



NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

ABOUT US

The Whitehorse Mustangs Basketball club is a club run by volunteers. We deliver basketball programs for players aged 5 - 21 years. We field teams in junior domestic leagues within Victoria. We currently field teams in the EDJBA and MEBA competitions and also have an opportunity to field teams in the GEBC and CBL competitions.

Located in the City of Whitehorse, we are committed to engaging children and young people in sport. We know what basketball provides – connection with community, physical activity, learning how to lose, following instructions, resilience and problem solving. Such attributes in children and young people supports not only their physical and mental health, but will also positively contribute to them becoming active members of society.

We proudly uphold our core values of Enjoy, Encourage, Evolve. Our aim is to provide basketball programs to suit all members of our diverse community, with a focus on mental and physical wellbeing, community development and basketball skills improvement.

TRAINING

Weekly 1 hour training sessions are conducted to develop skills and teamwork. We train at Orchard Grove Primary School Monday to Thursday 4-9pm and Surrey Hills Primary School Monday and Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm. All players are expected to attend training and at least one parent from the team is required at each training session. This is rostered in advance by the Team Manager. Players are expected to attend in proper sports apparel and bring a drink bottle and basketball. Players with long hair are expected to have hair tied back.

Training schedules are formed based on coach and player availability and are confirmed after team selection. Where possible, we try to schedule younger teams earlier, and older teams later. For example:

- Younger teams tend to train 4-5pm, Monday to Thursday
- High school students tend to train after 5pm
- Older teams train later in the evening

When you register your player, you can nominate times and days that your player is **unavailable**. This needs to be supported by a specific reason (eg. cannot train 5-6pm Wed due to football training). We try to accommodate these requests but at times need to seek your flexibility. **NOTE: The more restrictions the player has, the harder it is to place them in a team.**

If your player attends the after-school program at Orchard Grove Primary School, Kelly Club can bring them to and from training when the appropriate release forms are signed.

GAMES

We play junior domestic basketball primarily in the EDJBA (Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association). This competition is the largest junior domestic competition in Australia and plays on Saturdays in a home and away style format with games organised in 2 x 20 minute halves.

Our home venue is Box Hill High School. Away games are played from Park Orchards to Princes Hill, Bundoora to Blackburn South and everywhere in between. You can find the list of venues on the EDJBA website- www.edjba.com.au/venues.

Games are scheduled on Saturdays from 8:30am until 7:20pm with younger age groups tending to play earlier and older age groups generally playing later. The EDJBA competition is unique in that it allows special requests so that games are scheduled around other Saturday commitments such as school sport, language school, performing arts etc. This may result in younger teams playing in the afternoon (eg. if they also play netball), and older teams playing earlier (eg. if they also play senior domestic basketball).

SPECIAL REQUESTS

When you register, you can specify times your player is not available to play on Saturdays provided the request is supported by a valid reason. NOTE: The more restrictions the player has, the harder it is to place them in a team. For example:

- Limiting the times and/or days they are available to train
- Stipulating limited availability on game day, making it difficult to find a suitable time to play

The reason should:

- provide as much information as possible (eg. cannot play 8:30-11:30 am due to tennis)
- be relevant to the time request (eg. school sport is not a reason for an evening time restriction)
- be applicable to the player or coach (eg. not a sibling sport commitment)
- not be something general like "family commitment", "other activity"
- Time requests must be for a specific commitment, not just be a preference
 - Season time requests must relate to a regular weekly commitment (eg. rugby, tennis, school sport)
 - Special time requests are for a one-off commitment (eg. state swimming finals, recital, performance)

We ask you to keep requests to a minimum as it greatly simplifies the team selection process, allowing team selectors to focus on skill rather than availability. Also, where possible, move other individual commitments such as tutoring or music lessons to a time that does not conflict with the rest of your team's game day availability.

FIXTURES

Fixture is the term used to refer to game details; date, time, venue and opposition. Fixtures are normally released on or before Tuesday prior to game day.

- **Grading** (Rounds 1-6) the EDJBA can only release fixtures weekly, as teams will move between grades
- **Regular season** (Round 7 onwards) fixtures are published in 3 or 4 round blocks until all have been released
- **Finals** (Semi Final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final) fixtures can only be released weekly, as teams will drop out

SEASONS

Basketball runs 2 seasons per year- Summer season and Winter season. Summer season runs Term 4 and Term 1, and Winter season runs Term 2 and Term 3. There are no games during school holidays or on long weekends. ANZAC Day 2025 is an exception to this, as it is a public holiday that falls on a Friday, creating a long weekend. .

REGISTRATION AND TEAM SELECTION

Summer season registration opens in August with teams released in September for a Term 4 start mid-October. Winter season opens in February for a Term 2 start. All registration is done via Play HQ. We aim to release teams prior on the first Sunday of the school holidays. It is vital that you answer all of the questions and complete the registration form accurately.

COACHES

In most cases the team coach comes from within the playing group. We do not hire professional coaches. The coach is often a parent, grandparent, sister, brother, aunt, or other family member. Ideally, we will allocate coaches when teams are announced but this is not

always possible. If your team is announced without a coach, we will ask parents within the team to volunteer in the first instance. You don't need to be an experienced coach. All coaches are supported to develop their coaching skills.

Coaching a group of developing kids is a highly rewarding experience. If you are interested in coaching, please register your interest via Play HQ. Coach registration is free. For more resources, please check out the "[Coaches Corner](https://whitehorsebasketball.org.au/coaches-corner/)" on our website: <https://whitehorsebasketball.org.au/coaches-corner/>.

TEAM MANAGERS

Team Managers (TMs) assist with logistics, communication, and ensuring smooth operation of team activities. The TM Handbook has further information. Each team needs a TM who is usually a parent of a player in the team. Ideally we announce teams with TMs but that is not always possible. The role of TM is to liaise between the club and the team and to distribute club information. The TM should set up good communications for the team (normally a WhatsApp group but you can choose whatever you like). They set up the scoring roster and are the point of contact with the club for fill ins. You do not need any experience and you will be supported. If you are considering volunteering as a Team Manager- please register via Play HQ. TM registration is free.

EXPECTATIONS

FOR OUR YOUNGEST PLAYERS

When any young player starts to play competition basketball, it is all about enjoyment of the game, learning new skills, new rules and a myriad of other things that come with being a beginner in any new sport. Some of our new players are very young when they begin their basketball journey. They may take several seasons to shoot a basket or to learn to correctly defend the ball. They may have seasons when they do not win games and may not even score in their first season. We at Mustangs believe that if you assess that your child has the right maturity level, that they should be learning on court- but that does not necessarily mean scoring and winning. They will get there eventually!

Some things to consider for player and parent expectations are:

- **Winning vs development:** place an emphasis on long-term development rather than immediate scoreboard results; understanding winning is not the primary goal; development and enjoyment are
- **Interaction with coaches:** children are expected to respect and follow the coach's instructions. The coach and the players will build this relationship together and it is important for the player to develop an ability to listen to the coach and try their best to do what they are asked to do
- **Competing against older/bigger kids:** be prepared for the possibility that your child may compete against older/bigger kids initially, depending on their age
- **Subbing:** coaches do their best to give players equal court time but sometimes need to make adjustments
- **Reliability:** players and parents are expected to communicate absences, travel to games, and participate in scoring and other team responsibilities

New players need to adjust to various new elements of the game, such as:

- **Referees:** players will need to adjust to officials overseeing the game, ensuring fair play and adherence to the rules; for younger players, referees tend to stop, correct and assist
- **Whistles:** the sound of whistles will be more frequent and authoritative than what they are used to at Mini Mustangs
- **Rules:** over time the player will become familiar with the rules and the coach will assist the players with this progression
- **Atmosphere:** the overall atmosphere is likely to be more intense, with supporters cheering from the sidelines

UNIFORM

ALL players must have a Mustangs Reversible Singlet and Shorts to be eligible to play. Uniforms can be ordered from our supplier via <http://www.impactsports.com.au/club/whitehorse-mustangs> Please order when you register so our Uniform team can get in touch to arrange a fitting. You can access all uniform information here: whitehorsebasketball.org.au/shop/

TEAM SELECTION

Players will be assigned to teams once registrations close using the Team selection Policy:

<https://whitehorsebasketball.org.au/registration/team-selection-policy/>

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Please reach out to our Operations Manager on 0422 890 634.