

# 2023/24 Wodonga Wolves Basketball

# JUNIOR

# REPRESENTATIVE

## Information



This document has been created as a guide for players and parents to ensure everyone is aware of the Wodonga Wolves Junior Representative Program in terms of expectations and overall commitment.

### What is Representative Basketball?

Representative Basketball is a higher level of basketball compared to that of the association's domestic competition. The association selects a squad of male and female athletes across the age groups of under 12's, 14's, 16's and 18's that then go on to "represent" the Wodonga Basketball Association at tournaments against other country Victoria associations.

Representative Basketball also provides a pathway to other state and national basketball opportunities. A representative squad will generally consist of both a Division 1 and Division 2 team. Occasionally a Division 3 team will be selected but this is heavily dependent upon athlete numbers.

Players in a Division 1 team are selected by the coach based on a number of factors including an individual's skills, abilities, behavior, attitude and commitment. This team will generally comprise our most talented athletes and Division 1 Coaches have a mandate to be as competitive as possible. This means that when Division 1 teams come up against tough opponents, not all athletes will necessarily receive playing time.

Division 2 & 3 teams (where relevant) are generally known as Development Teams. Division 2 and 3 players will generally receive similar playing time over the course of any tournament and the focus of the coach is player development.

Development teams train as per any other team in the Junior Representative Program. It will be at the discretion of Development team Coaches as to the division in which they will compete in at tournaments.

To be eligible to play representative basketball, a player must first play for the Wodonga Basketball Association in its domestic competition. They must also play 75% of domestic matches in order to remain in the representative program.

### → Length of Season

Regardless of Division, all athletes are expected to make a commitment to attend two training sessions per week during the representative season.

Representative training generally commences in August after tryouts and selections have been completed. For many, the season will finish following the final tournament in late February of the following year, however Division 1 teams can elect to participate in Country Championships which are traditionally held during March and April.

This can mean up to a nine month commitment is required of athletes and their parents!

### → Costs

Before committing to representative basketball, families need to carefully consider the costs involved. These include representative player fees (\$390 per athlete), uniforms and tournament related costs (fuel/ accommodation & meals).

In 2023-2024, new Wodonga Wolves uniforms are being introduced meaning all athletes will need to order compulsory playing shorts and reversible playing singlets (\$120 for the set). Reversible training singlets can be purchased for athletes who do not already have one (\$39).

Additional club merchandise including warm up polo's, hoodies, long sleeve shirts, backpacks and hats are also available but not compulsory.

Please keep in mind to save costs some ideas are to carpool, stay in shared accommodation with other families or speak to your Team Manager for some suggestions.

### → Tournaments

Traditionally, the representative season consists of 6 or 7 Tournaments between late September and February. Only Division 1 Championships teams will have obligations beyond this time.

The tournaments that we have committed to for the 2023-2024 season are:

- **ECHUCA: September 29 - 01 October (AFL GF Weekend)**
- **WANGARATTA: November: (Held in Wodonga 16s & 18s)**
- **SWAN HILL: 28 - 29 October**
- **SOUTHERN PENINSULA: 11 - 12 November (The venues at this tournament can be spread out)**
- **SHEPPARTON: 02 - 03 December**
- **BENDIGO: 26 – 28 January (Australia Day Weekend)**
- **WODONGA: 09 – 11 February**

Occasionally a coach may wish to enter a team into a Tournament in addition to those above. In situations where this may arise, the coach will speak with players and parents before making any commitments.

### → Guidelines and Codes of Conduct

The Wodonga Wolves representative program, like all basketball programs, strongly enforces the Basketball Victoria Country Code of Conduct. The association also has its own Policies and Guidelines. These documents will be made available to all athletes, coaches, team managers and parents following selection. Once selected, all Athletes, Parents, Coaches and Team Managers will need to sign a declaration stating they have read and understood these documents.

#### **Zero Tolerance Policy**

Without referees or our dedicated volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and team managers, we do not have a representative program and can't play at tournaments. Any inappropriate behavior/ language towards referees, coaches, assistant coaches or team managers by players or their parents will not be tolerated by Wodonga Basketball Association (WBA).

Where a player or parent is found to have breached this policy, the WBA representative committee (with delegated authority from the WBA Committee) will be responsible for determining any outcomes up to and including expulsion of a player from the representative program.

### → Coaches

We remind parents that our representative coaches are volunteers. They are to be respected for the time and effort they are contributing towards the development and success of our representative program. While parents may have differing opinions from time to time, WBA asks that all discussions with coaches are conducted in a respectful manner.

### → Team Manager

A Team Manager will be chosen by each coach and approved by the Wodonga Wolves Junior Representative Committee. The Team Manager must have both a Working with Children's Check (WCC) and current First Aid training certificate. The Team Manager is responsible for athlete requirements during matches and for also compiling and distributing tournament schedules and scoring/ fruit duties.

### → Parent Expectations

At each tournament, parents/ carers of athletes are expected to help with scoring & fruit duties as specified by the Team Manager. For any parents anxious about scoring, we encourage you to get experience during domestic games.

Under no circumstances during tournament games, should parents coach from the sidelines or approach coaches or officials.

As stated on the first page of this document, Division 1 Coaches have a mandate to be as competitive as possible. This means that when Division 1 teams come up against tough opponents, not all athletes will necessarily receive playing time. If you are not the coach, please respect their decision making and under no circumstances approach them to discuss this at a tournament.

We welcome parents to raise any personal concerns either by agreeing to discuss at an appropriate time with the coach or putting any formal complaints in writing to the Wodonga Junior Representative Basketball email address.

Parents are also required to commit to a minimum of 2 hours of stadium supervision during our home tournament in February.

### → Additional Information

Nic Conway is the Junior Representative Coordinator.

If you have any additional questions, complaints or issues throughout the season relating to the representative program, please email: [representative@wodongabasketballassociation.com.au](mailto:representative@wodongabasketballassociation.com.au) and your communication will be forwarded to the appropriate person.