

SANDY SAINTS BASKETBALL

CLUB HANDBOOK



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INTRODUCTION

I love watching my kids play basketball. Our family arrived in Australia 8 years ago from the US and basketball was a constant and seamless thread for the McMahon team. My daughter Ella plays in an U16 Saints team, while my son Ryan plays in an U18 team that has been together since we arrived in Melbourne in 2012. Ryan also plays in an U21 team for Pacers with my oldest son Tom. Add in some Sabres for Ella and school basketball for all 3 kids and our house is basketball HQ.

Sandy Saints has been a great family club for the McMahon team. The relationships we have made have been crucial for our overseas move to Oz, and I have personally loved watching my kids grow in friendship with their teammates over the years. Many adult conversations and relationships have also grown under the Tulip St roof and basketball stadiums around our area.

Formed in 1979, our Club has grown to approx. 50 teams by 2020. When I arrived in 2012, we were in the 20's for Saints' teams, so a phenomenal growth has occurred, which is a credit to the leadership and work of our past and present hard working committee members who meet regularly to ensure the smooth running of our club. Sandy Saints Basketball Club is currently one of 12 Domestic Basketball Clubs that play in the Southern Basketball Association (**SBA**). Their website can be found at <https://www.southernbasketball.com.au>

The SBA facilitates domestic junior and senior basketball for both Summer and Winter seasons. In addition, the SBA provides a pathway to develop the skills of all domestic players via their Junior and Senior Sandringham Sabres Representative Basketball programs.

Primarily a junior Club, Sandy Saints is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to offer basketball skills at an early age and to foster teamwork within the local community of Sandringham and Bayside. For more information and club contacts, please check out our club website at www.sandysaints.com.au

I look forward to meeting new Sandy Saints faces in the new season and especially welcome players and families new to the club. Cheer hard for our team, but cheer fair. The role we play in forming the attitudes and behaviours of our kids can never be understated. Remember our kids play because they love the game and want to have fun.

Saints on 3...

Paul McMahon
President in his first season.

Our Values

The Saints' philosophy embraces the following values :

Respect for self, respect for others, respect for the game and club that enables us to play.

The Club supports the mission statement of the SBA in its 'Vision and Strategy 2018-2021'¹ document which reads:

Our Mission

To provide a culture of excellence, under pinned by the principle of inclusion and fairness, that encourages and supports strong leadership across junior and senior domestic competitions, that creates accessible pathways to representative programs, and promotes the active involvement and participation of the community members in all areas and at all levels of Basketball.

¹ http://sabres.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SBA_2018-21_Vision_Strategy_v1.pdf



COMMUNICATION

Committee contact details:

Club Contacts	Name	Phone	Email
President	Paul McMahon	0448198800	president@sandysaints.com.au
Vice President/Treasurer	Damian Durston		treasurer@sandysaints.com.au
Secretary a/g	Sheri Harby		secretary@sandysaints.com.au
Uniforms	Sheri Haby		uniforms@sandysaints.com.au
Merchandise	Melanie Neilson	0408011628	merchandise@sandysaints.com.au
General Enquiries			info@sandysaints.com.au
Registrar U8-U12	Helen Monaghan	0439856449	junior@sandysaints.com.au
Registrar U14-U23 Boys	Viola Madziala	0407 5 99200	youthboys@sandysaints.com.au
Registrar U14-U23 Girls	Kylie Shugg		youthgirls@sandysaints.com.au
IT and PlayHQ support	David Ballarin	0418537798	training@sandysaints.com.au
Training and clinics	Kylie Shugg		kylie@sandysaints.com.au
Director of Coaching	Ian Leckie	0411600420	ianleckie@sandysaints.com.au
Communications and Newsletter	Aleks Ballarin	0417231006	aleks@sandysaints.com.au
TM and Compliance Co-ordinator	TBC	TBC	TBC

Instagram: @sandysaintsbasketball

Website: www.sandysaints.com.au

All communication with parents about teams and events are sent via email to the email address listed at the time of registering your child.

Please ensure you read the Club's communications to ensure you are up to date on all club Information.

Our club also publishes a newsletter at the start and end of each season. Photos, news and other contributions to the newsletter are welcome and can be sent to Aleks Ballarin at aleks@sandysaints.com.au

Parents can also send team photos and action shots to instagram@sandysaints.com.au

TEAM COMPOSITION POLICY

The aim of the Sandy Saints Basketball Club is to:

- Give all children the opportunity to play Basketball
- Give each player an opportunity to develop their Basketball ability and skills
- Give all players a positive and enjoyable experience playing a team sport.

The team selection process involves the Junior and Senior Registrar with oversight by the Committee.

Please refer to the Team Composition and Grading Policy which can be found on the Sandy Saints Website at http://websites.sportstg.com/get_file.cgi?id=36555394

Please be aware that changes to teams from season to season are inevitable as players go up in age, limits due to representative basketball points, abilities are taken into consideration, and new players join the club. The selection process is conducted with the following considerations:

1. Every player who registered on time will be considered in the registration period. Places cannot be held for unregistered players.
2. As required by the SBA By-laws all teams are required to have a minimum of 7 players. Variances to these numbers may require Sandy Saints Committee approval. For example, if a team has 8 players and there is a child in need of a team, the Coach and TM may be asked to accommodate the extra player.
3. Requests from team managers & parents regarding their child will be considered in a confidential manner and only considered via email to either the Junior or Senior Registrar.
4. Younger age groups and new teams/players will be given the opportunity to play with friends wherever possible depending on the overall registrations for the age group. Requests for team members will be taken into consideration but the final composition of teams cannot be guaranteed until after the registration period has closed.

Please be advised that the final team grading (not player) for all teams is determined by the Southern Basketball Association (**SBA**) and not by Sandy Saints. The Club does not have control over the final team grading level of the teams. The first 4 weeks of each season are grading games and re-grading of teams also occurs after this time if necessary.

If a Team Manager has concerns about grading please contact the Club Registrar for your age group in the first instance before contacting the SBA.

UNIFORMS

Club issue singlet and shorts are compulsory uniform.

During registration (pre-season) new singlets and shorts can be purchased as an item through the online registration process/form. If a player requires a singlet or shorts outside the registration period please contact the Club's Volunteer Uniform Coordinator at uniforms@sandysaints.com.au

'Clash Singlets' are stored at Tulip Street Basketball Courts next to the Basketball canteen.

At times a very limited number of second hand singlets are available through the Uniform Coordinator details as above.

The Club stocks merchandise for sale - hoodies and polo tops - all enquires to merchandise@sandysaints.com.au

COACHING

All coaches must be at Level 0 in line with SBA and BV compliance.

If a parent wishes to attend a coaching course offered through the SBA, please enrol in the Course at <http://sabres.com.au/coaching-courses/> and then send the receipt to treasurer@sandysaints.com.au for reimbursement.

It is the Club's expectation that parents will volunteer as coaches for their children's team and we are committed to supporting parents. The Club will pay the costs of any parent wishing to undertake training through the SBA or Basketball Victoria's coaching courses.

The Club has appointed Ian Leckie as the Director of Coaching. Ian provides support, resources and guidance to the volunteer coaches of Sandy Saints teams. Every new coach will be provided with a 'coaches kit' to use during training sessions and games after they attend a Sandy Saints coaching clinic run by the Director of Coaching.

Working With Children (WWC)

The Club is committed to child safety.

All Sandy Saints Coaches and Team Managers shall complete the following and forward copies of all documentation to tmcoordinator@sandysaints.com.au prior to the season starting.

In accordance with the SBA By-Laws, Coaches and Team Managers are not permitted to participate in any official capacity until all documentation has been submitted to the Club's Team Manager Coordinator:

- A minimum of Community Coaching Course (Level 0)
- Working with Children's Certification
- Basketball Victoria Member Declaration
- Play by the rules - Child protection
- Play by the rules - Harassment and discrimination
- Uploading of these qualifications to Everproof

Further information on SBA's Child Safety requirements and obligations can be found on the website.

Please see the WWC website www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au for further information.

It is SBA and Club policy that all committee members, coaches, TMs and parent volunteers are required to record their WWC details with Everproof:

<https://app.everproof.com/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2F>

The legislation does have some exemptions. Police and teachers (who have separate checks) do not have to get a WWC. However, the Club requires proof of the respective occupation (i.e a copy of the teacher's registration card).

The legislation also exempts parents where their children are playing in the team in which the parent is involved as a coach or Team Manager. Also exempt are adults where all children in a team are closely related to the person.

However, in accordance with Basketball Victoria's policy (updated 23 February 2015) the Club will not recognise these exemptions and will require those parents or close relatives to have a valid WWC. This is in line with most sports and this sort of measure reinforces the priority the Club places on child safety.

Basketball Victoria's policy can be accessed below.

http://basketballvictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/BV_WWC_advice_updated_23Feb2015.pdf).

Any questions regarding WWC can be sent to the relevant age group registrar.

TRAINING

Sandy Saints train at various locations in Bayside. Because of the increasing popularity of junior basketball, training venues are becoming harder and harder to source. Sandy Saints has access to a limited supply of training venues, and is working hard to access more court availability, and where possible, indoor venues. The Club cannot always provide a full court.

Prior to each season Team Managers will be contacted by the Club's Training Coordinator who will request the team's preferred day, time and venue for training.

Please be mindful that it is impossible to accommodate ALL teams/coaches and their preferred training day of the week/times.

To ensure the safety and well-being of ALL children, IT IS IMPERATIVE the following procedures are followed:

- In addition to the Coach and Team Manager, there must be at least one other parent present during training to supervise the children. This is particularly important for the younger age groups where behaviour often requires a number of adults to supervise.
- Players must bring their own basketball and water bottle to training;

For all training enquiries please contact the Club's Training Coordinator at training@sandysaints.com.au

HEAT

All players should attend all fixtured competition games regardless of extreme weather. If games are cancelled due to heat the Club will advise team managers and coaches who in turn will contact their players. Heat policy can be found at the SBA website at <https://www.southernbasketball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Heat-Policy-Old.pdf>

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

To help us be aware of any medical conditions and achieve the best results with all players we ask that you make your Team Manager and/or Coach aware of any medical conditions which may alter the way in which your child is coached.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child has any required medications during training and at games and are available to administer medication if required.

FEES

Full club fees are due upon registration; failure to pay club fees may result in a player losing their place or being unable to play. Fees may change from Season to Season.

The Club offers a reduced registration fee for holders of a Health Care Card. Should you need any assistance with fees, please contact the Junior or Senior Registrar.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Club requires that administrators, coaches, parents, spectators and players all abide by Basketball Victoria's Codes of Conduct (Appendix 1). There is a Code of Conduct for:

- Administrators
- Coaches
- Officials
- Parents
- Players
- Spectators

The current version of the Code can be found at <http://sabres.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/BV-Codes-of-Conduct.pdf>

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The Club supports Basketball Victoria's Social Media Policy² which is extracted below:

PRESENTATION DAY

The Club has an annual presentation day in September. At the presentation day trophies and awards are presented to players and teams.

We encourage all members to attend the presentation day which is traditionally held at Sacred Heart Parish Primary School in Sandringham.

There is a representative of the SBA (usually a Sabres SEABL Player) who attends this day to present the awards and trophies to the children.

² http://websites.sportstg.com/get_file.cgi?id=35763398

TROPHIES

The Club provides ONE trophy for any team that wishes to provide these to a player(s). These trophies are provided annually after the completion of the winter season. The trophies are presented at the presentation day in September.

The Coach can decide the category of the award (i.e MVP, most improved, best team player). Prior to September an email will be sent to the Team Managers asking for nominations.

All enquiries regarding trophies should be directed to secretary@sandysaints.com.au

FEEDBACK

The Club values and welcomes your feedback on improving our club. Please provide feedback to the Committee via the President at president@sandysaints.com.au

Any parent is welcome to attend the Committee meetings which are held (usually) on the first Monday of each month. If you would like to attend a meeting or add an item to the agenda please contact the Club Secretary at secretary@sandysaints.com.au beforehand.

COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

1. Any person who feels unhappy with the behaviour of another participant, parent or official should speak to the Team Manager at the end of the game. We do not encourage parents to raise the issue directly with an opponent participant, parent or official. The Team Manager can choose to speak with the opposition Team Manager or raise the complaint with the Club's President via president@sandysaints.com.au
2. The complainant will be contacted by the Club's President to discuss the best course of action. If appropriate and required the Club President will raise the complaint with the relevant Club's President in an effort to resolve the complaint.
3. Any person who feels dissatisfied with an action or outcome should raise the matter either in writing with the President by completing the Complaints form that is on our website. The President will review the issue and respond to the complaint after consideration.

FAIR PLAY POLICY

The Club believes that all players deserve to be treated fairly, and have a right to play basketball fairly in every game. Every effort is made to ensure that each player is placed in a team where they can develop their game by contributing to their teams on game day and at training. Given the dynamic and fast moving nature of basketball, coaches need to adopt different approaches throughout the course of the game. While it is the Club's policy that it leaves playing time to the discretion of coaches, generally, every listed player within a team should play and receive fair court time over the course of a game and season. Fair play means that when all players behave appropriately, show up to all training on time, exhibit a good attitude and try their best, then they all deserve to play in every game. Fair play is not the same as equal play, it is not possible for coaches to guarantee equal court time. At any one time, coaches need to think about issues such as:

- Have they got the right mix of players for the offence and defence?
- Do players understand team offensive and defensive structures and are they carrying out their roles in game situations?
- Have they got the right match- ups in terms of size, speed and tactics?

Likewise, there are several other situations that prevent equal play, for example: If a player misses a training session without reason, if a player is injured, if a player displays poor attitude, shows lack of respect to others, uses inappropriate language or actions or uses excessive force.

If a player is not getting the court time that they think they deserve it is likely that one or more of the above will be the reason why. Players are encouraged to talk freely to their coach one on one about any issues they have with court time.

If a player or parent is concerned about their court time, the Club encourages the player/parent in the first instance to speak with the Coach and/or TM. If the parent does not feel that the issue has been resolved then the parent is welcome to contact the Committee for further assistance.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Basketball Victoria Code of Conduct

<http://basketballvictoria.com.au/policies/codes-of-conduct/>

Appendix 2: Team Manager Duties

A Team Manager's job is to maintain the general running of a team to free the coach to concentrate on the coaching and training aspects of the team. A Manager should also be a liaison person between team/coach/parents/ and the Club.

Team Managers work closely with the Coach to bring about a high level of team spirit & camaraderie within the team and with all other members of the Club.

Clash bibs

The clash bibs are located in a storage room next to the canteen at Tulip Street Basketball Stadium. The first named team in the fixture is required to wear a bib if there is a clash and TMs are responsible for bringing the bibs to the game and returning them to the storage room.

Coaches

The Club recommends that there is an alternative coach available should the nominated coach be unavailable/resign. It is also good succession planning to have an alternate coach ready to take over.

TMs are encouraged to provide information about the coaching courses available and reinforce the support that the Club will provide in paying for education and coaching resources.

Registration Renewals

In the weeks leading up to the end of the season the Club will send a reminder to the TMs asking them to confirm with the parents whether their child will be continuing into the next season. Once a TM receives these confirmations please send an email to either the junior@sandysaints.com.au (U8 - 12) or youthgirls@sandysaints.com.au (U14 + girls) or youthboys@sandysaints.com.au (U14 + boys).

It greatly assists the planning of the subsequent season to know whether a child will be staying or leaving the team as there are a number of children on waiting lists for a vacancy in many age groups.

Team Managers' are invited to attend the Club's monthly committee meeting. This is a forum to raise any issues that you may have and to gather information to be distributed to the team. If any Team Manager would like to place an item on the agenda please email secretary@sandysaints.com.au

Team App

The Club recommends that Team Managers use the Team App as a way of communicating with the team, allocating duties for the season and allowing parents to confirm their child's availability to play each round or notify of absences. Team App is recommended by the SBA and was introduced in 2019 to replace TeamStuff. An alternate app that could also be used is Spond.

Coordination of the team

At the commencement of every season the Club Registrars will send a list of players registered to the team. This will include the name and contact details registered by the player's parent/guardian on the registration form.

Training time and venue

Prior to the commencement of the season the Club's training coordinator will send an email to all Team Managers requesting their preference for training. Any questions can be sent via email to training@sandysaints.com.au

Parent duties

The Team Manager is required to allocate the following duties:

- Allocate parent helpers for every training session. This is especially important for the junior age groups (up to U12) because the Coach cannot be expected to train the team and manage player behaviour.
- Allocate a parent to score each week.