



**Tamworth Thunderbolts
Junior Representative Basketball
2027 Handbook**

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1. Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to the Tamworth Basketball Association Representative Program for 2027. This handbook is designed to guide parents and guardians through expectations, commitments, and values that underpin our representative basketball environment. Your role in supporting your child and their team is vital to a successful season. Together, we create a culture of respect, development, fair play and sportsmanship.

2. Our Philosophy

Our philosophy emphasises the holistic development of each athlete. We believe success is measured not by wins and losses, but by the improvement of individuals and the team as a whole.

We foster an environment that prioritises character, effort and growth both on and off the court.

3. Basketball NSW

Basketball NSW (BNSW) www.BasketballNSW.com.au is the governing body for basketball in NSW and we Tamworth Basketball Association are a proud member.

Basketball NSW is responsible for organising and overseeing the representative competitions that our teams participate in, North-Eastern Junior League (NEJL), Northern Junior League (NJL), Eastern Junior League (EJL) and Junior Premier League (JPL) and other sanctioned events.

While Basketball NSW manages the competition framework, Tamworth Basketball Association is responsible for the day-to-day running of the representative program, including player selections, training, team management and parent/guardian communications.

Each association nominates a League Delegate (also known as Representative Manager), who serves as the official liaison between our association and Basketball NSW. This person attends league meetings and handles formal communications and administrative matters related to representative basketball.

IMPORTANT:

For all questions, concerns, or feedback about your child's representative experiences, including trials, training, team selections, scheduling, uniforms or fees, please see below.

Your first point of contact is your team manager:

- Your team manager will be in contact once teams and managers have been selected.

If your team manager cannot answer your question, the additional points of contact are:

- Carol Rickard
- E: carol@tamworthbasketball.com.au

or

- Rosie Stokeld
- E: secretary@tamworthbasketball.com.au

We appreciate your cooperation in following this process, as it ensures efficient communication and allows us to support families effectively throughout the season.

4. Our Representative Program

Our representative program is called Tamworth Thunderbolts.

Being selected to wear a Tamworth Thunderbolts representative uniform is both an opportunity and a responsibility. It means representing yourself, your teammates, our Association and the Tamworth community with pride — both on and off the court.

By wearing the Thunderbolts uniform, players are expected to demonstrate our core values:

- Effort – giving consistent effort and competing with purpose at training, games and representative commitments.
- Teamwork – supporting teammates, communicating positively and putting the team's needs ahead of individual interests.
- Respect – treating teammates, coaches, officials, opponents and the wider basketball community with respect.
- Coachability – listening to coaches, accepting feedback and being willing to learn and improve.
- Commitment – showing the attitude, dedication and willingness required to represent the Thunderbolts.
- Resilience – responding positively to mistakes, challenges and setbacks and adopting a “Next Play” mentality.
- Sportsmanship – playing fairly, showing respect and representing the Association positively in all situations.
- Leadership – setting a positive example, encouraging teammates and contributing to a supportive team environment.
- Pride – representing the Tamworth Thunderbolts with enthusiasm, professionalism and pride.

Wearing the Thunderbolts uniform means more than representing yourself. It means representing your teammates, your coaches, our Association and our community.

5. Representative Program Structure

Our representative programs include various levels of competitions, and we participate in the following competitions:

North-Eastern Junior League (NEJL)

Eastern Junior League (EJL)

Northern Junior League (NJL)

Junior Premier League (JPL)

The competitions we play in are played at: Ballina, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Maitland, Newcastle and Central Coast.

Players are grouped by age (U12s through to U18s), and players are selected through trials; the number of trials will be determined based on interest.

A player must be younger than the age limit of their nominated age group on 31 December of that year.

Our season typically commences March through to July with potential for participation in State and National events for certain age groups and divisions.

6. Selection Policy & Eligibility

Eligibility requires current registration with both Basketball NSW and Tamworth Basketball Association and your child's participation in our local competition.

Players must attend all trial dates unless excused in advance. Selection is based on skill, commitment, coachability, and team fit.

Development players may be selected to train with teams and serve as backups during the season.

7. Court Time and Player Expectations

Being selected for a team is a significant achievement. Court time is not guaranteed and is determined by the coach based on training attendance, game strategy, and player effort.

Players are expected to show commitment, maintain fitness, and contribute positively to the team culture.

At the end of the day, it is the coach's choice on who gets to play.

The only exception to this is in U12 competitions, all players are to take the court in each half of the game, and it is the scoretable responsibility to monitor this rule.

8. Training & Game Day Expectations

Training and game day are both essential parts of the representative basketball experience. Players are expected to attend all scheduled sessions, arrive on time, and be prepared to give their best effort. Even if a player is injured, they should still attend training and games to stay engaged, support their teammates, and continue learning, unless they're dealing with something contagious or serious. In those cases, common sense applies, and families should always notify the Team Manager as early as possible if their child will be away.

Parents also play a big part in setting the right tone. This means helping your child be on time, ensuring they're properly equipped, and encouraging them to meet their team commitments. On game day, we ask parents to stay positive from the sidelines, support all players, and let the coaches do the coaching. Your example helps shape the team environment and teaches young athletes how to be respectful and responsible team members.

9. Role of the Head Coach

The Head Coach is responsible for the overall development and performance of the team. Their role includes planning and leading training sessions, teaching game strategies, managing team selections, and making decisions during games. They focus on helping each player improve their skills while building a strong, respectful, and united team culture.

The coach also sets expectations around effort, behaviour, and teamwork. While they aim to support every player's development, decisions about court time and roles within the team are based on performance, attitude, and the needs of the game. Parents and players are encouraged to trust the coach's process and maintain open, respectful communication throughout the season.

10. Role of the Team Manager

The team manager plays a key role in helping the team run smoothly throughout the representative season. They handle the behind-the-scenes tasks that allow coaches and players to focus on the game, for example, managing team communication, arranging uniforms, collecting paperwork, and assisting with logistics on game day. They are the main point of contact between families, the Association, and coaching staff.

While they don't make decisions about who plays or how much court time each player gets, team managers are essential in keeping everything organised and supporting a positive team environment. They volunteer their time to help the team function as a group, and their efforts often go unnoticed but are critical to the team's success. Families are encouraged to work closely with the team manager and respect the role they play.

Manager Expression of Interest forms are available on our website.

11. Reserves and Development Players

In representative basketball, some players are selected as reserves or development players. These players are still very much part of the team, but their role is a little different. They train with the squad and are involved in team activities.

The purpose of having reserves or development players is to give more young athletes a chance to grow in a competitive environment. It allows them to develop their skills, learn team systems, and be ready to step in if needed. Managers will communicate clearly with families about the expectations for these roles, and it's important to remember that being selected in this capacity is a valuable part of a player's long-term development.

12. Parent and Guardian Responsibilities

As a parent or guardian of a representative player, you play a critical role in supporting your child and contributing to a positive team and association environment. By accepting your child's place in the representative program, you acknowledge and agree to uphold the same standards, rules and expectations as all participants.

Your responsibilities include:

- Modelling respectful behaviour at all times towards officials, coaches, players, team staff and other parents.
- Fulfilling volunteer duties, such as scorebench responsibilities and court supervision on home rounds, as required by the team or association.
- Maintaining open and constructive communication with the association, coaching staff, Team Manager and other team members.

Note: Parents/guardians are considered and recognised as participants in the representative program and, as such, are bound by the same Basketball NSW Codes of Conduct, policies, and by-laws that apply to players, coaches and officials.

13. Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy

Basketball in NSW is governed by a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding inappropriate or abusive behaviour both on and off the court.

This applies to everyone involved: players, parents, coaches, officials, and spectators, regardless of whether you are formally registered with the association.

Any behaviour that undermines the spirit of the game, disrespects others, or breaches Basketball NSW guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the representative program.

These are available at: www.Basketball NSW.com.au/about/resource-directory

14. Field of Play - know what you can and can't do

As a parent at a basketball game, your role is to be a supportive spectator. Once the game starts, the basketball court becomes what's known as the "Field of Play." This area is for players, coaches, referees, and game officials only. Parents and other spectators are not allowed to enter the court during a game unless they are specifically asked to do so by a game official or venue staff.

This rule is in place for safety and fairness. It helps the game run smoothly and keeps distractions to a minimum for everyone involved. If your child is injured or needs assistance, officials will notify you if your help is required. Until then, the best way to support your child

and their team is from the stands, cheering respectfully and letting the game unfold under the supervision of trained staff.

15. Spectator Items - Banned and Permitted

From the 2026 Representative Season onwards, the following items will be banned at all representative basketball games across New South Wales:

- Thunder sticks / Inflatable noise-makers (e.g. pool noodles)
- Vuvuzela horns
- Cheerleading pom poms, Streamers (as they easily separate and can create a trip hazard)
- Cowbells, drums, pots and pans and similar high-volume instruments

These items are prohibited for the following reasons:

- Safety: We have experienced multiple incidents where pool noodles and similar items have rolled onto the court, interrupting play and creating hazards for players and officials. In some cases, these items have inadvertently hit other spectators.
- Proximity of seating to courts: Many venues used for representative basketball have limited buffer zones between the court and spectators, increasing the risk of interference.
- Inclusion and accessibility: We are proud to support a diverse basketball community. A number of our participants and spectators live with Hidden Disabilities, including visual or auditory impairments, sensory sensitivities, and other conditions. Excessive noise and unexpected stimuli from banned items can negatively impact their experience.

This rule is not intended to limit the passion and excitement of our basketball community. Cheering and team spirit are encouraged!

The following items are permitted and welcome:

- Foam fingers
- Hand-made or printed signs/posters
- Rally towels and team-coloured flags (non-noise making)
- Clapping, singing, and cheering

We thank you for your understanding and support in creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all involved in representative basketball.

16. Referees

Referees play a critical role in our representative basketball program, and each team is required to have a nominated referee to participate in Basketball NSW competitions. TBA will coordinate referee appointments on behalf of Representative teams. Referees are not just officials; they're developing athletes in their own right. They go through formal training and education, complete fitness assessments, and participate in ongoing development sessions throughout the season.

Many of our referees are under the age of 18 and are learning just like the players. They deserve the same level of respect and encouragement that we expect for our own children.

We remind all parents and spectators to be mindful when interacting with referees. In NSW, verbal abuse, especially when directed at minors, can be classified as child abuse if it causes psychological harm. This includes comments that lower a child's confidence or make them feel unsafe. Even a single comment shouted in frustration can have lasting effects.

Basketball NSW has a Zero Tolerance Policy towards referee abuse. Any incidents will be reported to Basketball NSW, and in serious cases, referred to NSW Police.

Your support helps create a safe, respectful environment where everyone involved can grow and enjoy the game.

17. More Than a Game

More Than a Game is a new awareness program from Basketball NSW designed to protect and support the people who help our kids enjoy the game, especially towards our referees and coaches. The aim is to reduce abuse and poor behaviour from the sidelines by reminding everyone that basketball is about more than just winning, it's about respect, effort, and community.

This is a statewide initiative built on consistent messaging across all Associations. Each Association will receive an education toolkit and resources to help spread the message. Referees and coaches will also be given extra training and support so they can continue doing their jobs confidently and safely.

Parents and spectators play a big part in this. Your role is simple: be positive and cheer from the sidelines. No shouting at referees or coaches, just encouragement for the players.

Basketball NSW is backing this with a Zero Tolerance Policy on abusive behaviour, and during the representative season, monthly reports will be published online to hold everyone accountable. It's about keeping the game safe, respectful, and fun for everyone involved.

18. Communication & Conflict Resolution

Clear and respectful communication is essential. Parents should direct concerns to the team manager, then to the representative manager if needed. We encourage written communication for grievances, and disputes will be handled per our and Basketball NSW protocols.

19. Social Media and Conduct

Both Basketball NSW and our association maintain a strict social media and conduct policy that applies to all participants, players, parents, coaches and supporters.

Social media could include apps to communicate team or association group chats, channels like Heja, WhatsApp, and communication from the association to teams should be directly to the parents.

Online behaviour is public and permanent, and what is said or shared, whether in frustration or jest, can impact not only individuals but the integrity of the team and the reputation of the association.

As a parent or guardian, you are expected to:

- Model respectful online behaviour by refraining from posting or sharing any negative, critical or inflammatory content relating to games, players, coaches, officials, or other families. This also applies to comments regarding both Basketball NSW and our association.
- Avoid using social media to discuss team selections, game strategy, or grievances. These matters must be handled through the appropriate communication channels.

Monitoring your child's online presence:

We encourage all parents and guardians to actively monitor their child's use of social media.

Young athletes are still developing judgment and resilience, and online interactions, whether group chats, comments, or posts, can influence team culture and personal wellbeing.

If you observe any behaviour that causes concern, such as:

- Bullying or exclusion
- Inappropriate language
- Distress caused by posts or messages

...you are urged to address it promptly and sensitively. Concerns should be reported immediately to your team manager or association representative. If the situation requires formal action, reports can be made through Basketball NSW via the Integrity portal:

www.BasketballNSW.com.au/integrity-complaint-or-report-an-incident/

20. Child Safety and Member Protection

Both Basketball NSW and our association are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment. All Representative team staff must hold a valid Working With Children Check.

Below is an informative list of Do's and Don'ts when it comes to your child's participation in basketball.

DO - What Coaches and Staff MUST do	DONT - What Coaches and Staff must NEVER do.
Behaviour and Relationships • Treat all players fairly and equally. • Focus on skill development and learning—not just winning. • Maintain appropriate emotional and physical boundaries. • Respond respectfully to children's needs or concerns. • Use clear, age-appropriate, and positive communication. • Supervise children diligently during training, games, and events. • Report any concerns or inappropriate behaviours promptly. Touch and Physical Interaction • Ask permission before demonstrating activities involving touch. • Use non-intrusive contact (e.g. high-fives, pat on the back). • Avoid touching children who appear uncomfortable. • Offer verbal directions instead of physical adjustment where possible. Supervision and Safety • Always maintain appropriate supervision ratios. • Ensure children are never left alone or unsupervised. • Keep sessions open to observation by parents/carers.	Behaviour and Conduct • Engage in any form of discrimination, bullying, shaming, or favouritism. • Confide personal issues or ask children to keep secrets. • Create emotional dependency or isolate players from peers or families. Touch and Physical Interaction • Touch any intimate parts of a child's body. • Initiate unnecessary physical contact (e.g. massages, hugs, wrestling). • Force a child to do something against their will (unless for safety). Supervision and Safety • Leave children unsupervised at any time. • Use mobile phones or get distracted during supervision. • Prevent parents from attending sessions (unless required for safety). Communication • Contact children privately via phone, email, or social media. • Use sexualised, intimidating, or inappropriate language or gestures. • Encourage children to keep

• Know where every child is during events, especially when unsupervised contact is not possible. Communication • Keep all communication professional, sport-related, and transparent. • Include parents/carers in any major decisions involving their child. • Inform parents if a child attempts to contact a coach outside of their sporting role. • Follow all social media and electronic communication policies. Change Room and Bathroom Protocols • Encourage children to come dressed for training when change rooms are unavailable. • Use individual change cubicles and supervise shared spaces appropriately. • Knock and announce before entering change rooms. • Avoid entering change rooms of the opposite gender or using them at the same time as players.	communication hidden from parents. Change Room and Bathroom Use • Get changed or shower at the same time as children. • Be alone with a child in change rooms or bathrooms. • Use cameras or mobile phones in change room or bathroom areas. Substances and Medication • Use, be under the influence of, or provide drugs or alcohol around children. • Administer medication without proper consent and documentation.
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If something doesn't feel right, whether it's something you've observed, your child shares with you, or you see online, speak up. You can report concerns directly to your team manager, association representative, or via Basketball NSW's integrity portal:

www.BasketballNSW.com.au/integrity-complaint-or-report-an-incident/

21. Private Training and additional Development Opportunities

We understand that many parents are eager to support their child's basketball development through additional training outside of regular representative sessions. While there are many private providers offering skills sessions, we encourage all families to do their research and ensure that any coach or program aligns with the values, safety standards, and developmental needs of their child.

It's important to be cautious of promises or guarantees, such as selection in a State Team, as no coach can guarantee outcomes based on private training alone. Basketball development is a long-term journey influenced by consistent effort, team play, and many factors beyond individual sessions.

Representative coaches are not permitted to offer private one-on-one sessions or charge fees to parents for additional training outside of the representative program. This ensures fairness, transparency, and avoids any conflict of interest within the team environment.

We recommend that parents first explore any additional development opportunities offered by your association, such as group training programs, clinics, or holiday camps, which are designed to complement representative training.

If you are considering external training or are unsure about a coach's offer, please speak with your association representative before making any commitments.

22. Financial Responsibilities

Representative basketball involves various costs, including trial fees, representative levies, uniforms and competition expenses. These costs may occur at different times from when you pay your local basketball fees.

Representative levies are calculated based on the total cost to operate a team across the full representative season. These costs are then evenly divided among all players to ensure fairness and transparency.

Your child's representative levy helps cover the following:

- **Training and Game Venue Hire:**
Costs associated with using courts for weekly training sessions, home games, and other booked venues throughout the season.
- **Game Day Costs:**
This includes payments to referees and court supervisors as required by Basketball NSW or league standards.
- **Team Equipment:**
Contributions go toward shared team resources such as basketballs, equipment bags, first aid kits, bibs, and other necessary items.
- **Team Nomination Fees:**
Each team is charged a registration/entry fee to participate in league competitions (e.g. JPL, NJL, EJJ, NEJJ). Your levy helps fund these required payments.
- **End-of-Season Recognition:**
Includes items such as team awards, certificates, and participation recognition to celebrate the efforts and achievements of the players and staff.
- **Other Administrative Costs:**
Includes items, staff time, printing and signage.

Please note:

The rep levy does not cover personal expenses, such as travel, accommodation, optional tournaments, or private training sessions.

Payment plans may be available, please contact your representative manager to learn more.

Parents are encouraged to explore sponsorships.

Details of the TBA yearly fundraising initiative will be shared after squad selections. Participation is a requirement of the Representative Program.

23. Participant/Membership Fees

All players (and other participants such as coaches, referees, and team staff) must be registered with both your local Association and Basketball NSW before they can play representative basketball.

When you register your child through your Association's online form, the fee paid includes a state-level membership fee. That state fee grants benefits like accident insurance, policy access, eligibility for state-level programs, and representation opportunities.

It is the participants' or parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure membership is maintained and renewed on time to maintain eligibility.
If you need assistance navigating the process, your Association can guide you step by step, ensuring your child is fully covered and eligible.

<https://www.Basketball NSW.com.au/about/faq-participant-membership-fees>

24. Financial Hardship

We understand that the cost of representative basketball can be a challenge for some families. To ensure no child misses out due to financial hardship, we have a hardship clause in place. Families can request a payment arrangement by contacting Tamworth Basketball Association: carol@tamworthbasketball.com.au or admin@tamworthbasketball.com.au.

All requests are treated confidentially and considered on a case-by-case basis. We're committed to making basketball accessible for all.

25. Spectator Fees

Some associations may charge a spectator fee at certain games or events. These fees help cover the costs of staffing, including additional personnel such as security, to ensure a safe and orderly environment for everyone attending.

26. Disciplinary Action

All participants involved in representative basketball, players, coaches, parents, and team officials are expected to follow the codes of conduct and policies set by Basketball Australia and Basketball NSW. These rules are in place to ensure the game is safe, fair, and enjoyable for everyone. When someone's actions go against these standards, it can reflect poorly on the team and the sport as a whole.

If behaviour crosses the line, whether it's verbal abuse, inappropriate conduct, or anything that brings the game into disrepute, disciplinary action can be taken. This may come from the local Association, Basketball NSW, or Basketball Australia, depending on the situation. Consequences can range from warnings and suspensions to bans from participating. Everyone has a role in upholding the values of the sport, and it's important that we all do our part to represent the game with respect and integrity.

27. Scorebench duty guide for parents

As part of participating in representative basketball, each team is required to supply two trained scoretable officials for every game. This is known as scorebench duty. Team A will be responsible for managing the game clock, while Team B will operate Courtside (electronic scoring). It's important that these roles are filled correctly to help ensure the game runs smoothly and in line with competition rules.

The 24-second shot clock operator and the timekeeper should be seated next to one another, with the chairperson positioned in the middle of the scorebench, the scorer to their right, and the timekeeper to their left. If someone on the bench holds a Level 2 or higher scoretable accreditation, they are permitted to perform any role on the bench.

To support this, Basketball NSW provides a free online training video for parents and volunteers, which you can view here: [Scoretable Training – YouTube](#) and [Using Basketball Connect to score a game](#).

We will also run scoretable training courses at the start of each season.

28. Travel and Uniform Expectations

Participation in representative basketball involves travel, coordination, and adherence to key expectations to ensure a safe and respectful experience for all.

Uniform Requirements

All players are required to wear the official association representative uniform for both games and warm-ups. If additional items (e.g. socks) are needed, please speak directly with your team manager, who will guide you through the ordering or borrowing process.

Travel and Supervision

Representative basketball often involves travel to venues across the Region or State. For the safety and wellbeing of all players, each child must be supervised by a parent or guardian during travel and at away games.

Training Pickup

If you are running late to collect your child from training, they must remain inside the training venue. Your child should either stay with the team manager. This is essential for their safety and supervision.

Conduct while Travelling

All players and families are expected to uphold high standards of behaviour during travel and accommodation. This includes respecting teammates, staff, property and other guests. Representing the association with pride and integrity is a fundamental expectation of the representative program.

29. Volunteering

Volunteers are the heart of community sport in Australia. From helping manage teams or assisting with events, volunteers play a huge role in making basketball happen. Their efforts help us keep costs down, improve the experience for everyone, and build stronger connections across our community. Whether it's helping out for a few hours on game day or taking on a bigger role in the program, every bit of support makes a difference.

If you're willing to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. There are many ways to contribute, whether it's helping your child's team, supporting the representative program, or lending a hand to the association more broadly. No experience is needed, just a willingness to help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact us. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.

30. Injury/Injury Prevention

Basketball, like any sport, comes with some risk of injury. Actions such as running, jumping, catching, shooting, and defending all carry the potential for accidents, just like in any physical activity. While both us and Basketball NSW work hard to put safety measures in place and reduce risks through proper training and supervision, it's important to understand that not all injuries can be prevented.

All registered participants are covered by personal injury insurance when involved in Basketball NSW-sanctioned activities. This includes training, games, and other approved events.

To help further reduce the risk of injury, we strongly recommend that all players warm up and cool down after training and games and consider wearing a mouthguard during games and training. Taking these precautions helps keep our players safe and gives everyone peace of mind.

31. Mental Health

Both our Association and Basketball NSW recognise that mental health is just as important as physical health. We're committed to creating a supportive environment where players, coaches, officials, and families feel heard and valued. Open conversations about how we feel, not just how we play, are encouraged. By reducing stigma and encouraging empathy, we can build a community where mental wellbeing is a priority, and seeking help is seen as a sign of strength and self-awareness.

The sport also provides access to mental health resources, helplines, and awareness programs to support you and your child.

There are services such as:

- Lifeline (13 11 14),
- Beyond Blue (1300 224 636),
- Kids Helpline (1800 551 800) and
- Headspace (1800 650 890) that are available free and confidentially 24/7.

<https://www.Basketball NSW.com.au/mental-health-wellbeing/>

32. Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship plays a big role in helping us grow our representative programs and keep basketball more affordable for families. If you or your business are interested in getting involved, we'd love to talk. Sponsorship can be tailored to suit different levels, whether it's supporting a team, a specific event, or contributing more broadly to our Association.

It's a great way to support young athletes, promote your brand in the local community, and make a positive impact.

If you'd like to explore sponsorship opportunities or have a conversation about how your business can get involved, please contact us. Every contribution helps us build a stronger, more inclusive basketball community.

33. Association Refund Policy

Basketball NSW has a Return and Refunds Policy that outlines how refunds are managed for player registrations, programs, and events. Since not every Association has its own refund policy, Basketball NSW's policy may apply by default. It's important for families to review this policy so they understand the conditions under which a refund may or may not be granted.

In general, refunds are not automatic and must be requested in writing, with each case reviewed individually. Factors such as timing, medical reasons, and other circumstances are considered. You can read the full policy and process for requesting a refund on the Basketball NSW website here: www.Basketball NSW.com.au/about/Basketball NSW-return-and-refunds-policy. If you have any questions or need help, please reach out to us.

34. Intent to Trial/Clearances

If your child is already registered with one basketball association but wants to try out for a different association, you must first complete an "Intent to Trial" form. This form lets everyone know that your child is interested in exploring other options, but it does not mean they have officially left their current association.

It's the responsibility of the player or their parent/guardian to fill out and submit this form online *before* attending any trials with another association. Please remember this form is not the same as a clearance. Your child still needs to get an official clearance from their current association before they can play in any Basketball NSW competitions with a new team. Keep

a copy of the submitted form for your records, just in case there are any questions down the line.

35. Participation in other representative events

Throughout the season, your child's representative team may be invited or qualify to participate in additional events beyond the regular representative competition. These may include tournaments such as the John Martin Country Tournament, the National Junior Classic, or other special competitions. These events provide great opportunities for players to test themselves against top teams, experience different playing environments, and continue their development.

Please note that participation in these events is optional and comes at an additional cost. These costs can include entry fees, travel, accommodation, and other related expenses. Families will be notified well in advance if their team is attending one of these events, and full details, including estimated costs, will be provided to help you plan ahead.

36. Representative Calendar of Events

To help you stay organised and plan ahead, a calendar of key dates, including training sessions, trials, payment timelines, and competition fixtures. This calendar will give you a clear overview of when important events are scheduled throughout the representative season. It includes start and end dates for training, key trial periods, regular season games, and any known tournaments or special events. BNSW typically releases the full season draw, including dates and venues, by late February.

We encourage you to review the calendar carefully and add the dates to your personal schedule. Please note that while we do our best to lock in dates early, there may occasionally be changes due to venue availability or other competition requirements.

Any updates will be communicated through your team manager or the Association. Staying on top of these dates helps ensure players and families are well-prepared and ready to make the most of the season.

37. End of Season Function

At the end of each representative season, we hold an End of Season Function to bring players, families, and team staff together to celebrate the journey. It's a great opportunity to reflect on the highs and lows of the season, acknowledge the hard work of players and coaches, and thank the volunteers and families who helped along the way.

We strongly encourage all players to attend; it's a special way to finish the season with their teammates.

38. Acknowledgement and Agreement

By accepting your child's place in our representative program, you confirm that:

- You have read and understood the expectations outlined in this handbook.
- You agree to comply with all association and Basketball NSW policies, codes of conduct, and terms of participation.
- You understood that continued involvement in the program is dependent on meeting these standards.

Your support, behaviour, and partnership are essential to creating a safe, respectful, and successful representative experience for all involved.