBA **By-Laws and Policies**

3. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy:

- **Big V** – The state senior representative competition administered by Basketball Victoria.
- **Senior Team** – Westgate’s highest-level men’s and women’s Big V teams.
- **Youth League Team** – Men’s or Women’s Big V teams restricted to players aged 23 years or under in the year of competition.
- **Representative Program (Rep / VJBL)** – Westgate’s junior elite pathway program (U12–U20) competing in the Victorian Junior Basketball League.
- **Development Player** – A junior representative player (top-age U16 and above) invited to train with a Big V squad and have the opportunity to sit on the bench as Player 11 or 12.
- **Committee of Management** – The WBA Board, responsible for governance and oversight.
- **Head of Coach and Player Development (HoCPD)** – The appointed official responsible for leading coaching strategy and appointments within WBA.
- **Operations Manager – Rep Program (OMRP)** – Administrator responsible for overseeing the Rep Programs at WBA
- **General Manager (GM)** – The senior administrator responsible for overseeing all of WBA operations, including the Big V program.

4. Management Structure

The **Head of Coaching and Player Development (HoCPD)** is responsible for the appointment and ongoing management of Big V coaching staff.

The **Operations Manager – Rep Program (OMRP)** is responsible for the overall administration of the program.

The **OMRP** and **HoCPD** work collaboratively to deliver the program and report monthly to the **GM** and **WBA Committee of Management**.

5. Team Registration

Westgate Basketball Association may, at its discretion, register teams into the Big V competition where sufficient player numbers and Association criteria are met. WBA may enter up to four teams:

- Senior Men
- Senior Women
- Youth League Men
- Youth League Women

6. Team Composition

A maximum of **12 players and 5 Development Players** may be selected in each Big V team.

For **Senior Teams** at least 50% of the squad must be graduates of Westgate's junior representative program.

For **Youth League Teams** – At least 75% (or nine players) of the squad must be graduates of Westgate's junior representative program.

To be considered a junior graduate of the Westgate junior representative program, the player must have played at least two seasons in the Westgate program.

Any exemption must be applied for in writing to the General Manager and will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances.

7. Senior Teams

The Big V senior open team is the highest level of achievement for a Westgate player.

Winning is the number one priority, and the best players available — regardless of age — will be selected.

8. Youth League Teams

For Youth League, **player development and preparation for future senior team selection** are equally important as winning.

- The Youth League team serves as the primary pathway into the senior program.
- Eligibility: players must be **23 years or under** in the calendar year of competition.
- Selection may begin from **top-age U16 players and above**.

9. Junior Representative Player Eligibility

To be eligible for selection in the Big V senior or youth league program, players must be **currently registered Westgate representative players**.

Requirements for juniors (U18 or younger):

- Commit to eligibility requirements as per WBA By-Laws.
Exception: a player under 18 selected for Big V is **not required to play domestic basketball**.
- Commit to the full grading and competition season with their junior rep team and up to two tournaments per year. Junior rep commitments take priority over Big V.
- Maintain weekly training attendance. Players must manage training loads responsibly with their junior and senior coaches.

Any exemption must be applied for in writing to the General Manager and will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances.

10. Development Players

To be considered a Development player, the following apply:

- Talent ID for future Big V players is encouraged from **top-age U16 and above**.
- Youth league, senior, and junior coaches must agree in consultation with DoCPD before a player is invited to train with Big V.
- Each team may nominate **up to five development players**, who must remain registered in the junior program.
- Development players train once per week with the Big V team, but their **junior team remains the priority**.
- They may sit on the bench and potentially play limited minutes as Player 11 or 12 to gain experience.

11. Player Availability

If a senior team has less than 10 players available, the following applies:

- If a senior team has fewer than 10 players available, youth league players may be called up.
- Youth league teams may draw from U20.1 representative players as their feeder group.

12. Coaching

Each Big V team will have a **Head Coach, Assistant Coach (minimum of one), and Team Manager.**

Coaches are expected to work collaboratively across all Big V programs, modelling a strong team-first approach.

Youth League Coach responsibilities include:

- Selection of Youth League squad
- Overseeing pre-season training
- Talent identification in consultation with junior coaches (junior coaches – program lead coaches, head coach, DoCPD)
- Leading training and pre-season programs
- Working with Head of Coach and Player Development (HoCPD) on selection of replacements for game selection
- End-of-season reporting
- Compliance with WBA policies, Basketball Victoria by-laws, and Working with Children Check requirements
- Communication of weekly line up announcement
- Lead match review.

13. Player Commitment

To play BigV basketball at Westgate there are a number of expectations around our player's commitment to the association. These expectations include:

General

- Players are required to be available for **all scheduled games and training across the season**, except in cases of illness or injury. Any planned absence, such as an overseas trip or similar, must be approved in writing by the Head Coach and the Representative Program Operations Manager.
- Players are expected to uphold WBA policies, Basketball Victoria codes of conduct, and Big V regulations.

Financial Commitments

- Players must meet financial commitments of the Big V program and pay fees in line with due dates. If fees are not paid, players will not be permitted to play.

- Players can obtain sponsorship to cover fees, which is outlined in our Big V Player Sponsor flyer.
- Players must contribute to fundraising goals set for each team, each year as set out by the General Manager in the Pre Season briefing.

Support of Junior Program

- Senior players must commit to a **minimum of 1 hour per month** supporting Westgate junior teams (training or matches).

Uniform and Dress Code

- Players must comply with Big V Rules of Operation dress standards.
- Fines incurred for breaches will be passed to the player.
- WBA will provide game singlets, shorts, warm-up tops, and will be required to purchase a Westgate training singlet and jacket.
- Game uniforms remain WBA property and must be returned at season's end.

Insurance

- Players must provide proof of appropriate medical, dental, and ambulance cover.

Game Day

- Players must arrive at least an hour before game tipoff.
- Players families and loved ones are not permitted in the change room.

Contract

- Big V players sign a contract outlining their commitment to the club and league.