



# JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE HANDBOOK 2024



## Introduction

Welcome to the City of Sydney Basketball Association (CSBA) and the Sydney Comets Family. We hope that you will have a positive and worthwhile experience for the next 12 months and beyond.

CSBA is a not-for-profit community organisation focused on developing the game of basketball especially in Sydney's eastern and south-eastern suburbs, inner city and inner west. The Sydney Comets is our association's own representative team that competes against other teams from across the state and beyond.

This handbook contains information, guidelines and policies relevant to the players, parents/carers, coaches and officials in our program.

## Contacts

CEO & Development Manager  
Ben Madgen  
ceo@sydneybasketball.com.au

Representative Coordinator  
Alex Cantori  
reps@sydneybasketball.com.au

## Program Objectives

The primary goal of the Comets representative program is to provide a platform for the ongoing development of players, coaches and officials. We aim to do so while maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all members of the community.

Key aspects of the program include:

- Constant skill development
- Fostering a desire and effort to improve
- Instilling a commitment to the association, the team and the individual
- Recognising and acknowledging different rates of development
- Developing a positive attitude towards teammates, coaches, officials and opposition
- Enjoying the game of basketball

At the under 12 level, players are taught the basic skills of the game and learn to apply them in a competitive environment. The emphasis is on long-term skill development, participation, confidence building, teamwork and enjoyment.

From under 14s and onwards, players are expected to accept and respond to the demands of greater competition. While retaining the constant focus on individual skill and team progression, there is a need for higher levels of work rate and intensity.

## **Number of Representative Teams/Players**

Sydney Comets will enter a minimum of two teams in each age group (U12, U14, U16 and U18) dependant on player & coach availability in each age group.

Each team consists of a minimum of 10 players with coaches having the option of additionally selecting development players.

## **Selection Eligibility/Criteria**

To be eligible for selection a player must:

- Acknowledge that they and their parents/carers accept the guidelines and policies in this handbook.
- Be under the age limit as of 31st December in the year of the season.
- Have fully paid any outstanding fees owing to CSBA from previous seasons and returned any borrowed uniforms.
- Be registered with CSBA and BNSW or be willing to get registered should they be selected.
- Pay the trial fee of \$50 and attend all trials. Absences for valid reasons must be communicated and approved in advance to the representative coordinator.
- Either currently play in the CSBA local competition or be willing to join should they be selected.
- Have submitted an intend to trial form if they previously played representative basketball at another association and are looking to transfer.
- Not have withdrawn from a team following team announcements the previous season.

During the trial process, the following criteria may be considered for player selection:

- Demonstrated skill level in all areas of basketball: shooting, ball handling, passing, pivoting, defense and shooting.
- Physical attributes.
- Attitude, dedication, work ethic, commitment and coachability.
- Positional needs of each team.
- The player's availability to commit to all the requirements of the season including preseason and finals.
- The player and their parent/carer's history of behaviour and compliance with relevant codes of conduct.
- Restrictions on transfer players.

The following factors are not to be considered by coaches in any circumstances:

- The race, religion or sexual orientation of the player or their parents/carers.
- The position/status of the parent or players as coaches, team managers, sponsors, board members etc.
- The player's affiliation with any local competition club, school or external training program.

## **Team Selection Process**

Team trials are generally held in October/November the year prior to the season. The trials are to be attended by age group head coaches and assistant coaches, the development manager and representative coordinator.

The coaches are provided with:

- A list of all players signed up for the trials.
- A list of all players who are absent from the trial for approved reasons.
- A list of all players who are ineligible for selection.
- A list of which players are classified as transfer players and whether they have submitted an intent to trial form.

At the trials, the lead head coach of each age group is to determine the drills or activities conducted in each session. After the conclusion of each trial session, besides the last, the coaches meet to discuss whether any cuts are to be made prior to the next trial. If cuts take place, the list of players invited to the next trial is communicated online through the City of Sydney Basketball website.

Following the final trial, the coaches meet to discuss the final team selections. All teams are selected in order from highest to lowest. Development players are only considered after all teams have been chosen. Final team lists are communicated online through the City of Sydney Basketball website.

## **Junior Competition Schedule**

Sydney Comets teams commence team training when school resumes for the start of the year.

Preseason grading games are conducted by Basketball NSW to determine the classification of teams into divisions. These are generally played in February or March and may involve playing up to 3 games in a single day. Additional "friendly" practice games may be organised in the weeks leading up to official preseason.

*Junior Premier League* – Sydney Comets teams that are selected for the highest division will compete in the Junior Premier League. Each age group consists of the top six teams from metro and top six teams from country. Teams in the JPL play two games against each team in their own region, and one game against each team in the opposite region. The latter games are played at central venues where multiple games are played in a single weekend. These rounds may occur outside of the Sydney metro area.

*Metro Junior League* – Sydney Comets teams that do not qualify for Junior Premier League compete in the metro junior league. The MJL consists of multiple divisions usually consisting of 6-8 teams each. Teams generally play each other twice each: once at home and once away. At the conclusion of the season the top 4 teams qualify for semi-finals with the winners proceeding to the grand final.

*State Championships* – In the JPL (and the top division of MJL U12s if they do not play the JPL format), the top teams qualify for the state championships. The event is played over a single weekend following the end of the regular season.

*State Cup* – In the second division of MJL U12s and top division of all other age groups, the top teams qualify for the State Cup. The event is played over a single weekend following the end of the regular season.

*U14 National Club Championships* – The top teams from the JPL U14s also qualify for the National Club Championships. This is a week-long tournament held in the September/October school holidays consisting of teams that have qualified from all over Australia. The event is held in a different city each year.

## **Extra Tournaments**

Sydney Comets teams may also choose to compete in various extra tournaments throughout the year. This is at the discretion of each individual team and to be coordinated by the team manager. Any costs associated with these extra tournaments are covered by the individual families. Unless otherwise agreed, it is CSBA policy that flights and accommodation for the attending coaches are paid for by the team also. Most teams at a minimum participate in one of the tournaments in Melbourne over the June long weekend.

In some cases, teams may be entered in these tournaments consisting of players from Comets combined with other players. This is perfectly acceptable but if this is the case, the team should not be named Comets and the Comets uniform should not be worn.

*National Junior Classic* - The National Junior Classic is the most prestigious junior basketball tournament in the country. It's played over the June long weekend in Melbourne. Only the top teams from the top division are invited to participate.

*Nunawading Spectres Tournament* - The Nunawading Spectres Tournament is one of the largest junior basketball tournament in the southern hemisphere attracting well over 500 teams each year. The majority of Comets teams choose to participate in this tournament if they are not invited to the National Junior Classic.

*Adelaide Easter Classic* - Adelaide is a small tournament which is an alternative to the Melbourne tournaments. This is run over the Easter long weekend each year.

## **Training Expectations**

Comets teams generally have two training sessions per week of an hour and a half each. This may be modified subject to court availability. Training venues may include: Comet Stadium, Perry Park Recreation Centre, Newington College, Trinity Grammar School and South Sydney High School.

- Players and coaches are expected to be at training, fully dressed and ready to train at the scheduled start time. One minute late is considered to be late and any penalties for unnotified lateness are at the discretion of the coach.
- If you cannot attend training or will be late, this should be communicated to the coach and manager as early as possible.
- Injured (but not sick) players are still expected to attend training.
- Training sessions during the school holidays are not mandatory.
- Players should wear the Comets reversible training shirt to every training session and bring a ball (of the correct size) and water.
- Some teams may organise extra sessions beyond the official two sessions per week. Attendance at extra sessions is not mandatory and any cost for additional court hire may need to be paid by the team.

## **Local Competition**

Comets representative players, including development players, are required to participate in the CSBA local competition. Players must play at least 2 out of 3 seasons in their own age group. A minimum of 55% of the scheduled games must be played to qualify. Players that choose to play in a higher age group may do so, but this must be in addition to their own.

Any exemptions must be applied for in writing to the representative coordinator. A player who qualifies for a state or national team will receive an automatic exemption for one season.

A player who only meets the requirement in 1 out of 3 seasons (without an exemption) will be issued a penalty fee of \$200. This fee would need to be paid prior to trialling for or taking part in the following rep season. If a player is subject to this fee two years in a row, they will not be eligible to trial the following season.

A player does not meet the requirement in any of the 3 seasons (without an exemption) will be issued a penalty fee of \$200 and will not be eligible to trial for or take part in the following rep season regardless of the payment being made.

### **Player Court Time**

The Comets representative program is considered to be an elite development program. As such, playing time is not guaranteed with the exception of under 12s where all players must play in both halves.

Playing time is ultimately at the discretion of the coaches. Relevant factors to be considered include:

- Attendance and punctuality
- Behaviour and appearance
- Attitude towards coaches, teammates and referees
- Playing ability

### **Comets Attire**

All players are required to purchase a Comets warmup top and reversible training singlet if they don't already have one. Extra items including shorts, track suits, hoodies, socks and bags may also be purchased from the Comets Store online at [www.cometsstore.com.au](http://www.cometsstore.com.au).

The reversible training singlet should be worn to every training session.

All players are provided with a uniform (shorts and singlet) which remains the property of the association. Players' singlets should be tucked into their shorts at all times. If the uniform is lost, stolen or damaged the cost of replacement will be charged to the individual player. Players who do not have the full correct uniform at the game will not be permitted to play. The playing uniform should be worn for Comets games only, not at training whether it be with the team or elsewhere. The uniform should not be altered in anyway, for example with sponsorship logos.

Players may only wear Comets attire to games. Players, including injured or development players, will not be permitted to sit on the team bench in street clothes.

Visible undergarments such as compression wear, may be worn, however they must be black as per Basketball NSW policy.

## **Representative Costs**

The total cost of playing representative basketball for Comets includes:

- Representative fee – this is \$700 in 2024 for full team members and \$350 for development players.
- Representative attire – a warmup top and reversible singlet are required at a minimum
- Basketball NSW registration
- Local competition costs
- Travel costs
- Costs involved in any additional optional tournaments

Players who do not meet their financial commitments may be removed from teams either temporarily or permanently. Cases of financial hardship should be brought to the attention of the representative coordinator as early as possible so that potential solutions can be discussed, not after players have been removed from the team.

## **Player Expectations**

- All players are expected to treat practice venues with the utmost respect and leave them clean and tidy. Any damage is to be immediately reported to the representative coordinator. Damage may be billed to the responsible person and may result in further disciplinary action if it is the result of misbehaviour or negligence.
- All players must wear their reversible training shirt for all training sessions with appropriate shorts and shoes. The playing uniform should only be worn for official matches and should include shorts and jersey with the jersey tucked in. Other Comets gear may be worn to games however players should not be allowed to sit on the team bench in any other attire.
- All players should bring their own ball and water to every session.
- All players are expected to maintain satisfactory academic results. However, it is not appropriate to miss practice to study unless you have an exam the next day. If you need help with time management, consult your coach or the representative coordinator.
- All players must attend all practices and games unless they are sick or receiving professional treatment for an injury. Injured players should still attend training even if they cannot participate fully.

- All players must support their team at all times, whether they are on the court or on the bench, both verbally and with correct body language.
- All players are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times. Any instances of inappropriate behaviour, consumption of alcohol, substance abuse, bullying, or attitude detrimental to the team or the association may result in disciplinary action or expulsion from the representative program.

## **Development Players**

Representative teams are limited to 10 rostered playing spots. Coaches may select additional players beyond this as development players. These players are expected to attend all training sessions and meet all the other requirements of being a player however there is no guarantee that they would be able to take part in games. If other team members are unavailable for games due to injury, illness or any other reason, development players may take their spot at the discretion of the coach.

## **Coach Expectations**

Our representative coaches are an important part of our association, critical to the development of our young players. We expect all our coaches to:

- Implement and enforce all CSBA policies.
- Provide leadership and direction for the appointed team.
- Prepare a season plan.
- Prepare a practice plan for each session.
- Encourage consistent, high level performance and aim at achieving excellence by all involved in the program.
- Assist CSBA in ensuring players play in the local competition.
- Assist with the promotion and distribution of relevant information.
- Advise CSBA of any injuries sustained in practice and games so that an injury report form can be completed.
- Refrain from swearing or using any foul or derogatory language in games, practices or away from the court.

## **Parent-Player-Coach Communication**

Communication between the representative staff, coaches, players and parents needs to be timely, accurate and complete.

Parents and player expectations will be managed with a meeting between the coach and junior player parents to take place immediately after the team has been selected. At this meeting the following should be discussed:

- Calendar of the year
- Team rules
- Player and family conduct
- Court time
- Parent-coach communication
- Training and game requirements
- Bench duty
- Selection of a team manager

Other meetings may be held during the season as required at the discretion of the coach and manager.

Parents are not to approach coaching staff during games. Coaches are instructed not to deal with negative feedback directly following a game. If you have issues that need to be resolved, wait at least for the next day to speak with the coach. The majority of issues should be able to be resolved with the coach directly however if needed, issues can be escalated to the representative coordinator.

During games and practices, please support the whole team, not just your own son or daughter. Parents coaching from the sidelines is never appropriate regardless of their level of knowledge. By all means be passionate and vocal, give encouragement to the Comets teams and praise good play by our opponents but refrain from negative feedback towards anyone.

During rep games, teams are required to provide 2 adults for each game to perform bench duty. At least one parent/carer for each child must be available for this during the season with a roster to be coordinated by the team manager. A course is conducted prior to the start of each season for those that are new to the role and is highly recommended as the requirements are more advanced than in local comp or school games.

### **Disciplinary Action**

On receiving a technical foul, a player should be subbed off the court. The coach will then decide when the player can return to the game depending on the severity.

If a player misses training or is late without prior communication, the coach has the option to not start that player for the next game or penalise their playing time.

Repeated or extreme bad behaviour may be referred to the representative coordinator for further action, with increasing penalties for each breach.

Game day staff, including referees and supervisors may report cases of bad behaviour from players, coaches or spectators to Basketball NSW and referred to a tribunal.