



President's Update March 2021

G'day Sandy Saints Families,

I hope the return to basketball has been a fun and enjoyable one for your children and all teams concerned. Thank you to our hard working Team Managers and Coaches for getting the kids back on the court! The past year at our club has been a transitional one in many respects. I am a year into my new role as club President of this great family club, COVID-19 has affected all of us in so many ways and our peak sporting bodies, such as Basketball Victoria (BV) and Basketball Australia (BA) are asking more of the SBA and its clubs than ever before. The Sandy Saints is one of 12 domestic clubs that plays under the SBA banner. We are the fifth largest club in the competition and growing. When I arrived nine years ago as a Coach and Team Manager, we had 20 teams in the competition. Now we have nearly 50 teams, including our first U21 boys team and our second Open Men's team. This is truly a marvellous effort and even bigger accomplishment. We have four new U9 teams this season which points to a further growth in playing numbers for our club. That's 36 new players running around in oversized singlets, looking tiny out there on the court this year!

Recent communications surrounding the compliance requirements for our coaches and Team Managers is sure to catch some of us off guard, who are already working full time and volunteering to coach and manage the Sandy Saints teams. The compliance requirements have multiplied considerably in the past few years, as dictated by peak bodies such as BV. The local footy league, the SMJFL, has also changed their requirements, as mandatory courses and hoops to jump through have increased for all community sport volunteers. We understand it takes time to stay compliant. Please don't hesitate to ask the club for help should you need it.

I would also like to recognise that our club has committee members doing double duty with certain roles at present because we've had some hard working people leave for a variety of reasons in 2020. We've had to outsource our accounting role at a cost to the club annually. The club did send out four communications last year asking for a new Treasurer, but with no takers, hence the outsourcing of the role. If we do not fill the vacant roles at present, we may have to pay for outside help again in those roles still requiring to be filled and that comes at a cost and probable fee increases for our families. Our current club fees of \$230 are among the lowest out of the 12 domestic clubs, as are our uniform costs. The BV fees and SBA fees added in the past year are also a new addition to the running costs of basketball.

A call to action is if you are capable and have the bandwidth to assist, we would love to hear from you as we could certainly do with the experience and support that you would bring to this marvellous family sporting network. The Sandy Saints is a club whose foundations stem back for decades, however we have never been this short on committee members which at some

point will have an impact on how we facilitate and run our family club. More importantly the only reason we do this is to support the endeavours of our children who are just wanting to play the game that they love and enjoy so much. Again, if you have the time and energy to support, then please let me know or one of the committee members know. We would love to have you on board. Our next committee meeting is Monday March 22 via Zoom and you are welcome to attend. Please let me know and the Zoom link can be forwarded to you.

If your team needs help at present, please contact your registrar. If you need help with compliance, please contact me. Finally, it would be great to see lots of photos of the kids playing basketball again on our Instagram page. Let's keep the momentum moving as we return to life as "normal" as possible. Please send your Saints' snaps to instagram@sandysaints.com.au

I look forward to communicating with you a little more often during these challenging times.

Go Saints!

Paul McMahon

President

Sandy Saints
Basketball
Club