



IPSWICH BASKETBALL

Junior Force Representative Program Policy

Overview

This policy sets out the eligibility requirements for athletes and the responsibility of athlete and their parents/guardians selected into the program

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1. Welcome

Welcome to Ipswich Basketball Junior Force Representative Program. The information provided in this document has been produced to inform parents and athletes of the parameters of the program and their roles and responsibilities as part of it.

It is very important for **ALL** athletes and parents to read and understand the requirements and expectations of athletes and their families who enter this program and only accept a team position if all expectations are understood and agreed. The athlete and their family should recognise that participation in this program is a major commitment of time, effort, and money.

2. Definitions

Term	Definition
IBA	Ipswich Basketball Association.
Responsible Person	The person who accepts responsibility for payment of fees for an athlete's involvement in the IBA Junior Force Representative Program.
Squad	The group of athletes from which the team is ultimately selected.
SQJBC	South Queensland Junior Basketball Competition.
SQJBC Committee	A committee appointed by the IBA General Manager to oversee IBA's involvement in SQJBC and State Championships.
SQJBC Delegate	The IBA General Manager
State Championships	A tournament played at the completion of the regular SQJBC season which involved teams representing Basketball Associations from across Queensland.

3. Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible for selection and ongoing participation in the IBA Junior Force Representative Program, athlete and parents/guardians must comply with all the items set out below:

- a. Meet the age requirements for selection, that is, the athlete must be under the age group they are playing in on 31 December in that year. For example, during the 2025 season the athletes must fit into the age categories below on 31 December 2025:
 - i. Under 12 – must be 11 years old or younger on 31 December 2025,
 - ii. Under 14 – must be aged 12 or 13 on 31 December 2025,
 - iii. Under 16 - must be aged 14 or 15 on 31 December 2025,
 - iv. Under 18 - must be aged 16 or 17 on 31 December 2025.
- b. Registered with IBA, Basketball Queensland and Basketball Australia (i.e. registered in Basketball Connect and paid the applicable fee).
- c. Registered with and be a current financial member of an affiliated Club of IBA. If a Club notifies IBA that an athlete is not financial they will be ineligible for selection and will be withdrawn from the team and training until payment obligations to the Club are met.
- d. Pay all outstanding debts to IBA. Failure to make full payment of any debt owed to IBA (including fees for the IBA Junior Force Representative Program) will result in the athlete being deemed unfinancial. Athletes who are unfinancial are ineligible to compete in both club and representative games and training until payment obligations are met

- e. If an **athlete is moving from another association** to play representative basketball at IBA and they have played representative basketball elsewhere, prior to attending trials they must complete a transfer form which is available using this [LINK](#). The transferring player must complete Section 1 of the form including the following details about Ipswich Basketball:

To: Ipswich Basketball Association

Contact Details f Future Association: gm@ipswichforce.com.au

The transferring player must then sign and date the form and give this to the current association to complete Section 2.

All athletes who are transferring to IBA must notify the IBA Development Manager at development@ipswichforce.com.au prior to attending any trials.

Please Note: Athletes who are transferring to IBA from another Queensland Association must be competing in the IBA Junior Club Competition in their correct age group prior to requesting the transfer. Once the transfer has been approved, the athlete must wait 30 days and have played in seven (7) club competition games before they can compete in the representative team. They can, however, train with the team without waiting for the completion of the transfer process.

- f. Athletes and parents/guardians will need to read and accept several documents in accepting an invitation to join the program:
- i. IBA Acceptance Form,
 - ii. Athlete and Parent/Guardian Agreement,
 - iii. IBA Codes of Behaviour, and
 - iv. Athlete Medical History.
- g. Be available for scheduled training sessions set out by the Coach. Training is compulsory and athletes are expected to be at training regardless of injury or illness as they can sit and observe. Only exception is in the case of a contagious illness
- h. It is compulsory for athletes to compete in the IBA Junior domestic competition within the age group they are seeking selection at the time of selection and the season immediately prior to the current domestic junior competition.
- i. Actively participating means that an athlete must play approximately 75% of scheduled games.
 - ii. If there is a legitimate reason an athlete cannot fulfill this commitment (e.g. valid reasons would include the athlete being new to IBA having moved to the catchment area and could not play in the previous season, injury, illness, or attending the Basketball Centre of Excellence (CoE) as a scholarship holder), athletes need to apply in writing to the IBA General Manager for an exemption. The IBA General Manager in their absolute discretion will determine if the athlete is eligible for selection. Please note, living outside the catchment is not a reason that will warrant an exemption
 - iii. Penalties for breach of this requirement may include an athlete being deemed ineligible to participate in the current representative season.
- i. Abide by all IBA rules, policies, regulations, by-laws, procedures and respective codes of behaviour and ethics.

- j. Remain committed to the IBA Junior Force Representative Program and maintain a positive attitude playing to the best of their ability.
- k. Represent IBA in a sportsmanlike manner.
- l. All athletes are expected to attend the end of season presentation.
- m. Participate in the following representative competitions is mandatory:
 - i. **SQJBC** (Premier League, League 2, League 3, League 4, League 5, League 6 or League 7) both home and away with a 2-week finals series. The competition is played throughout South-East Queensland over seven (7) weekend carnivals which are played on Sundays. Each age groups plays at different times of the year:
 - Under 12 – Term 3
 - Under 14 – Term 2
 - Under 16 – Term 1
 - Under 18 – Term 4
 - ii. **Basketball Queensland State Championships** – tournaments played at a central location with teams representing basketball associations from across Queensland. The tournaments will be held:
 - Under 12 – Spring School Holidays (between Terms 3 and 4).
 - Under 14 – Winter School Holidays (between Terms 2 and 3).
 - Under 16 – Autumn School Holidays (between Terms 1 and 2).
 - Under 18 – Summer School Holidays (between Terms 4 and 1) – generally in January.
 - iii. Priority selection is given to athletes who can attend all competitions. Unless injury or illness are a factor, athletes unable to attend the above competitions may be removed from the program to make way for another athlete who is available to participate in all competitions

4. Program Costs

- a. Indicative costs for participation in the Ipswich Basketball Junior Force Representative Program are:

Item	Cost	Inclusions
Program Fees	\$905	All nomination fees, training costs, game fees, first aid levy, equipment levy, cost of referees and trophies
Uniforms	\$95	Ipswich Force Polo Shirt, Training Singlet and playing shorts. If an athlete already has any of these items, there is no need to purchase these again. You may wish to purchase other items, such as a backpack, hoodie or socks which will be an additional cost. These can be purchased online via the Force Shop - https://tinyurl.com/2v9bzmzz
Total	\$1,000	

- b. Payment of the IBA fees is made in instalment with an initial acceptance fee of \$100 and the balance paid in three instalments.

- c. No payment will be accepted over the phone. If a payment is not made by the due date, then the athlete will become ineligible for participation until the payment is made. Athletes may be withdrawn from the team if payment is not made when required
- d. In addition to these costs, you will be required to pay for travel to and from games during the SQJBC season. In addition, there may be costs associated with the State Championships for travel, accommodation, and food.
- e. Whilst the athlete will be able to attend the end-of-season function at no cost, any additional people who attend will need to pay for this.
- f. FairPlay Vouchers cannot be used to pay for fees for representative basketball

5. Fundraising

Teams may raise funds to support the costs to the team for participation in the Ipswich Force programs. This is a matter for the individual teams and not an activity that IBA is involved with. To avoid any disputes teams that conduct fundraising activities are encouraged to ensure that all funds collected are recorded and are distributed in a clear and transparent manner as IBA is unable to resolve any disputes related to fundraising.

6. Team Selection

IBA recognises that an element of subjectivity in selection is unavoidable, however, we seek to minimise this by adhering to the selection process for teams outlined below. Athletes must:

- a. Meet the eligibility criteria set out in clause 3 of this policy.
- b. Register for trials in the manner prescribed by IBA, usually an online registration form. This must be completed and the trial fee paid prior to attending trials.
- c. Attend trial events as determined by IBA. If an athlete is unable to attend the trial, they may seek and exemption by applying to the IBA Development Manager prior to the trial.
- d. Demonstrate the physical ability – including but not limited to athletic ability, attitude, desire, and dedication to become an athlete at this higher level.
- e. Demonstrate coachability – be receptive to coaching and be cooperative within the team coaching environment.
- f. Possess the competency and skill level to compete at the required level
- g. The selection process involves:
 - i. The Selection Panel for each team will consist of the IBA Development Manager, the Head Coach of the team and at least one independent selector appointed by IBA.
 - ii. The IBA Development Manager will submit the team member recommendations to IBA General Manager on behalf of the Selection Panel.
 - iii. The IBA General Manager will then ratify the selections if satisfied that each member of the teams has met the eligibility criteria and is financial with both IBA and the team members respective clubs.

- h. In considering the performance of athletes attending trials, the Selection Panel may, at their discretion, take into consideration extenuating circumstances. This means the Selection Panel will take in consideration the effect on the athlete if that the athlete is unable to attend a trial, or any other activity or perform at an optimum standard due to:
 - i. Injury or illness, or
 - ii. Travel delays, or
 - iii. Bereavement or personal misfortune, or
 - iv. Any other reason considered extenuating by the IBA Development Manager.

The athlete's representative (parent or guardian) may contact the IBA Development Manager by email at development@ipswichforce.com.au stating the reason for non-attendance or diminished performance so that this may be considered by the Selection Panel when making their assessment. Assessments will be made on an individual basis with no guarantee of selection.

- i. The Selection Panel may, with the approval of the IBA General Manager, add athletes to the squad or team at any stage in the selection process, provided those athletes meet the relevant eligibility and selection criteria.
- j. Removal from the squad or team may occur when an athlete:
 - i. Breaches the requirements set out in this policy,
 - ii. Breaches the Code of Behaviour or any other applicable policy determined by IBA (e.g. social media policy, member protection policy, Basketball Australian Anti-Doping Policy, etc),
 - iii. Is injured or ill and unable to perform at the required standard in the opinion of IBA,
 - iv. Breaches the IBA athlete agreement, or
 - v. Fails to adhere fully to the training program specified by IBA for the team.

7. Court Time

The IBA Junior Force Representative Program is an elite program and **playing time is never guaranteed**. Some athletes will play more than others and coaches will have different philosophies on rotating their athletes. While coaches should be willing to discuss court time and how athletes may be able to increase their playing time, ultimately, playing time is at the Coaches discretion

8. Cancellation Fee and Removal

The Responsible Person will be liable for all costs incurred for the team during the season, including the State Championships should an athlete withdraw from a team after selection.

IBA may remove an athlete from a team at any time during the season due to lack of commitment or poor attitude. Any decision regarding removal of an athlete from a team will be made by the IBA General Manager with the approval of the IBA Management Committee.

9. Athlete Withdrawal

An athlete who withdraws from a team after accepting a selection will be deemed ineligible to participate in the IBA Junior Force Representative Program for the current and following representative season, including State Championships, unless the withdrawal is due to illness or injury and a medical certificate is provided to support this.

The Responsible Person must provide a written submission to the IBA General Manager. The matter will be referred to the IBA Management Committee for approval after review by the IBA General Manager.

Following a player withdrawal players may be shuffled from lower graded team to higher graded teams to fill these vacancies. This will be done at the discretion of IBA, although the player will have the right of refusal. Coaches of lower ranked teams have no discretion in this regard.

10. Refunds

No refund will be provided due to an athlete's withdrawal unless the withdrawal is due to exceptional circumstances. If a withdrawal is due to exceptional circumstances a refund may be requested by submitting a request in writing to the IBA General Manager. The matter will be referred to the IBA Management Committee for approval after review by the IBA General Manager.

11. Complaints

All complaints should be lodged in writing to the IBA General Manager at gm@ipswichforce.com.au.

12. Personal Injury Liability

Playing basketball is a recreational activity which has some inherent risks associated with it. Athlete injury insurance is provided through the athlete's registration with Basketball Queensland. It is the responsibility of the Responsible Person to ensure that the athlete insurance is maintained by ensuring that the athlete is registered with Basketball Queensland. The Responsible Person must satisfy themselves that the insurance cover provided through the Basketball Queensland registration is adequate. Further information about the cover provided is available through the Basketball Queensland website which can be accessed using this [LINK](#).

IBA shall not be liable for any injury or loss suffered due to an athlete's participation in the IBA Junior Force Representative Program. IBA shall not be liable for any damage to property

13. How Much Training is Involved

Our aim with the IBA Junior Force Representative Program is to have all teams, after selected, to train at least twice per week for 1½ hours each session. This training load will continue throughout the season until each team's respective Basketball Queensland State Championships. Trainings are compulsory and an injury and or non-contagious illness are not acceptable excuses to be absent from training. All absences from training are to be communicated to the Head Coach or Team Manager prior to the scheduled training time.

It should be noted that where illness or injury does not preclude an athlete from actively participating in a training session it is compulsory athletes to attend training.

Please note that absences from training may affect court time.

14. Athlete Entourage

An athlete is deemed to be responsible for the behaviour and conduct of their entourage at games and tournaments in which they participate. The expression "entourage" includes parents, family members, coaches, trainers, friends, and any other person directly associated with the athlete.

If it is determined that a Code of Behaviour breach has occurred by a member of the entourage, then it is open to IBA impose a penalty on the athlete as follows:

- a. determination that IBA will not accept nominations from that athlete for a specific period of time for future teams or training for a specific period of time; and
- b. It is to be noted that imposing a penalty on an athlete for behaviour of their entourage is to be seen as a last resort and disciplinary action, except in extreme cases, such action would not be taken without first having sought to engage with and counsel the offending person and the athlete in relation to the unacceptable conduct