



Purpose

McKinnon Basketball Association hold annual tryouts for basketball players to join the “McKinnon Cougars”, the representative arm of the association which competes in the Victorian Junior Basketball League. This policy has been created to help all members with the selection process for players to become a “McKinnon Cougar” for an upcoming VJBL Season.

Overview – Tryout Phase

All players wishing to be selected for the McKinnon Cougars must be registered to PlayHQ prior to the upcoming tryouts. The registered players will go through a “Tryout Phase” including a combination of “Tryout Sessions” and “Practice Games”.

The purpose of the Tryout Phase is to:

1. Provide each player with an opportunity to display their suitability for a position within the VJBL program; and
2. Enable the Coaching Team to make the best-informed selection decisions for each team and individual within a time frame.
3. Begin the Pre-Season phase for all players with main concepts being introduced and developed.

Players may be placed in smaller squads across the Tryout Phase to guide team selection decisions, and these squads may differ to their final selection or non-selection. As teams may be selected sequentially, the length of a Tryout Phase may differ slightly for each player.

Identification Tryout Number

Players will be assigned an identification number which should be written on prior to arrival following the steps within the Tryout Portal. It is required that players write their own number on before arriving at subsequent sessions during the Tryout Phase.

Player Selection Process

All players will be first selected based on year of birth, before squad selections are made using information below to best place each player for the upcoming season. This may include selecting primarily top age or bottom age teams which may affect the team number a player is selected in. In each age group, we want to provide a balance of top age and bottom age players for athletes to move forward year to year.

Our 1st and 2nd Teams are typically deemed as ‘performance’ teams, while teams 3 and below are development teams.



Players will have the opportunity to showcase their basketball skills, with particular focus on game environments. The “McKinnon Cougars” program focuses on the following key areas which are defined in the Parent Information Handbook, and listed below in no order:

1. Competitiveness
2. Physical Literacy
3. 1 vs 1 Offensive
4. 1 vs 1 Defensive
5. Shooting Ability
6. Decision-Making (Offensive and Defensive)
7. Being a ‘Cougar’

Teams are selected by the McKinnon Cougars ‘Coaching Team’, made up of the Head Coach of respective gender, Basketball Development Manager, Director of Coaching and VJBL Head Coaches.

The process the McKinnon Cougars ‘Coaching Team’ uses for Player Selection and Team placement is made up of many factors including:

- Observation and evaluation at during the Tryout Phase against the key areas mentioned above
- Team balance (player position, age, ability)
- Coachability (ability to follow instruction, action feedback and grow)
- Potential for development (long term selection over short term selection)
- Feedback submitted by coaches from previous VJBL Seasons
- Observations and commitment through the most recent VJBL Season, including any additional representative programs (HPP, ADP)

Inability to Participate

If a player is unable to participate due to unavoidable circumstances in part or all the Tryout Phase, they are invited to provide a suitable reason by completing the “Tryout Absence Request” located on the website. From this, the McKinnon administration will contact the participant with the outcome of the request prior to the 1st trial. The McKinnon Cougars Coaching Team have the discretion to select a player according to their judgement on the factors above despite their limited participation in the Tryout Phase.



How Players will be notified throughout the Tryout Phase

Registration:

Once a player registers for tryouts, they will receive an email with tryout information including, what to wear, what to bring and location and times of all tryout sessions prior to the 1st Tryout.

After each tryout session:

Once a Tryout Session is completed, the players who will be invited to the next tryout will be posted on the McKinnon website (<https://www.mckinnonbasketball.org/tryout-portal>) and can be found by clicking on their gender and age group within 48 hours.

If a player's name does not appear on the invite list, your child has unfortunately not been successful in continuing through the tryout process and is no longer required to attend any further sessions.

Communications during Tryout Phase

Throughout the Tryout Phase, players and parents are not to approach the Coaching Team regarding selection matters. If a player or parent needs to communicate with the Coaching Team, this must be done via **email** to the **Basketball Administration & VJBL Officer** at programs@mckinnonbasketball.org

After the completion of the Tryout Phase:

Successful Selection

All teams will be posted via the "Tryout Portal" at the completion of tryouts. Each player will need to click the link to register to accept position and begin the next steps to being a McKinnon Cougars player for the upcoming Season 2024.

Request for Feedback

The scale of the program with 1000+ players trying out does not allow us to provide individual feedback. Instead, we recommend following the appropriate steps within the [tryout portal](#) to find alternative solutions for the next 12 months.