RISING STARS PROGRAM 2026/2027 VJBL SEASON

Developing Players. Building Confidence. Creating Pathways.

Collingwood Basketball Association (CBA) is excited to introduce the **Rising Stars** Program, a developmental basketball program specifically designed for Under 12 Boys and U12 Girls **(Born 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020)** who are looking to continue developing their basketball skills and prepare for future representative basketball.

The program provides players with a structured introduction to the expectations, skills and environment of junior representative basketball, without the full weekly commitment of a VJBL representative team.

Rising Stars is designed for players who have participated in the representative selection process but have not been selected into a VJBL team, providing them with an opportunity to continue training, competing and developing throughout the season.

WHO IS THE PROGRAM FOR?

The Rising Stars Program is for Under 12 Boys and Under 12 Girls who:

- Have participated in the VJBL trial and selection process but have not been selected into a Friday Night Junior Representative team
- Are keen to continue developing their basketball skills
- Would benefit from additional coaching and structured development
- Are interested in potentially playing representative basketball in future seasons
- Want to experience elements of a representative program without the full commitment of VJBL

Rising Stars recognises that players develop at different rates. Not making a representative team at Under 12 level does not determine a player's future in basketball.

The program provides players with another opportunity to develop their skills, build confidence and prepare for future representative opportunities.

THE PURPOSE OF RISING STARS

The Rising Stars Program has been created to provide a pathway between domestic basketball and junior representative basketball.

Throughout the season, players will be supported to develop their individual skills, basketball knowledge, confidence and ability to play within a team environment.

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SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Training sessions will focus on the fundamentals required to progress as a basketballer, including but not limited to:

- Ball handling
- Passing and decision-making
- Shooting
- Finishing
- Footwork and movement
- Defensive fundamentals
- Rebounding
- 1-on-1 skills

BASKETBALL UNDERSTANDING

Players will also be introduced to concepts that become increasingly important as they progress into representative basketball, including:

- Spacing
- Cutting and movement
- Defensive positioning
- Transition basketball
- Team concepts
- Decision-making
- Game awareness

CONFIDENCE & TEAMWORK

Rising Stars is about more than basketball skills. Players will be encouraged to develop:

- Confidence
- Communication
- Resilience
- Teamwork
- Coachability
- Positive competition habits

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PROGRAM COMMITMENTS

The Rising Stars Program has been intentionally designed to provide regular development without the commitment required of a representative team. Please find the list of commitment below for those who decide to join the Rising Stars program:

Weekly Training - Players will participate in:

- 1 x 60-minute Sunday training session per week
    - Sessions will be conducted with dedicated Rising Stars coaches and will focus on player development and basketball fundamentals.
    - There will be up to 8 sessions per term, depending on the seasonal calendar and venue availability. Dates will be released

Competitive Tournaments - Rising Stars players will have the opportunity to participate in:

- 3 x Competitive basketball tournaments per year. The planned tournament opportunities are:
    - Eltham Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament (EDJBT)
        - Australia Day Weekend (EDJBT)
    - Whittlesea Autumn Showdown 2027 (WAS 2027)
        - Easter Long Weekend
    - Ballarat Junior Tournament
        - Labour Day Weekend

Tournament participation is an opportunity for players to experience competitive basketball, apply their skills in a game environment and play against teams from outside the club. It is important to note that Tournament participation **is not included in the program fee** and will operate on a pay-per-play basis.

PROGRAM COST

The total Rising Stars Program fee is:

- ***$450.00 (per player)***

This fee covers the core Rising Stars development program and playing uniform.

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INCLUSIONS

Each player will receive:

- Training singlet & shorts
- Weekly 60-minute development training sessions
- Dedicated Rising Stars coaching
- Development throughout the VJBL season

NOT INCLUDED

The $450 program fee does not include:

- Tournament participation

Tournament participation will be charged on a pay-per-play basis

A FLEXIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

One of the key benefits of Rising Stars is its flexibility. Families can commit to the core weekly development program while choosing whether they would like their player to participate in the additional playing opportunities.

CORE PROGRAM

1 x 60-minute training session per week

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

3 x tournaments per year – pay per play

This structure allows players to receive consistent development while giving families the flexibility to determine how much additional basketball they would like to participate in.

THE PATHWAY TO REPRESENTATIVE BASKETBALL

Rising Stars forms an important part of Collingwood Basketball Association's broader junior basketball pathway.

Players who participate in the program will continue to develop their skills and will have opportunities to trial for future VJBL representative teams as they progress through the age groups.

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The program gives players another season to develop their game, gain additional coaching, experience competitive basketball and build the confidence required to potentially progress into representative basketball.

Not being selected this season does not mean your representative journey is over.

Players develop at different rates, and Rising Stars provides an environment where they can continue to work towards their basketball goals.

WHAT CAN PLAYERS EXPECT?

Rising Stars players can expect a fun, challenging and supportive environment where development is the primary focus.

Our coaches will work with players to establish strong basketball fundamentals while introducing them to the habits and expectations required at representative level.

Players will be encouraged to:

- Work hard and challenge themselves
- Respond positively to coaching
- Support their teammates
- Compete with confidence
- Learn from mistakes
- Develop their basketball IQ
- Take responsibility for their own development
- Enjoy playing basketball

SEASON DATES – Location at Collingwood College

The Rising Stars Program will operate across the 2026/2027 basketball season, following a similar seasonal structure to our Junior Representative (VJBL) program. Training will commence on Sunday, 25 October 2026, with one 60-minute development session held each Sunday from 8:00 am to 9:00 am at Collingwood College. Sessions will run during Victorian school terms, with no training scheduled during school holiday periods. The final scheduled session for the program will be Sunday, 12 September 2027. Across the season, players will participate in structured development sessions focused on improving individual skills, basketball understanding, confidence and teamwork. Further information regarding optional tournament opportunities will be communicated to families as details are confirmed.

RISING STARS PROGRAM
2026/2027 VJBL SEASON

Session	Sunday	School Term
1	25 October 2026	Term 4, 2026
2	1 November 2026	Term 4, 2026
3	8 November 2026	Term 4, 2026
4	15 November 2026	Term 4, 2026
5	22 November 2026	Term 4, 2026
6	29 November 2026	Term 4, 2026
7	6 December 2026	Term 4, 2026
8	13 December 2026	Term 4, 2026
9	31 January 2027	Term 1, 2027
10	7 February 2027	Term 1, 2027
11	14 February 2027	Term 1, 2027
12	21 February 2027	Term 1, 2027
13	28 February 2027	Term 1, 2027
14	7 March 2027	Term 1, 2027
15	14 March 2027	Term 1, 2027
16	21 March 2027	Term 1, 2027
17	18 April 2027	Term 2, 2027
18	25 April 2027	Term 2, 2027
19	2 May 2027	Term 2, 2027
20	9 May 2027	Term 2, 2027
21	16 May 2027	Term 2, 2027
22	23 May 2027	Term 2, 2027
23	30 May 2027	Term 2, 2027
24	6 June 2027	Term 2, 2027
25	13 June 2027	Term 2, 2027
26	20 June 2027	Term 2, 2027
27	18 July 2027	Term 3, 2027
28	25 July 2027	Term 3, 2027
29	1 August 2027	Term 3, 2027
30	8 August 2027	Term 3, 2027
31	15 August 2027	Term 3, 2027
32	22 August 2027	Term 3, 2027
33	29 August 2027	Term 3, 2027
34	5 September 2027	Term 3, 2027
35	12 September 2027	Term 3, 2027 - Final session

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PROGRAM SUMMARY

- Commencement: Sunday, 25 October 2026
- Final session: Sunday, 12 September 2027
- Total scheduled sessions: 35
- Training frequency: Once per week on Sundays during school terms
- School holiday breaks: No training scheduled during Victorian government school holidays

A MESSAGE TO OUR RISING STARS

Every player's basketball journey is different. Some players are ready for representative basketball at an early age, while others need more time to develop their skills, confidence and understanding of the game. Rising Stars is about providing that opportunity. It gives players the chance to keep training, keep competing, keep learning and, most importantly, keep enjoying basketball. Our goal is for every Rising Star to finish the season as a better basketballer, a more confident competitor and a stronger teammate, with the foundations to continue their basketball journey. We look forward to welcoming our next group of Rising Stars for the 2026/2027 season.