



# MCKINNON COUGARS

VJBL SELECTION POLICY (UPDATED JUNE 2026)

## 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 (VJBL). This policy has been created to help all members understand 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 **Basketball Development Team (BDT)**, in conjunction with team coaches, to make the best-informed selection decisions for each team and individual within a time frame.  
*NOTE - the **BDT** is made up of the Performance and Pathways Manager, Director of Coaching and Head Coach of each VJBL Gender Program (VJBL Head Coach Girls/Boys).*
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.

## Tryout Identification Number (Tryout ID)

Players will be assigned an identification number which should be written on *prior* to arrival to each trial, 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**, where **2 x Years of Birth** exist in each age group (*except U12's, where 3 x Years of Birth are eligible*) before squad selections are made using the information gathered below to best place each player, relative to each team, 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 on year.

Our **1st** and **2nd Teams** are typically deemed as ‘**Performance**’ teams, while teams **3 and below** are considered ‘**Development**’ teams.



Players will have the opportunity to showcase their basketball skills, with particular focus on in-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 particular 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 and balanced by the **BDT** and in consultation with the Head Coach of each team, where applicable.

The process the **BDT** uses for **Player Selection** and **Team Placement** is made up of many factors including:

- Observation and evaluation during the **Tryout Phase** against the key areas mentioned above.
- Team balance (player position and development projection, year of birth, overall basketball ability)
- Coachability (ability to follow instructions, apply feedback and display teamwork)
- Development Projection (long-term selection over short-term selection)
- Feedback submitted by coaches from previous VJBL Seasons, including [PlayerPlan.io](https://www.mckinnonbasketball.org/playerplan) information.
- Observations and commitment through the most recent VJBL Season, including any additional representative programs.

### Inability to Participate

If a player is unable to participate due to unavoidable circumstances in part or all of the **Tryout Phase**, they are invited to provide a suitable reason by completing the “**Tryout Absence Form**” located on the **Tryout Portal**. From this, the McKinnon administration will contact the participant with the outcome of the request prior to their **first trial**. The **BDT** have the discretion to select, or choose not to select a player according to their judgement on the factors above despite their limited participation in the **Tryout Phase**.

### Notification During 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**.

Participants will also receive a **password** to access the tryout listings page (used following each tryout).

#### Post Tryout Session:

Once a Tryout Session is completed, the players who will be invited to the next tryout will be posted on the **Tryout Portal** via the McKinnon website (<https://www.mckinnonbasketball.org/tryout-portal>) and can be found by clicking on their gender and age group within 48-72 hours. Parents will require the log in to access the listings.



If a player's name does not appear on the invite list, the player 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 **BDT** regarding selection matters. If a player or parent needs to communicate with the **BDT**, this must be done via email to **MBA's Operations Manager**, who looks after VJBL administration at [operations@mckinnonbasketball.org](mailto:operations@mckinnonbasketball.org).

### **Post Tryout Phase**

#### **Successful Selection:**

All teams will be posted via the "**Tryout Portal**" at the completion of tryouts. Each player will need to click their relevant link to register and accept their position before beginning the next steps to being a McKinnon Cougar's player for the upcoming season.

#### **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.